

Wauconda Park District
Board Meeting
September 24, 2024
Community Center

At 6:00 pm Commissioner Berrelez called the meeting to order. Commissioners Carr, Bianco, and Tallman were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. Commissioner Starkey did not attend the meeting due to a conflict with work.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the regular session minutes from September 10, 2024, was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.

Comments from the Public

None

Communications

The Board received “Thank you” letters from the Wauconda Area Chamber of Commerce for our assistance with the annual Street Dance and from a senior who really enjoyed the Senior Picnic.

Commissioner Starkey received a letter from a concerned WAYSC participant about the fairness of teams. Executive Director Staton reported that Director Babicz forwarded this letter to the WAYSC President, as this is not a Park District program.

Approval of Disbursements

Approval of Disbursements from September 11, 2024 – September 24, 2024, in the amount of \$76,504.39 was motioned by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

Committee Reports

A. Recreation - Director Babicz updated the Board on several new programs that the Recreation staff has implemented this Fall. Programs include: Pajama Spa Night (11) Boundless Adventures Teen Trip (4), Judo Club (5), and Fall Fishin’ Fun (7). The annual Fall Family Extravaganza is happening this Friday. We have twenty-three scarecrows in our Scarecrows on Main event this fall, and the senior picnic was well attended.

B. Finance – Executive Director Staton reviewed the Fest Financial Recap with the Board. He also reviewed the monthly budget reports from Lauterbach and Amen. We continue to do well in Recreation. Maintenance expenses are slightly higher as we have been focusing on trimming/cutting down dead trees, mulching playgrounds, and replacing damaged park fences.

The Fitness Fund is currently in a positive net position due to the Triathlon revenue. This fund has a fund balance of approximately \$59,000. Staff will begin to explore the cost of replacing the Nautilus weight machines. These machines are in good shape but are as old as the building and need to be replaced with the latest technology. Commissioner Bianco asked if there were any grants that could help with this expense. Staton said that he and staff would research this.

Staton also shared with the Board a preliminary term sheet for the upcoming bond sale in early October. The Bond Ordinance for 2024 General Obligation Bonds will be approved at the October 8 meeting.

C. Park Maintenance – The Parks Department is performing routine maintenance at all parks. We have rented two aerators to aerate the turf in all the parks beginning with the athletic fields.

D. Wauconda Fest – Director Staton reviewed comments from the Wauconda Fest meeting held on September 19. Overall, the Fest went well. The committee was happy with the security company hired to perform bag checks, but thought that we needed more consistency at the back gate. Sales of Angry Orchard was low, the committee recommended looking into providing a different option for this.

E. Administration – Director Staton reviewed his written report with the Board. He provided an update on Osage Park.

Staton informed the Board that Eric Nellessen, our accountant, was leaving Lauterbach and Amen. Kelly Brainerd will be our contact until a replacement is assigned to our District.

F. Comprehensive Plan – See New Business

New Business

- A. Audit Presentation – Roger Wooten, CPA – The audit was not completed in time for the meeting. This item was tabled to the October 8 meeting.
- B. Approval – Docks Use of Fest Lot for Valet Parking- October 6 Docktoberfest – The Board held discussion on Dock's Bar and Grill's request to utilize the District's parking lots at Phil's Beach and the Wauconda Fest Lot at Cook Park. A motion to approve Dock's Bar and Grill request to use the Fest Parking Lot and Phil's Beach Parking Lot for valet parking during their event on October 6 for a fee of \$100 and a Certificate of Insurance from Dock's and their valet company naming the District as an additional insured was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye. The Board also asked Staton to make it clear to Dock's that the Phil's Beach Lot is also open to public parking and Dock's cannot tell people they cannot park there if they are not attending the event.
- C. Resolution 2024-08 A resolution Forming A Committee on Government Efficiency – A motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 – A resolution forming a Committee on local

government efficiency to be completed by December 10, 2024 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye.

- D. Approval – Metal Detecting Request(s) – The Board held a lengthy discussion about these two requests that staff received. The Board recommended that staff review the current ordinance on this topic and make a recommendation to add additional parameters to request approvals in the beach area for metal detecting. A motion to approve the two requests received for metal detecting at Phil’s Beach during open park times only was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

Unfinished Business

Executive Director Staton shared pictures of the tree carving artist’s work. They asked what the additional cost would be to add some bird carvings to the Phil’s Beach sign idea. Staton will get an additional cost estimate and bring this back to the Board.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Berrelez reported that a cross-walk sign in Cook Park by Main Street is missing. Staton will reach out to Public Works regarding this.

Executive Session

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

Issues to be voted on by the Board that were discussed in Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:24 pm was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.