



# **Kankakee Valley**

## **PARK DISTRICT**

### **Kankakee Valley Park District Board Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5pm by Commissioner Eads. Those present for roll call (in person or by electronic means) were Commissioner B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, R. Eads. Others present (in person or via Zoom): Dayna Heitz, Executive Director, Rick Collins, Superintendent of Building & Grounds, Melissa Woodard, Superintendent of Business, Kyle Burton, Superintendent of Recreation and Attorney David Freeman.

Public Present: Aaron Gold, Tom Breitenbucher, JJ Hollis, Ron Jackson, Chris Breach, Ayana Smith, Pete Martin

**Public Comment:** Tom from RVSRA: introduced himself. Wanted to thank KVPD for their commitment in being involved in special recreation. It's been a crazy year. We made over 50 home visits. The families were very grateful to that. From May 2020-July 2021 we offered over 40 virtual Zoom programs to participants. We are back in full in person programming but in small groups to start with. Participants are excited to get out and happy to have those opportunities. Very involved in Special Olympics. We have built some good relationships with our families. Our biggest programs are our dances and they take place at your Civic Auditorium. We are willing to share our bus so KVPD can offer some trips with smaller amounts. Again, thank you to KVPD for your support.

Ayana Smith: From Kankakee born and raised. Remember going to all the parks in Kankakee. Was never aware that you could not have a tent at the park. Trying to understand why you can't have a tent in the park. Didn't see it on the website and just would like to know the reasoning why no tents, or no BBQing. Believe the residents of Kankakee would like to know the reasoning why not.

JJ Hollis: Read a letter stating his disappointment. It's a disappointment and travesty for giving 14 years to this board. It's disheartening. Planned a family friend event. Moved to September date. Will have a small gathering in July for people who already planned to come. Biker clubs from all over to enjoy themselves. The day was filled with BBQ and blues and everything went well. Police came to ask us move cars and we did. We also made it possible for 2 kids in the community to play eastside football. Received a letter from this board saying I am banned for a year. Reminded the board of Heil Park incident with kids playing basketball. Went to McBroom

park to play basketball and wasn't in the park for an hour before police came. Racist in nature. These ridiculous rules from enjoying the parks be abolished. People want to enjoy the parks without being harassed. I would hope this is taken care of soon. Thank you for your time.

Pete Martin-came last month and brought some more information on the usage for Pioneer Park. Used Pioneer Park numerous times. Requesting you to take some time to look at my handout. Still requesting usage of Pioneer Park from 3-5pm on Fridays.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Written communications in your packet.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda for Monday, August 23, 2021, consists of board meeting minutes (July 26, 2021), bills payable, and July 2021 financials.

A motion to receive consent agenda was made by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, R. Eads.

A motion to approve board meeting minutes (July 26, 2021), was made by Commissioner Matthews, seconded by Commissioner Spriggs. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, R. Eads.

A motion to approve bills payable was made by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Eads. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, R. Eads.

A motion to approve financials was made by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Eads. Discussion: D. Heitz: example of an invoice in your packet. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, R. Eads.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Residency Advisory Committee - Tabled

Ordinance #2.13 creating the Kankakee Valley Park Watch Program - Tabled

Aaron Gold Speer Financial - Aaron Gold received bids last Thursday from People's Bank of Kewanee. 1.97% was the interest rate we received with a private offering. Commissioner Eads said the rate is fantastic. Aaron was very conservative in the original figures. Attorney Freeman asked whether the bank needed to be listed in the ordinance? Aaron said it doesn't need to.

He also talked about the rollover bonds. Each year the district has a max they can levy for. That amount has increased. The timeline for the issue is a competitive sale in October. Anticipate closing in November. He explained the abatement. Commissioner Palmer struggled and couldn't figure the cash flow. Aaron showed page 9 and the table at the bottom and explained the payment schedule. Commissioner Palmer wants to show something with the principal and interest per year. Aaron state this is in your audit. This packet said they are different bonds. Aaron said look at page number 93 in your packet. Commissioner Palmer wants to see a schedule for all bonds put together by year for the principal and interest. We are voting on something that we don't know. Wait for the audit to figure this out and we are voting on this now? Aaron said you could aggregate these. Attorney Freeman tried to clarify what Commissioner Palmer is asking by saying if there are numbers in your packet that say bond 1, 2, 3 and could add that up by year in principal and interest. Aaron can develop something with that. Typically, this is how it is presented to every park district is how it's paid.

**“An ordinance providing the issue of \$3,250,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A, of the District for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of principal and interest on said bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay such principal and interest if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.”**

A motion to approve the ordinance for \$3,250,000 general obligation park bonds was made by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Spriggs. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Skelly, R. Eads. Nay: Palmer

#### **Executive Director Employment Agreement Discussion**

Director Heitz: In your packet is a memo with my goals. Any objections? Commissioner Palmer talked about item 4 of the objective. He was envisioning elementary schools or other park districts have had arborists or tree planting. Thought this was a poor execution. Didn't specify but was using what other park district have done. Thought this event was just a check off and not satisfactory. Commissioner Spriggs thought the goals were attained. Thought she expedited her time and got things done and appreciate it. Commissioner Eads asked about having an arborist come in and train our guys? Commissioner Skelly said the city has an arborist that would probably come. Director Heitz said we can look into that. Couple arborist with maintenance training for next year. Commissioner Eads was not on board for these goals but

you have done a wonderful job. Director Heitz stated that when she was hired she was to get Splash Valley open and she did that as well as accomplishing numerous other unspoken goals.

### **Improvement Plan Discussion**

Director Heitz said you received some samples in the packet. Working with staff and are in the beginning stages. The board's assignment is core values, mission, and vision. Showed an outline with dates and hope to have this project completed by June. We are taking this on outside of our daily tasks. Don't know of a director that has done their own but it is something we feel is needed. Commissioner Eads asked about the capital list? Director Heitz gave a list that staff decided was a priority. If the board decides something is more important, we can move things around.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

### **STAFF REPORTS (highlights to written report)**

#### **Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds**

**Rick Collins:** Think it's a great idea to have an arborist come in and show the guys a few things. Added a new playground at the campground and Bird Park fields. As of the 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a new full-time employee.

#### **Superintendent of Business**

**Melissa Woodard:** Worked with Dayna on new signage at the dog park and other locations.

#### **Superintendent of Recreation**

**Kyle Burton:** Preparing for 5K and back to school bash this weekend.

#### **Regional Manager -RMSC**

**Louis Lombardo:** Happy we were able to stay open at Splash Valley through Labor Day. Hoping to figure out ways to increase participation at Ice Valley. Commissioner Skelly asked if you have plans to get more concession items? We were out there this weekend and you were out of several things. Director Heitz asked if you got the swimming lessons schedule issue figured out? Louis said yes.

#### **Executive Director**

**Dayna Heitz:** Bishop Mac would like to have their cross-county meet at Civic again. Buses will drop the kids off so there won't be so much congestion. Civic bathrooms will be opened for them. There is a new AD there and he would like to make sure things go smoothly.

David Freeman is working on a letter or phone call for Jeffers rental. Attorney Freeman said they are playing phone tag.

Attorney Freeman said discovery plus wants to do a documentary at some of our parks. We are trying to be more conservative in case there is a problem. We are working with their attorney. Director Heitz said they do cold case stories and someone from Kankakee was involved.

Fall brochure is at the printer.

Still a discrepancy from our farm lease. Approximately 5 acres was in a land swap with KCC. He has paid 5.5 but only farming 2.1 acres. He wants to know our resolution. He has already planted. It's \$969. Director Heitz said we were going to initially split the survey but the district paid in full or we give a credit next year. Would like consensus from the board. Commissioner Palmer said if you have a tenant, you like and you have a 3-year lease, he is a top tier farmer. My position is we accommodate him that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year we have developed a good relationship. All commissioners gave consensus.

Want to make sure you all saw the pool closing memo. Still have some warranty work to do.

Received a call over the weekend and there was an umpire that was with Gerry Gund for a long time who passed away. They wanted to do a memorial and spread ashes at River Road. Want to know your thoughts and not sure the legality of spreading ashes there.

Illinois funds is where our replacement taxes go and that's where I want capital to go. Director Heitz has permission to move money out but can't deposit in. Need it to be in our minutes that she can invest for the district. All Commissioners give consent for that.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **KCCVB:**

**Commissioner Matthews:** met the new people and new visitors guide looks great.

### **Historical Society**

**Commissioner Eads:** Met on Wednesday. They requested the road to be blacktopped behind the civic. Will have a fall mum sale to help with improvements.

### **SRA**

**Commissioner Palmer:** August 10-12<sup>th</sup> they hosted boat rides. There were 39 people who participated. Boats were donated. Working on a new phone system that will be installed this week. Mouse race is in September and also doing a mum sale.

## **KRS**

**Director Heitz:** Included in report. Discuss Fisherman's and Alpiner park. Will start the intergovernmental agreement and more details to come. KRS will be doing a 5K fundraiser at River Road that we will help with. Commissioner Matthews asked if anyone has looked at erosion and surveys? Director Heitz said an engineer will do that. Commissioner Eads said if the plans come to fruition are very grand.

## **COMMISSIONERS FORUM**

Commissioner Eads thinks Angie did a great job on marketing. Commissioner Palmer agrees.

Commissioner Spriggs is concerned about JJ. He served us well. Thought the consequences were a little harsh. After all his time here, he should get some special treatment to regain his privilege to rent. Know he broke the rules. Commissioner Eads said the district has had a negative past. If we want people to follow rules, a commissioner for that long should know the rules and should have known better. He should be setting the example. Commissioner Spriggs said he doesn't disagree but think it's too harsh. Commissioner Eads was so disappointed because we are trying to get the community to follow rules. We all should be setting an example. Attorney Freeman said everyone has to be treated the same.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into executive session regarding personnel was made at 6:20pm by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

## **RESUME REGULAR MEETING 7:05 PM**

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:06pm by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Eads. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

## **OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

1. Board Meeting Minutes (July 26, 2021)
2. Bills Payable
3. July 2021 Financials
4. Ordinance 2.13
5. Bond Ordinance (\$3,250,000 General Obligation Bond)
6. Superintendent of Building & Grounds report
7. Superintendent of Business report

8. Superintendent of Recreation report
9. Regional Manager – RMSC report
10. Executive Director report

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Woodard