



Kankakee Valley

PARK DISTRICT

Kankakee Valley Park District Board Meeting Minutes September 27, 2021

The Board Meeting was called to order at pm 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 Recreation, Attorney David Freeman & Patrick Miner.

Public Present: Chris Breach, Rosemary Longergan (Others were present via zoom)

Public Comment: Rosemary Longergan-here about the boat docks and the letter we received. We don't want to move and we have a bigger boat. If we are getting too many bigger boats, maybe don't accept any other large ones. Only need 1 space for emergency personnel. Why are you wanting to move people around? Who monitors the cameras or only if there is a problem? The grills on the water, when will you get those fixed? The docks, when will you repair them? They don't seem to be in the best shape. Concern is we are comfortable there and don't want to get moved out.

COMMUNICATIONS

Included in packet.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda for Monday, September 27, 2021, consists of board meeting minutes (August 23, 2021-not for public view), bills payable, and August 2021 financials.

A motion to receive consent agenda was made by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. 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 (August 23, 2021) was made by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Discussion: Commissioner Palmer mentioned the Mouse Races for September but is actually November 13. Isn't worth making a change. 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 Skelly, 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 financials was made by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Eads. Discussion: Commissioner Palmer said he can't tell exactly where we are with the financial statements particularly with the management company. We have Splash and Ice and the losses but are they included in the overall package of the financial statements? Director Heitz said no they aren't included. She mentioned in a report that we need to go back and amend our budget because we didn't fully budget for all the expenses because of RMSC. Commissioner Palmer saw the adjustment to the budget. But what was understood previously, whether the expenses are ours or theirs, ultimately, they are our expenses. Director Heitz said what becomes our financials is if they received revenue, net operating income on a quarterly basis, difference of initial startup. If we are negative, that amount would show on our financials because we would have to replenish quarterly. Not all the financials will show, just plus and minus initial. Commissioner Palmer said aside to which bucket it falls in, this board has to have a bottom line. We haven't gotten a clear picture. Director Heitz said they were to do a budget and provide them to us but never did. It's not included in our regular recreation fund budget, it's separate except for revenue over expense. That's all we would record. Commissioner Palmer asked if there is a line item in our budget from RMSC that we lost. Our budget still has to have means because they are essentially a vendor. Even though we aren't tracking each line item. Director Heitz said we have Ice Valley and Splash Valley, aside from our working budget, we have a revenue and expense which was initially in the budget. Commissioner Palmer said when we get to profit lost balance sheet at the time of audit, think we are going to have to bring those dollars back in. Director Heitz said Lauterbach and Amen is working to budget us out with RMSC and then we will do a budget amendment and let them record what needs to be done within the budget. Commissioner Palmer said joint ventures and what I'm hearing doesn't add up. Director Heitz said government fund accounting is different and that's why we have Lauterbach & Amen and SKDO. Commissioner Palmer said if we didn't hire RMSC we would have incurred these expenses. His conclusion is that the net effect of what they are doing should be somewhere incorporated in our financial statements. Director Heitz said we knew this is how it worked going in. If it had continued through the fiscal, it would have only recorded the way we have now. It wouldn't have been all the revenue and expense, just RMSC fees/expenses. Commissioner Skelly would like to see if we made or lost money. Director Heitz said when we finish with Lauterbach & Amen, we will. Commissioner Palmer gave an example of contracting out all services, and you are the only employee and we hire a company as contractor to take care of everything. Using this method of accounting, everything is off the

financials. Commissioner Matthews asked why the park district decided to use RMSC. Director Heitz said it was in her goals to find a management company and bring to the board for Ice and Splash. There were issues with hockey club and former commissioner. Attorney Freeman said a particular board member thought the staff was not capable of ice valley so bring in professional management. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Skelly, R. Eads. Nay: D. Palmer.

OLD BUSINESS

Small Memorial Walking Path - Tabled

Residency Advisory Committee –

Director Heitz-this has been on the agenda for quite some time. Would like to move forward or remove from agenda. This was something else the board wanted her to develop. That's been done. Issues brought up are the amount of members and how to get those members. We don't want all people from the same neighborhood. Staff will be there to give reports but it's a committee that reports to the board. Commissioner Eads agrees we either need to table it or move forward. Commissioner Skelly thinks it's valuable. Especially for Ice Valley and no one on the board has any insight on what is going on out there. Huge value to give the community buy in into the park district and give ideas. Director Heitz said there is a bridge committee at Ice Valley already. Director Heitz asked Commissioner Skelly to attend the hockey club meetings/bridge committee. We don't know that board since they are all new. Then will report back to KVPD board. Commissioner Spriggs said we have a new employee at ice valley and should give him time to get things leveled off. Perhaps he should come to our meeting and tell us what is going on. Commissioner Skelly said he reports to Kyle so he can tell us. Director Heitz will remove the resident advisory committee from the agenda.

KVPD Park Watch Program

Director Heitz said we worked with the local police department and wanted to partner with another group but the board wanted to table. Want to either move forward or not. Commissioner Spriggs said we can't even get people to attend meetings so not for it. Director Heitz is attending meetings where she could bring it up. Commissioner Spriggs thinks you have enough to do. If anyone was that interested, there wouldn't be empty chairs at our meetings. Commissioner Skelly doesn't think it's a bad thing to go around 1 time to give them info. Commissioner Spriggs and Palmer agrees. Commissioner Eads agrees. Commissioner Michaels agrees and if interest takes off, we can do more. Director Heitz said residents have her cell phone number and get texts and communicate with them. Do have quite a few contacts in several areas. Will continue to go to the other meetings and take this off the agenda. Commissioner Palmer thinks a one time thing is good. Beckman and Cobb Park haven't had

violations lately. Think when we talked about meeting with the police, we directed Director on seeing how many warnings and tickets were written. Commissioner Eads said the department was reluctant to do that because of shift changes, etc. Director Heitz said a lot of the tickets have been for Bird Park right now. Commissioner Palmer didn't support it because nothing was happening. If they are issuing tickets and warning, it's yielding some results.

Improvement Plan

Currently working on the survey for the community. On the back burner for the time being.

Fisherman's Park

Commissioner Spriggs said it shows the path below the highway, and the sand problem and it will flood. It's bad but it's the kind of stuff you can't shovel out. Commissioner Eads said we have a choice and would like it to be up. Makes more sense. Director Heitz said we did discuss safety as well as maintenance. We will be maintaining it. That's why I think it needs to be up. Commissioner Skelly said the maintenance was still up for discussion because we don't have an agreement at the moment. Commissioner Spriggs thinks they should maintain it, not us. Commissioner Palmer has experience in a former community, seen city fire trucks out with hoses power washing sand areas. Thinks the city should pay for the maintenance. Commissioner Spriggs said maintenance has always been a concern. Director Heitz said we will have a MOU soon but all they need to know now is high or low. Commissioner Skelly and Palmer would like it low. Commissioner Spriggs and Eads said high. Commissioner Matthews thinks either will work but wonders what else will be done there for improvements. He thinks higher up would be more usable. Riverside Walkway is relatively close to the water and it's pleasant.

Hobbie Avenue Improvement Project – Discussion of purchase versus easement

Director Heitz said they have presented this before. It's the northwest corner of Pioneer Park. They originally came and said they were going to make these improvements and we will need a right away. Our board agreed. We received in the mail paperwork for the purchase of the corner of our property instead of the easement. Why wouldn't we give them an easement? If they purchase, they think it's less liability and they would be able to make improvements as they wanted. Attorney Freeman said if we give them an easement, we own the property. That agreement can include all the things they want. If they do this, the park district probably won't be able to use it after that. Director Heitz said the city is intricate in the river front and that has been constantly brought up, if we set this precedent now that we are going to sell this land what happens with other situations. Attorney Freeman sees a difference in the property use between the Riverfront versus Pioneer. We can put whatever we want into easement agreement. Board consensus is easement.

NEW BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director

Dayna Heitz: Received a phone call from Mrs. Collins, Ira's wife. They have a dedication for Mr. Collins off our path and they would like to remove it and take it over to Shapiro. There was some vandalism and a plaque has been gone for a very long time. This was placed in 2010. Commissioner Skelly asked if the park district paid for it, would not be for giving away something we paid for. Commissioner Matthews would like to see more research done on who paid for it.

We met with Precise Tree Care who is an arborist who works with other park districts and municipalities. They will be sending out a quote. We called them because we got a phone call that someone thought we had oak wilt in some trees in Cobb. He doesn't believe we have that, it's very rare. If we wanted to know for sure, we would have to take samples and send it in. The quote we discussed would be to start at the parks with the most trees. Commissioner Spriggs said we have several conifers in the parks that may have bagworms, maybe he can check that. Director Heitz stated the arborist said some of the trees are 400 years old. He said when someone puts graffiti on a tree, use paint and cover it up.

Will be getting a quote from Doug Bright who would consult in engineering for improvements to the Civic and Quarry building. Neil Piggush will give us a quote for the rest of old ball diamond road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

KCCVB:

Commissioner Matthews: Hotel use is packed and being used more. A lot more movement. Looking at partnerships with Olivet and Frank Lloyd Wright house.

Historical Society

Commissioner Eads: Sold 280 mums for the sale. An appraisal will be done on the Ulysses S Grant Table.

SRA

Commissioner Palmer: Showed a new program guide for the SRA. Everything is back to one on one and a trip to Branson was cancelled due to Covid. They are still taking precautions but seem to be back running as normal. Commissioner Eads: November 13 is Mouse Races at Knights of Columbus.

KRS

Commissioner Eads/Director Heitz: They are looking to raise the funds and partner for a Director who will run KRS and work with the other committees. Will be putting east Riverwalk sign up as soon as the house is removed. Will be having a booth at farmer's market.

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioner Skelly asked about the letter to the harbor. Director Heitz said it was a heads up that we may need to move people because of various reasons. It's to accommodate the emergency boats (ours and the emergency boat). Doing our best to move as little as possible.

Commissioner Spriggs asked if we have decided what to do with Washington Park? Is it part of capital project? Director Heitz said yes it is, need to meet with the community and see what they want to see there. Commissioner Spriggs asked about the tree at the museum door, the walnut tree is causing a lot of grief. Director Heitz has contacted Veronica to discuss. Commissioner Palmer said the walnut tree has value. Want to hire a logger instead of just having it removed.

Commissioner Palmer said Bourbonnais received \$9000 from county for Covid funds. Did we get any? Director Heitz said she didn't apply to county because it needed to be project oriented. We are working with the city. Commissioner Palmer said Bradley has a consultant review their parks for ADA. Director Heitz said that's an OSLAD grant. Commissioner Skelly said you all voted against that.

Commissioner Eads would like to thank Kyle, Lisa, Ariana, and staff on going above and beyond for working extra shifts. We are very appreciative.

Commissioner Spriggs asked about the money we owe to RMSC. Director Heitz said we are still working on that. There is a lot more to it besides payroll. Even the auditors said to figure out where things are at, we paid for this and they paid for that. We are collecting revenue from credit card and transferring. There are a lot of aspects going into this. He is stating we owe for payroll, that's one element, it's not the whole. There has been lots of correspondence. August financials had \$80,000 charged to use for insurance, we only approved \$11,400. Do not have any solid number. Commissioner Spriggs asked which contract wasn't signed? Director Heitz said the contract for Ice Valley and Splash Valley was never signed by them. Commissioner Palmer said he saw where Melissa figured out they weren't paying invoices. Director Heitz said when he brought up the payroll issue, we had just transferred \$45,000 and we can only transfer \$15,000 per day. Today we just received a check from the YMCA from July. Commissioner

Palmer said you could have sent an express check instead of wire transferring. There is a lot of noise and seeing inefficiencies on both sides. Director Heitz agreed. Commissioner Palmer asked what the upcharges are going to be just to sort this out? Attorney Freeman said he has no idea what Lauterbach and Amen will charge. Not sure how much time. Will have additional legal fees but shouldn't be significant. Director Heitz said we started out the beginning balance for them to manage, \$50,000 at Ice Valley and \$25,000 for Splash. Quarterly, if we drop below that amount we supplement and do another deposit. Commissioner Palmer asked if we will get true financial statements on whether we made money or lost money? Director Heitz said we will get you what we can from the accountants. We don't even have September financials at this point. It was a struggle just to get bank statements even though we were supposed to all along. Commissioner Palmer said this park district board has a responsibility to know where the money is going. He wants to be very clear, if you can't provide this I'm going to be writing a letter to the newspaper. Commissioner Spriggs said this is not the way to handle this. Director Heitz said splash is a loss. First year we expected it. Some years we might make some. Commissioner Palmer said you are just looking at the operating, not depreciation. Director Heitz said that is not what you will get from the accountant. Commissioner Palmer wants to know how much the tax payers are subsidizing these properties. Director Heitz said this year is probably \$100,000. When you look at Ice Valley, that is a year long revenue generating. At the slow time it may show a loss but operational, it may not be at the end of fiscal. Commissioner Skelly said we are a park district. Director Heitz said without a bond we would never have improvements. In fund accounting, you do not have depreciation, etc. Commissioner Palmer gets that, but what is the bottom line for tax payer. Don't care about the financial statements. This tier approach that Lisle uses, what are the priorities? Maybe we need to charge more or reduce it. We don't have any input into that. What is the net effect, per ticket, how much do tax payers subsidize those tickets. Commissioner Matthews would like to see percent or graphically, per month, what is the red and black for each facility and asked more about the tier theory. Commissioner Palmer said the tier basis is a pyramid. If you go up to the very top, that person consuming it has to pay full price. At the bottom is parks. It's a free activity. No admission fee. That's funded with no revenue. As you go up, like the pool, you are going to charge for it. Or the harbor, I don't have a boat, why should I pay for a slip? Commissioner Eads said that's the same with schools. We don't have kids, but it benefits the future. Same with the parks. Commissioner Spriggs said if you would just talk to Dayna in the office, might be better. Director Heitz said we do a lot of free special events. Commissioner Palmer said other park districts review how they are allocating their money.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 11 due to the holiday.

Executive Session

NA

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:32pm by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes (August 23, 2021)
2. Bills Payable
3. August 2021 Financials
4. Resident Advisory Committee
5. KVPD Park Watch Program
6. Fisherman's Park
7. Hobbie Avenue Improvement Project
8. Executive Director report

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Woodard