



# **Kankakee Valley**

## **PARK DISTRICT**

### **Kankakee Valley Park District Committee Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021**

The Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Commissioner Eads. Those present for roll call (in person or via Zoom) were Commissioner B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, & R. Eads. Others present: Dayna Heitz-Executive Director; Kyle Burton-Superintendent of Recreation, Melissa Woodard-Superintendent of Business, Rick Collins-Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, Attorney David Freeman & Patrick Miner.

Public Present: Mayor Chris Curtis, Neil Piggush, Matt McBurnie, Chris Breach

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Written:** Included in packet or at seat during meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Mayor Curtis & Neil Piggush – Fisherman Park**

##### **Mayor Curtis & Matt McBurnie – KRS update**

Mayor Curtis-discussed partnership between city and park district. Been awhile since the city has communicated with the park district board. Never completed an MOU on how things would work since it's mostly your land. City of Kankakee is concentrating on 3 things. Working with KRS and supporting them on the East Riverwalk. Grant means we have to start construction by 2023 and complete by 2025. Acquired lots of homes on West Washington to about 4<sup>th</sup> avenue. As the houses are taken down, make the space as park like as possible. Fisherman's Park is an area that has received grand funding and we are ready to go into 2<sup>nd</sup> phase to put in a bike path. In order to go forward, have to have an agreement on maintenance with park district. Goal to look at everything overall is cumbersome. Want to look at small project and get a working relationship and move forward project by project.

Neil Piggush- City received a grant in 2018 for portion of engineering one. Connects the bridge by Alpiner Park and with Station Street. Reapplied for more grant money and received more to finish phase 1 and 2 engineering. Will need temp or permanent easement for Alpiner and Fisherman's. Showed a copy of an alignment to the board. The Park District will have to answer some questions as we move further. Project development and easement secured by

next grant cycle in October of 2022. This is a great first project between all the entities. It's a path and connects A-B and a small bridge. Not going to be a lot of maintenance or unknowns.

Mayor Curtis said we aren't looking for answers right now. Just want you to think about the path placement. Where it connects with the bridge is set in stone but the in between we would like some discussion and communication.

Matt McBurnie-Community, partnership and action are 3 things wanted to touch on. Discussions on the Riverfront. We formed a not for profit that is the KRS. Dayna and I both sit on the executive committee. Believe this is broadly community supported. Partnership-the community has gotten together on how to move forward. Key partnerships will be crucial. We can't go at this alone and we don't want to. The Park District is a critical partner. That's why Dayna was part of it from the beginning. The City of Kankakee is another crucial partner. Action-Idea tonight on how to we begin to start a MOU. What are the steps that demonstrate that partnership? There will be some big steps in the future. KRS is laying the plans to raise funds to support what is going on. We think there will be need to raise philanthropic funds. Grateful to give a snapshot of where the KRS is right now and will continue to give the board dialog.

Mayor Curtis-showed the Kankakee Riverfront masterplan. Want to reopen the overall plan with the park district because there is a lot of your land included. Need to reevaluate the moving pieces going forward. Open to all ideas and figure out the best options.

Commissioner Eads asked when the deadline for MOU was? Mr. Piggush said closer to the next grant application in 2022. January 2024 would be when construction could begin.

Commissioner Matthews asked if you have landscape plans or elevation? Mr. Piggush said they won't have that until later. Commissioner Matthews would like to see the plans for that.

Commissioner Spriggs asked about the footbridge. We already have a footbridge that crosses soldier creek. Are there any plans to help the bridge and tunnel to make it safer? Mayor Curtis said this is the connection that goes across Court Street. Maybe the tunnel could be closed off. Maybe we can slow traffic down on Kennedy Drive. How do we get a safe crossing area? Maybe we eliminate the tunnel all together. It's not on this particular plan right now but it is on our minds. Mr. Piggush said there is no good in having this trail if people can't bike or walk to it. Things need to be thought through. Will have further conversations on it but doesn't mean it can't be a piece of it moving forward. Mayor Curtis asked Mr. Piggush on the timing on the path placement? Hopefully by the end of the year or 2-3 months. Changing things can affect

multiple things and will be better to do it sooner rather than later. This is more critical than MOU. Hard to start engineering until we know what you want to see. Director Heitz said like discussed at the meeting before, we need to decide where the trail will be and the total vision so they can work around it.

#### **Update of facilities and operations – Covid-19**

Included in board packet.

#### **Resident Advisory Committee – No Update**

#### **KVPD Park Watch Program – No Update**

#### **Improvement Plan Discussion**

Staff is working on the survey questions and worked with IT on the survey. Wants to know how the vision is coming with the Board. Without the vision from the board, it's hard for the staff to know how to move forward. When was the mission last done? What updates does it need? We do not have a vision for the district. Several components that the board will be asked to do. Director Heitz can send some samples and can rewrite it to fit us. Can be anywhere from a sentence to a paragraph.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Termination of RMSC Agreement**

A motion to terminate RMSC agreement was made by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Discussion: Director Heitz said the board has been informed. Know we started the transition in April and starting in June and on, every week gave reports on what's been going on. It does not appear that it is a good fit for them or us. Tom did let us know a few times that we had the out clause because of the insurance issues. Attorney Freeman said we did receive a letter from RMSC and we responded that we will look at their letter and get back to them. The attorney said we agree with the termination and that RMSC agrees with termination. Need to look at the details and see if everyone agrees. It looks as though this can work toward an amicable resolution. Tom Hillgrove said we did a good job running splash. Ran into an issue with insurance. Would rather stay than not stay. Have to get paid the money we are owed. We have been funding it. Will transition professionally. Director Heitz has discussed the job that you have done at Splash and that has not been unrecognized. Tom Hillgrove: Not working out personality wise. Have \$99,000 in payroll that we are owed. Director Heitz said Louis will be sending the financials through the end of August and will need it through September. The district will honor that. Commissioner Spriggs said we owe them? Commissioner Eads said we have to look at all the paperwork and will pay them what is owed.

Attorney Freeman said we just started this process. Dayna and her staff will look at what if any is owed to RMSC. It may be that once we look at the numbers, we agree on what if anything is owed. It may be that we can't come to an agreement. Hypothetically they say we owe them \$99,000 but we say we don't, that will be a different situation. Contract is still terminated but we don't know that yet. Staff does not know what amount if any is owed. Tom Hillgrove said you have seen this multiple times. The Park District was supposed to fund the accounts. Director Heitz said they have the financials and they are showing a negative on the financials by \$99,000 and they have used their own money to manage our facilities. If that what it turns out to be, that's what we would have paid the staff anyway. We need to clear that up. Melissa and I need to look at all the paperwork. There are a lot of moving parts. Attorney Freeman said we don't know if that amount is accurate at this time. Tom Hillgrove said we can go through payroll tomorrow morning. Don't know if you have other vendors that put in any of their money. A week before the opening we got the insurance quote for \$99,000. Tom Hillgrove said he chose not to leave the park district hanging. We did a great job working for you. Need to agree that we are going to allocate the time tomorrow. Director Heitz said when we get the full financials and attorneys will work together. We will get it all cleared up in 30 days. Commissioner Palmer learned of the termination on Thursday. Missing dialog with board members without due process. Just don't think the board has had an opportunity to get their head around this. Think the methodology is beyond the pale. Commissioner Eads said it has been discussed at the past meetings and in reports and we knew this was coming. Commissioner Palmer disagrees it was only a recommendation. Commissioner Skelly said we are being professional. We are going to wait for the financials and look at the numbers. Commissioner Spriggs agrees. Commissioner Eads said the action item is to terminate the agreement. Attorney Freeman said we are trying to do this in a way that doesn't lead to litigation. Terminate the agreement. RMSC understands and will provide us the financials. Find out what if anything is owed. Tom Hillgrove is wanting to do this professional and will turn over everything but we need to get paid. The park district was supposed to fund this. There have been a few questions from Dayna here and there. Attorney Freeman said staff are not prepared to respond to that tonight but they will and they will take 30 days. They aren't saying they won't pay it, but they aren't saying they will. If the numbers are what you say they are, they are committing to pay you. You should have raised the issue a long time ago if something within the contract wasn't being met. Commissioner Eads said all we are prepared to do is terminate the agreement. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioners voted aye: B. Spriggs, M. Matthews, D. Palmer, D. Skelly, & R. Eads. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

R. Collins: Handed out a packet of materials. First picture is signage from Pirate Ship Park. Next picture is from Beckman Park where a tree fell on the playground. Did some repairs at

McBroom. Having problems at Pioneer building floor. We installed new floor and water heater. Talked to some other superintendents at other parks and they use an app to make things more efficient for their workers. Program is called Productive Parks. It allows us to track how much time it takes to mow a park, etc. He showed a video with an overview of the program. It would make us a lot more efficient. From day 1 when we got here, there was no inventory set up. It would also help with doing everything in maintenance. He showed the page on what it would cost the park district. Director Heitz said we can pay an annual fee and get a discount. That's how we normally do all our other software. There is a one-time implementation fee. They build it out. There is training included for Rick and the guys. If something comes up, example is there is an event that was supposed to be here and now will be at the Civic, it can be changed very quickly. Commissioner Spriggs asked if you seriously think this will help you out? Rick said yes. Commissioner Spriggs said he has been very critical of your job, feel better about you running things and you earned his respect. Crow doesn't taste very good to me. This is the best report you have ever given. Commissioner Eads said you can report on hours, etc. month. Step in the right direction. Commissioner Skelly thinks it's excellent. Commissioner Matthews thinks this is micromanaging. How does your staff feel about it? Rick said brought it to the board first. Commissioner Spriggs said if you tell them what you are doing, shouldn't be a problem. Commissioner Skelly thinks it will make them feel reassured. Commissioner Matthews said the information will be shooting straight to you. Commissioner Eads said it's impressive what other park districts are already using it. Commissioner Palmer has critiqued software from many companies. Liked this software. 630 is a local area code and having someone local for training will be great. The review on productive parks had only 3 reviews. Can we take a look at some of the other companies too? Director Heitz said we will look at some other ones. We did look at one other and didn't like it. Mike Smith worked for Lombard Park District in IT. They built this program. He said the maintenance team asked for something specific for them and that's when he started to develop this. Commissioner Spriggs said consensus on moving forward with something like this. Commissioner Palmer thanked him.

M. Woodard: closed on the bond last week and received the fund. Working with Agente for staffing.

K. Burton: Had the pup pool party on Saturday. Commissioner Spriggs said the event was awesome. Best event! Director Heitz showed some pictures from the event. Rave reviews on Facebook. Commissioner Eads thanked Dayna for recognizing 9/11 at the event.

L. Lombardo – RMSC: gave a recap from Splash Valley and the end of season and talked about some upcoming events for Ice Valley.

D. Heitz: Will be meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize the survey questions. Estival Festival is this weekend at the bandshell. All staff have worked very nicely with them. It is a true partnership. Rick has met with them several times and will again tomorrow. They will be having local musicians perform. On the Rox will be bartending. Lot to do out at Splash Valley to close the facility. We have some warranty work to be done. Need to time it with some testing.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

KCCVB Report: Commissioner Matthews: No update.

Historical Society: Commissioner Eads: Mum pickup is the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-5pm and the sale was very successful. Managed to get a friend who will do an appraisal on the desk and how to market and sell it.

SRA Report: Commissioner Eads/Palmer: No update.

KRS Report: Commissioner Eads: No update.

Public Building Commission: Commissioner Palmer: No update.

## **COMMISSIONERS FORUM**

Commissioner Spriggs requests Dayna to find out what is going with RMSC on the money, please let him know? Attorney Freeman said when she has numbers she will report to the board. Commissioner Palmer has been involved in transition services in companies. Familiar with the structure of contracts and how they can go wrong. Like a critique on where we are and what will be different going forward. What is our process of improvement? If we are going back to the way it was before, want a plan on what is coming next.

Commissioner Eads wants Kyle to pass along to Angie the brochure and how excellent it was. Looking at the tax bill and the breakdown of where the money goes. We pay a majority of it to the school district so it's an investment. The Park District is the ambiance and the draw. Hung up on if we are getting our moneys worth, are we going to get our return. Hard to quantify on how people feel and put that into dollar and cents. So many opportunities, if we take advantage of them or not, it's out there if you want to.

Commissioner Palmer said the brochure is good too. Think a day trip would go over well and know the SRA would give the van.

Commissioner Spriggs doesn't want anyone to blame Dayna on the problems with the management company. Wish I'd never voted for them. Director Heitz said we didn't know. There is no way we would have been able to open Splash Valley with everything we had going. Couldn't have known without trying. Disappointed in Tom's attitude but it's just not a good fit.

Commissioner Palmer said KVS0 complimented us again.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NA

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:25pm by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

## **OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

1. Fisherman Park Presentation
2. KRS Update
3. RMSC agreement
4. R. Collins
5. M. Woodard
6. K. Burton
7. L. Lombardo-RMSC
8. D. Heitz
- 9.

Respectfully submitted by: Melissa Woodard