



Kankakee Valley

PARK DISTRICT

Kankakee Valley Park District

Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022

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, Attorney David Freeman, Attorney Patrick Miner.

Public Present: Chris Breach, Larry Breeck.

Public Comment: Larry Breeck-interested person who lives on the river. Concerned about closing launch. Top of the wall is level and has a slight lean but no cracks or sags so the footing is in pretty good shape, own observation. Related to proposal to keep the wall open, the bay area is the only protected area that you can take a boat in and out, especially safety wise. Many people live on the river that use that bay area because it's calm. On the financial matter, people coming in using the facility, they might stay in the area or visit restaurants. Have some examples but you have probably looked at it already. You can stabilize the walls, there is a slight lean. The tools are readily available to do the job in house. Could be done much more quickly. Once the wall is stabilized, next season you could take the walks off and backfill and make it more functional. Would suggest increasing the cost by \$200/slip because it's a real bargain. Could be easily justified to those who put their boat there. Could use steel pilings because they last a long time, might be less expensive. Agree with what I read in the paper; the long-term erosion is a factor in it collapsing. The ramps are short so when the water is high, there is a lot of pull out on the wall. Same with the river being low. If the docks were similar to how the middle is, put less strain on the wall and easier for people to get to their boats. Passed around a magazine with an article with grant info. Would like to see the launch to stay open.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter that was received on Friday regarding usage of maintenance parking and Legion Park parking lot. Also received a public notice of that the business will be present at a public hearing for the planning board. Director Heitz thinks we will have issues with our maintenance facility. We don't know if vehicles will be left overnight. WE want our facilities safe. Attorney Freeman said it's up to the board to let them park there but not sure the city will allow them without an agreement. Maybe he would get it conditional. Tend to agree with Dayna, don't see the upside

to the park district. Maybe he could come to a board meeting. Commissioner Skelly said anyone can park there anytime they wanted right? Director Heitz said no, we have signage of KVPD parking only. Commissioner Skelly said it seems like he's trying to have a few cars parking there. Attorney Freeman said if he is looking for this, he might want to come before the board with a diagram instead of just providing a letter.

OLD BUSINESS

Harbor

Director Heitz said currently we will be securing a gate, with exception for emergency services. They will all have a key to the gate so if there is an issue on the river, they have access. Will be cleaning the jet ski ramps and waiting for permission from IDNR to find out if we have permission to go into the water itself. It's very shallow so we asked if we could go a little bit further. Commissioner Skelly said they are boat ramps. They are only short because we have never cleaned them off. The concrete goes out far enough to launch a boat. Those have been there longer or as long as the harbor. There is a concrete ramp that goes into the water that people can launch boats from. Need to take a front loader and clean 20 feet out. They need to be maintained. If we have the mindset that we will only go to the water line, we have to maintain what we put in the water. Commissioner Eads said we need the approval from IDNR.

Dog Park Parking Lot

Director Heitz said this project will be starting April 18th, the dog races will be held there again. Did order parking lot signage. The project amount will be exactly what we approved.

IVC Mechanical Repairs

Director Heitz said everything is getting scheduled once we have all the parts. There is some lead time on getting the equipment. Getting a quote on the zam display. If it turns out the display is fine and it's the chip, then we will return the display and get a credit.

NEW BUSINESS

Facility and Program Guide

Director Heitz said you have a memo that we put together regarding the question of changing the paper weight and print from color to black and white. We would still have to make 2 different designs in our software because we put color on website. Only difference is \$800 from what we are printing. Our brochure is great and we don't want to downgrade. Talked about the list of businesses we distribute to as well as our own facilities. Commissioner Spriggs said the brochure was well done. Commissioner Palmer asked what we pay for Canva? Director Heitz said she would have to check but it is less expensive, more user friendly and can be done online. Commissioner Palmer checked on the license on Adobe. Don't know enough

about what you are using. But still question the cost factor. Director Heitz said I have been trained in the full adobe program and it was not user friendly. If this is what my staff is trained in and comfortable with, shouldn't change it for a small amount of difference if any. Will find out what Canva costs us. Something to be said for when staff are comfortable with a program. Could you find out about lighter paper inside but still use color, what is the cost? Commissioner Spriggs asked if anyone else has an opinion? Commissioner Eads agrees with Commissioner Spriggs that it is beautiful. Commissioner Skelly is shocked we only print a few. Seems like a big expense. Not sure what the return is on the printing versus website. Wonder if it's effective. Director Heitz said there has been lots of conversation about that. Whether districts should go to just online or a combination. It depends on the area and what the community wants. Commissioner Skelly said if you can do the same thing on lighter paper, let's see. Commissioner Matthews says the color pops but the paper is really heavy. If there is something a little lighter. Adobe is amazing but the curve is high and Canva is what is used.

Classroom Rental

No update.

ARPA Funding

Director Heitz said we are to receive \$10,000 from the county. No answer back. Did send a letter to Senator Joyce and Chairman Wheeler.

Did rewrite the letter to the Harbor boat renters, per Commissioner Skelly's suggestions, did revise it today.

Late Friday night, they did announce that the state passed the OSLAD grant budget. No dates yet. If it's the same as past, we can apply for 90% funding if we are disadvantaged. That will be a 2023 grant. Would work with Neil Piggush on this because it's the harbor and would need a design to show.

STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds

Rick Collins: Showed some pictures last meeting, completed Jeffers and Goselin. Also started to break ground at Washington Park. Now focusing on the big event at Ice Valley. Sump pump was replaced at Civic. Commissioner Spriggs asked if the basement at the Civic has any mold? Rick said we haven't had any type of mold. We have started hiring for summer, we have 3 new summer employees. Commissioner Skelly asked if we do park inspections daily? No. Commissioner Skelly said all our parks need basketball nets. Rick said we have them ordered

but we haven't installed them yet. Commissioner Skelly said they should be there year-round. If we can't do the little things right, we can't do the big things right.

Superintendent of Business

Melissa Woodard: Besides the normal end of month, no update.

Superintendent of Recreation

Kyle Burton: Had the egg hunt last Friday the Rec Center, great turn out. Softball is up and running. Getting ready for Splash Valley. Commissioner Eads asked about the feedback on the metal cleats? Yes, gotten some negative feedback. Director Heitz said she has gotten some feedback from Andy Nichols. They said we will lose State if we do not allow metal cleats. Commissioner Skelly asked if the money lost was just River Road or Butterfield too? Director Heitz said just River Road. Commissioner Skelly said if we didn't have any damage at Butterfield, we could leave them there. Director Heitz said Andy did say they are going to keep using them there. We have hired about 15 staff for Splash Valley. Rec staff will transfer over from Ice to Splash. Director Heitz said lifeguards can train at the YMCA and we will have a bootcamp in May to train staff.

Executive Director

Dayna Heitz: County did call and they are running behind on the levy computation report. Won't receive until end of April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

KCCVB:

Commissioner Matthews: Not met since last meeting.

Historical Society

Commissioner Eads: Meeting the 4th Wednesday of this month. Will be looking at the column garden to see what can be done.

SRA

Commissioner Eads/Palmer: Had 5 applicants. Board met last week and interviewed 2 of them. Both are strong candidates. Will be meeting with Tom regarding budgets.

KRS

Commissioner Eads/Director Heitz: Did meet a short time ago regarding Executive Director position. Waiting to look at the applications and then we will go from there for interviews.

Public Building Commission

Commissioner Palmer: Have had about 3 meetings. Board primarily oversees the bond is appropriately funded.

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioner Palmer has a handout on programming. This was in the Missouri Conservation article. See a pattern on nature programming. Would like to see more programming focused on this. Just using this as an example on how others reach out to kids. Commissioner Matthews said BTPD did these kinds of things at the nature center. We also don't have a knowledgeable staff on this. Commissioner Skelly said the start park has a naturalist, that would be a resource for us.

Commissioner Skelly is thanking everyone for being here for an extra meeting. Appreciate Dayna's communication the last couple weeks, it's been wonderful. Would like to make a suggestion to appease the boating community an option. There is an option that multiple people could launch at the same time. On a Sunday, Beckman harbor is so busy. Could do it for less than \$10,000 and it's something we could do now and show good faith to the boating community. Put concrete with gravel in the middle. Take a dock out and could launch 2 boats at one time. Like to have this on the agenda for in 2 weeks. It's below our threshold for going out to bid and boating season is upon us. You can go to the county planning and get a permit instead of going to IDNR. This option could be there forever. Would also very much like to recommend that we do steel on the east wall. Director Heitz said we will have only signage to deter people from pulling into harbor from the river. Commissioner Skelly said we are looking at July on the OSLAD grant, not sure Neil will get to it before. Behind the curve already and could miss the first chance of funding. Director Heitz said they don't have the timeline yet on OSLAD but will find out more. Attorney Freeman asked about Commissioner Skelly's option on the dock, with what you are proposing, would we need an engineer or someone with expertise to say it's ok? Commissioner Skelly said someone already did one downstream. It's anchored to the ground and braced into existing sidewalk. Basically, it's an extension of the sidewalk and the ramp is attached and goes out into the water. Attorney Freeman said if it's on the agenda, do you need someone with other expertise to come say yes, we can do it. Commissioner Skelly said no, don't believe so. Did the same kind of thing at my house and didn't need anything to do it? Attorney Freeman suggested Dayna and Rick to meet with Commissioner Skelly to find out what he is referring to. Then can decide if you need someone.

Commissioner Eads thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Kyle for the well-received egg hunt. Like that people from here and surrounding communities have these activities. Commissioner Spriggs said good job Kyle.

Executive Session

N/A

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:59pm by Commissioner Spriggs, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Consensus to adjourn.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Harbor
2. Dog Park Parking Lot
3. IVC Mechanical Repairs
4. Facility & Programming Guide
5. Classroom Rental
6. ARPA Funding

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Woodard