

REGULAR BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Kankakee Valley Park District of Kankakee County, Illinois was held on Monday February 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Bird Park Fieldhouse, Kankakee, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Hollis and roll call was taken.

The following Commissioners were present:

Tucker
Hollis
Skelly
Mullady
Cooper

Staff attending the meeting was Attorney John Coghlan, Kati Vaughn, Todd Poole, Rick Hassett, Jim Jaenicke, Robert Freyman, Jim Schopf and Charlie Reiner

Press present: Jon Krenek

Public present: Shirley St. Germaine, Heatherann Low, Joann Collins, James Wasser, Glenn Morio, Lyndsay Harwell, Tom Breitenbucher, Helen DuFour, Lindsey Hohnson, Dondi Maricle, Becky Williams and Garry Gund

Commissioner Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

A. Beckman Park Proposal – Kati Vaughn reminded the Board that a gentleman wanted to donate a couple basketball hoops at Beckman Park. He would like to put them in the fenced in area but it is used by two other groups. There was some discussion on where the best location is. The proposal will be tabled and discussed in Committee.

B. PDRMA Accreditation Plaque – Kati presented a PDRMA accreditation plaque that was given to the employees for receiving 96% accreditation. This is the first time the Park District has received this award. Staff and Board members received jackets also. Commissioner Mullady mentioned that this award is because of our staff and everything they do. President Hollis said this is the first time in Park District history that we have received accreditation. This is a very big deal and he thanked the staff.

C. Citizen's Guide Policy – This policy was presented at Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Cooper to approve the policy as presented.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Tucker	Aye
Skelly	Aye
Cooper	Aye
Mullady	Aye
Hollis	Aye

President Hollis read the Citizen's Guide Policy.

Public Comment:

James Swasser asked the Board how the Hunting Program at River Road Park was going, how often it's used, how many deer was harvested last year and if it is documented. Commissioner Mullady replied that it is absolutely documented. The amount of hunters have dropped off and only four deer were harvested last year. Mullady added that in the past, the Park District has done a Feed the Need program at the end of the year where the dad's go out with the kids and the meat is donated to the Salvation Army. Mr. Swasser asked who pays for the processing of the meat. Mullady replied that Papineau Meat Market and Southside Meat donate the processing. The season runs October to mid-January.

Joann Collins wanted to let the Board know that she and her daughter bought one of the very first passes for Splash Valley and go every day in the summer. They attended the meeting to ask the Board if there is any way to keep Splash Valley open.

Debra McCurry asked the Board why alcohol was not being sold at Ice Valley any longer. John Coghlan answered that there was an issue with the liquor license. For the ten plus years since we've had the Softball Complex and Ice Valley, we have used one liquor license for both facilities because they are opposite seasons of each other. In the last inspection they told us they now want one license for each facility and they suspended alcohol sales until that licensed was presented.

Shirley St. Germaine told the Board that she is a member of the Women's Club, a past president and she is a parliamentarian. She wanted to express her concern about the Governors' statue project. She said the Women's Club is about volunteerism and projects that benefit the community. She does not feel these statues would benefit the community. She feels the statues should be of a Veteran. The Governors have been remembered at Small Memorial Park, Shapiro Developmental Center, the Courthouse lawn and KCC grounds. She has been receiving adverse comments on social media about the project. Shirley read a rejection letter she received from St. Mary's Hospital.

Communication:

- A. Presentation by Dondi Maricle – Dondi is the President of the Women's Club. She presented information to the Board on the Governors' statue project. She said this project will be strictly from donations that may take up to a year to raise. She has been getting a lot of positive feedback. Commissioner Skelly asked Dondi who was

paying for the dinner that's being organized to raise money for the project. Dondi replied that is all being donated.

- B. Letter from unity – Kati presented a thank you letter from Unity Christian School. KVPD donated a couple passes for their annual auction.

Motion by Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Mullady to receive the consent agenda.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Tucker	Aye
Skelly	Aye
Cooper	Aye
Mullady	Aye
Hollis	Aye

Motion by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Cooper to approve the consent agenda

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Tucker	Aye
Skelly	Aye
Cooper	Aye
Mullady	Aye
Hollis	Aye

Old Business:

- A. Splash Valley – Kati Vaughn stated the Board needs to discuss the near future of Splash Valley so we know how to proceed with operations in 2016.

President Hollis opened up discussion: Commissioner Skelly noted that he is not for closing Splash Valley in its entirety but he is for closing half of it until repairs can be made. It is an asset to the community. He said there was no mention of this when the budget was passed. Six months in, we received a 3 month budget to actual which stated we were in a hardship but it wasn't going to be discussed for 2 months. The discussion could have started in November. Operations cost the same amount every year. We know it doesn't make money but it provides a service and a need to the community. Skelly mentioned that the city and a couple of banks have offered assistance. Hollis stated that this topic has been discussed previously and no one wants to close Splash Valley but Hollis doesn't know if the Board has a choice and we have to do what is fiscally responsible to this district. Attorney Coghlan asked Commissioner Skelly if he had any definite offers from the City. Skelly said he has not had any definite offers but the Mayor mentioned there might be a possibility of helping. Commissioner Tucker asked if we were going to pursue these options before any decisions were made. Hollis asked Skelly to give Kati and Rick the names of the banks that are interested in helping and they will follow up. Hollis also

said he will speak with the mayor to see if there are any options there. Hollis stressed that this be done as soon as possible. This will be tabled until the funding resources are looked at.

Superintendent of Recreation, Kati Vaughn, presented her report.

Ice Valley has been busy with birthday parties, fund raisers, Schools on Ice and the Score program where kids that come in and do homework get to skate for free. Try Hock for Free had fifteen participants. The RecCenter has started their first ever youth basketball league which has over eighty kids signed up and the teen basketball league has over thirty kids signed up. Youth cheerleaders are also in that program. The staff have been working on the summer brochure as well as different events that are coming up. They have been busy with open gym sessions, adult volleyball, and reserving facilities for rentals. Kankakee High School Tutoring Club is also going on.

President Hollis asked how the Tutoring Club was going with the Kankakee High School and how many kids were participating. Kati said there are over 40 kids. They go to Youth for Christ and have a snack, then they are bussed to the RecCenter. Commissioner Mullady thanked USA Hockey for furnishing equipment for the kids at Ice Valley. He said it is very much appreciated.

Superintendent of Finance, Rick Hassett, presented his report.

Rick was not able to present the cash on hand financials because he has spent the last couple of weeks working on bills payable to present for the foreseeable future upon Commissioners request. He has sent our general obligation bond and information to request a line of credit to fourteen banks. He has not received a favorable response about either one.

Interim Executive Director, Kati Vaughn, presented her report.

Kati met with Dondi Maricle and the three governors' project committee. She has been preparing the annual letter for the boat slip renters. She met with Hassett and the representatives from FirstMeritt Bank. She has department head meetings every other week. Kati met with Johnson Downs Construction Company. A Community Sponsor Group meeting was held with Bill Spriggs and Todd Pool to go over new additions to the contract. We are letting the local groups know that although we may helped everyone in the past, bringing them garbage cans, bleachers, ticket booths and such, we are not able to do that this year with the reduced manpower.

Superintendent of Parks, Todd Poole, presented his report.

Maintenance has completed playground safety inspections for the month of January. February inspections will be done this week. County Clerk, Bruce Clark, identified a couple concerns pertaining to the elections that are going to be held at our facilities. We have remedied both of those concerns by installing a new handicap reserve parking sign at Goselin and replacing the old wooden threshold ramp with a new aluminum ramp at the entrance to the Beckman Park building. Both of these issues were ADA compliant preventative maintenance actions. Poole met with a PDRMA representative and two different roofing contractors to get quotes for the Ice Valley Centre roof. All maintenance technicians have completed the February PDRMA safety trainings. Poole said thank you to Jim Jaenicki and Eric Gray for an exceptional job servicing all the mowers. Congratulations to Kenny Mosier for his outstanding customer service skills interacting with the people and groups who rent our facilities. He does a great job representing the Park District.

KCCVB Report – Lisa Cooper will start attending the KCCVB meetings from now on and will be reporting on those.

Historical Society Report – Commissioner Skelly reported that everything is going well. Connie said they turned in a request to the Park District about past money owed. Attorney Coghlan stated that the Park District is getting together the information requested and then will respond.

SRA Report – President Hollis stated that the Executive Director from the SRA, Tom Breitenbucher is present and wants to share information about the SRA. Mr. Breitenbucher thanked the Park District for their support and affiliation with the SRA. He said the staff have been wonderful to work with when it comes to using any of the facilities for activities. Some of those activities include dances, fishing at the Quarry, volleyball and basketball practices for the Special Olympics. The SRA provides recreation services and activities for the special needs in our community. There are social events, day camps, after school and work programs and so much more. The SRA sponsors teams in a lot of different sports. The Basketball team will be participating in the state tournament in March. There are approximately 290 people on the mailing list. We work with local schools and set up booths at special events to get our information out. The SRA is excited because we also received accreditation with a 96%.

Commissioner Mullady asked where the basketball tournament will take place on March 12 and 13. Tom replied that it will be divided between Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan.

Commissioners Forum: Commissioner Mullady reminded everyone the Outdoor Show will be held at Legends Sportsplex from 10am to 4pm this Saturday. There will be people there with live raptors, Terry Hightower from Oakhill Pheasant Farm and Tyler Anderson who is ranked 14th in the world in archery. Mullady will give a 1:30 presentation to give tips on how to fish the Kankakee River from top to bottom which will include fly cast fishing.

Commission Skelly recommends that the Board meet more often. Three weeks is too long in between meetings. Commissioner Mullady and President Hollis both agree. Hollis said there will be some special meetings called. Commissioner Tucker suggests reducing the agenda so there is more time to discuss the issues at hand.

On motion by Commissioner Mullady, seconded by Hollis to adjourn.

All Aye

Alfred Hollis – President

Lisa Cooper – Secretary

