BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2023
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM

REGULAR MEETING – The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Callahan.

ROLL CALL – President Callahan called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance were Larson, Bell, Tilmon, Gray, and Callahan.

Staff in attendance were Director of Finance Brent Strumpf; Director of Facilities and Trades Josh Wyant; Director of Parks Kim Hansen; Director of Talent and Culture Lynn Boerman; Director of Community Recreation Brittany Meyer; Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Katie Burgess; Executive Assistant Lindsey Williams and Executive Director Allison Niemela.

Legal Counsel Erin Monforti and Batavia Parks Foundation member, Stefin Steberl were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA – None.

CONSENT AGENDA - President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda as presented which included approval of the following: Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on July 18, 2023; Approval of the Paid Expenditures; Approval of the Expense Approval Report; Approval of the Investment Summary; Approval of the Income Statement; Approval of Purchases; and Approval of Ordinance #412: Surplus Property. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as established. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to approve the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Larson complimented Camp Sun-Sational and noted friends from outside the District also registered their kids. Commissioner Gray gave kudos to the Depot Museum Director Kate Garrett and Museum Curator, Jessica Meis for the new exhibit. Commissioner Bell thanked the District for enrolling her in an educational program.
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BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION – Foundation Board Member Stefin Steberl shared the following update: 1) Peace on Earth letter construction is delayed due to an aluminum shortage and the anticipated ribbon cutting on September 21st will likely be delayed. They will know more by September 1st; 2) The first pickleball tournament went really well with 24 participants. It was a great testament to the partnership between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Parks Foundation; 3) The Day of Peace celebration is scheduled for September 21st as a community event; 4) Save the Date for Fox River Day as part of the Pitch in the Parks program, September 16th from 9:00AM-12:00PM; 5) The Foundation will be popping up at Pints by the Pond with a bags tournament; 6) The Foundation has an opening for a board member. If interested, please contact Stefin Steberl or Britta McKenna.

CORRESPONDENCE – President Callahan acknowledged a letter from Distinguished Accreditation Mentor Rita Fletcher confirming the intent to move forward with the re-accreditation process. President Callahan also acknowledged handmade thank you notes from Fox Valley Special Recreation participants for usage of the Lodge at Laurelwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Burgess read the following announcements: 1) Registration is open for residents and non-residents for fall programs. The fall Fun Guide is available online at bataviaparks.org with a variety of available programs; 2) Kayak and paddle boat rentals are now available on weekends only at the Riverwalk through August 24th and Labor Day from 11AM – 4:00 PM; 3) The Park District is looking for volunteers for Nightmare at West Main, please contact Bethanne Guidarelli at bethanneg@bataviaparks.org for more information; 4) We are hiring for before and after school care with our Kids’ Club, visit bataviaparks.org for more information; and 5) Save the date for Pints by the Pond on September 23rd. This is a ticketed event with 12 local brewers. Please buy your tickets early.

STAFF REPORTS – Director of Finance Strumpf stated the fiscal year 2024 budget is underway with projections and requests due at the end of August. Individual department meetings will be held in September. He also shared an update regarding cyber insurance coverage: Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) did not require a separate application. If it does become required, the District is well-positioned to obtain it.

Director of Facilities and Trades Wyant gave the following updates: 1) The Hall Quarry Beach Master Plan kick-off was productive and he shared a few ideas from the programming brainstorm session; 2) Next week the Civic Center gym floor will be re-
finished; and 3) BATV will be moving to the lower level of the Civic Center soon to start the remediation of the Callahan Community Center.

Director of Parks Kim Hansen shared the following: 1) She is working on an Eagle Scout project with butterfly houses at Hawk’s Bluff Park. Scout Owen Stahl may come to the October meeting to present his project to the Board; 2) She has been working on the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Environmental Report Card and will give a presentation to the Board later in the meeting; 3) Due to increased “smash and grab” activities at West Main Community Park, she has been working with the Kane County Sheriff and PDRMA on a solution for additional surveillance. There was a discussion with the Board. Thank you to Sheriff Hain for his support and responsiveness.

Director of Talent and Culture Boerman noted she is working on end of the season voluntary resignations and off-boarding for seasonal staff. She will facilitate staff policy training throughout August and September. The Batavia Police Department will conduct Armed Intruder Training with New Horizons staff, front office staff, and members of the Safety Committee.

Director of Community Recreation Meyer celebrated a great Camp Sun-Sational and Hall Quarry Beach season. Thank you to Recreation Supervisors Bethanne Guidarelli and Julie Galauner and their staff for all their hard work this summer. Hall Quarry Beach recently had a 4-star audit, congratulations to managers and lifeguards on this achievement. Meyer shared registration data from Rec-Trac and the District has nearly surpassed 2022 registrations as of June.

Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Burgess shared the Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on August 9th with 30 families in attendance. Another appreciation event will be held in the spring. August 16th is the final River Rhapsody with a Malibu Beach Barbie theme and special beverages.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Executive Director Niemela shared the following: 1) The new logo for the New Horizons Preschool was designed by Strategic Communications Specialist Gail Gaboda in collaboration with the New Horizons teachers. The new logo captures the philosophy of the program with the tagline of “play, learn and grow”; 2) The Depot Museum has two new Back to School exhibits with a section devoted to hairstyles of the decades. Thank you to Commissioner Gray for attending; 3) Owen Stahl has worked with the Parks Department to put 12 butterfly houses at Hawk’s Bluff Park for his Eagle Scout project; 4) Kudos to the Customer Service
Committee on a successful Customer Appreciation Day; 5) Batavia Park District is up for an accreditation review through the IAPD/IPRA Distinguished Accreditation program. Niemela gave an overview of the program and thanked staff for their hard work. President Callahan gave additional information and appreciates the work that goes into Distinguished Accreditation; 6) Barco products based in Batavia has offered a trade for a photo shoot at Hall Quarry Beach. They will be supplying a new water bottle refilling station with a dog fountain at the Riverwalk; and 7) President Callahan and Vice President Tilmont are celebrating 25 years and 15 years of service on the Park Board of Commissioners. They will be acknowledged and honored at an upcoming gala.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval of Resolution #297 Supporting Design Concept “B” for Configuration of the Fox River and Depot Pond in the Event of Removal of the Batavia Dam - The Board discussed the project and reiterated the intergovernmental agreement with City of Batavia in supporting a design concept.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Resolution #297 Supporting Concept “B” for Configuration of the Fox River and Depot Pond in the Event of Removal of the Batavia Dam. Motion was made by Tilmont, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmont, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

B. Board Review, Discussion and Approval of the IPRA Environmental Report Card Director of Parks Hansen presented the IPRA Environmental Report Card and gave an overview of the assessment. President Callahan thought the report card was comprehensive and commended staff on sustainability. Vice President Tilmont noted the opportunities for growth.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the IPRA Environmental Report Card as presented. Motion was made by Tilmont, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmont, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

C. Board Review on the Progress of the ADA Transition Plan Director of Facilities and Trades Wyant presented progress photos and updates to the ADA Transition Plan for the Board to review. He noted the Special Recreation Fund pays a percentage of these projects. The Board gave positive feedback on the plan and is looking forward to this being an annual review.
D. First Reading and Discussion of Video Surveillance Policy
Director of Finance Brent Strumpf reviewed the proposed Video Surveillance Policy. The Board discussed the proposed policy and suggested revisions with guidance from Legal Counsel Monforti. The policy will be amended for a second reading.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation 2(c)(11) at 8:13 PM. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell, and Callahan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Regular session was reconvened at 8:36 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD – None.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Bell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:
Lindsey Williams, Executive Assistant