

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15, 2020  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING** – The regular meeting was held as a virtual meeting and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Callahan.

**ROLL CALL** – President Callahan called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance via video were Riley, Tilmon, Gray, Connolly, and Callahan. Staff in attendance via video were Director of Parks & Properties Eric Lacher; Director of Capital Projects and Contractual Services Jim Eby; Director of Community Recreation Brittany Meyer; Superintendent of Parks Kim Hansen; Superintendent of Facilities/Trades Josh Wyant; Director of Finance Shane Johnson; Executive Assistant Shelley Kouzes; and Executive Director Allison Niemela. Legal counsel Chris Welch was also in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – In lieu of the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held in honor of those affected by the current pandemic.

**ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA** – No.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda as presented which included approval of the following: minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held November 18, 2020; Paid Expenditures; Expense Approval Report; Investment Summary; and Approval of Purchases. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Tilmon, Gray, Connolly, 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. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Prior to the meeting, the public was invited to call into the meeting to address the Board or submit a public comment that would be read at the meeting by emailing: [allisonn@bataviaparks.org](mailto:allisonn@bataviaparks.org).

**MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS** – President Callahan thanked Director Eby for his time, energy and effort during his years at the Park District.

**BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION** – Batavia Parks Foundation President Cory Poris-Plasch advised the Board the Foundation’s recent election resulted in no changes to the current Board positions.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – 1) A 2020 Risk Management Review Award letter was received from PDRMA (Park District Risk Management Agency) along with a check in the amount of \$1,500.

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**STAFF REPORTS –**

Director Lacher advised the Board staff is finishing up 2020 projects and read his annual Christmas poem.

Superintendent Hansen advised the Board a four-year long landscaping project at Hall Quarry Beach has been completed. The West Main parking lot project is complete. The evergreen reindeer made by Antonio Salazar are on display in several areas.

Superintendent Wyant advised the Board the Civic Center front office renovation is complete. Staff will begin work on renovating some offices in the administrative area at the Civic Center. Over 220 votes were received for the redesign of Hamlet Park. Shannon Hall redecorating is on track. The Hall Quarry Beach parking lot renovation is underway.

Director Johnson advised the Board Kane County Coronavirus Relief Fund check is available for pickup. Thank you to Board and staff for attending the recent Budget Retreat.

Director Eby will be attending a Zoom meeting with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Robotics group to talk about universal and accessible park design.

Director Meyer advised the Board sixty-seven letters were sent in response to the letters to Santa that were received. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, a socially distanced Snapshots with Santa event was held. A holiday special is being offered for Zoom fitness classes. An Ultimate Frisbee clinic and Pickle Ball Tournament will be offered in the spring.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Niemela gave a "Year in Review" presentation including the following: 1) The Batavia Activity and Recreation Center Referendum took place March 17th; 2) Due to pandemic restrictions, the Batavia Virtual Recreation Center was created to offer the public online activities; 3) During the pandemic, the Parks Department employees were identified as essential workers; 4) Many events and activities were canceled due to the Shelter in Place order; 5) Staff came up with innovative ideas like the Egg Dash to replace the annual Easter Egg Hunt; 6) Weekly subscription boxes were offered like an At Home Athletic Box, a Summertime Booster Box and a Tween Recreation Box; 7) Quarantine hobby videos were recorded by staff to share with the public; 8) The decision was made not to open Hall Quarry Beach; 9) New Horizons Preschool won the Quarantine Madness survey as The Best of the Batavia Park District ; 10) The Depot Museum displayed the first African American exhibit featuring Batavians in History. The exhibit is now open year round; 11) A peaceful protest was held on the Riverwalk in support of the Black Lives Matter movement; 12) The Civic Center gym was renovated; 13) The Civic Center gym was named the James "Jim" Eby Gym upon his retirement; 14) Pandemic guidelines

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restricted tennis and pickle ball to singles play only; 15) A new floor was installed in the Eastside Community Center hallway; 16) A new dance studio was installed in Kemp Hall; 17) The Peg Bond Center received a facelift; 18) A deck was added to the Lodge at Laurelwood; 19) Play structures were replaced at Wind Energy Park and Levi Newton Park; 20) A Bulldog Crimson/Gold Camp was created to offer remote learning; 21) Drive-in movies were very popular; 22) The Park District was the recipient of a Kane County Chronicle 2020 Best of the Fox Readers' Choice Award; 23) Offices were closed due to Tier 3 mitigations; 24) The Depot Museum gift shop was renovated; 25) Work was completed on the Big Woods softball field; 26) In November, the District's 7 – 10 year Comprehensive Master Plan was approved; 27) Participants of the Snapshots with Santa program took socially distanced photos with Santa; 28) Director of Capital Projects Jim Eby will retire at the end of the year; 29) The Maintenance Facility has two new shop cats "mascots".

**PRESENTATIONS –**

- A. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Operating Budget** – Director Johnson presented the Board with a high level overview of the proposed fiscal year 2021 budget and addressed questions from the Board.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

- A. Capital Development Plan Progress Report: Jim Eby, Director of Capital Projects** – Director of Capital Projects Jim Eby presented a review of his thirty years with the Park District.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Operating Budget** – Earlier tonight staff presented the Board with the final budget document.

**President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Operating Budget as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Connolly, Tilmon, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

- B. Approval of Ordinance #395: Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance** – The ordinance will be made available for the required 30-day public inspection period prior to its adoption at the January Board meeting.

**President Callahan entertained a motion to make Ordinance #395: Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance available for public inspection. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called.**

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**Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None.  
Absent: None. Motion carried.**

- C. Approval of Ordinance #396: An ordinance providing for the issue of \$730,015 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021, of the District for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof - Aaron Gold of Speer Financial made a brief post-pricing presentation and addressed questions from the Board.**

**President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Ordinance #396: An ordinance providing for the issue of \$730,015 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021, of the District for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

- D. Approval of Naming the South River Street Greenway and Trail – The Board chose from three options to name the South River Street greenway and trail. The name chosen was: The Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway.**

**President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the naming of the South River Street greenway and trail to The Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

- E. Approval of Resolution #272: Fiscal Year 2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule – This is a Park Code requirement and provision within the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Park District is required to schedule, pass by resolution and post to the public and media the Regular Board Meeting dates that will be conducted for the year.**

**President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Resolution #272: Fiscal Year 2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Tilmon, Gray,**

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**Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Connolly experienced connectivity issues and was not present for the vote. Motion carried.**

**Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss Personnel 2(c)(1); and Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes 2(c)(21). Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Tilmon, Gray, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Review of Resolution #273: Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes -**  
This is a Park Code requirement and provision within the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Park District is required to schedule, pass by resolution and post to the public and media the Regular Board Meeting dates that will be conducted for the year.

**ADJOURNMENT -** With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Tilmon, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Connolly experienced connectivity issues and was not present for the vote. Motion carried.



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Secretary, Board of Commissioners  
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:  
Shelley Kouzes