

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

REGULAR MEETING – The regular meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM 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; and Executive Director Allison Niemela.

Legal Counsel Erin Monforti and Batavia Parks Foundation President Britta McKenna were also in attendance.

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

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 January 16, 2024; Approval of the Paid Expenditures; Approval of the Expense Approval Report; Approval of the Investment Summary; Approval of the Income Statement; and Approval of Purchases.** 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 Gray congratulated everyone on awards received at the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) State Conference.

BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION – Batavia Parks Foundation President Britta McKenna shared the Foundation's 2024 Work Plans as follows: 1) A new rock garden space partnering with Batavia Park District and Water Street Studios. Community groups are invited to sign up to check out a rock painting kit starting in mid-March from the Batavia Park District Civic Center; 2) Working on a possible Peace on Earth selfie station with City of Batavia; 3) Exploring new grants and projects throughout the year; 4) The Parks Foundation will be on-site at Batavia Un-Corked passing out complimentary water bottles; 5) Foundation pop ups at various community events

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including River Rhapsody, Batavia Farmer’s Market, Windmill City Festival and more; 6) The Foundation is transferring the Big Dill Pickleball Tournament knowledge and volunteer efforts to Batavia Park District while amplifying work days in the parks throughout the year; 7) Teaming up with Kiss the Sky for a Peace Project Pop Up, March 2nd from 1-5PM, 180 First Street, Batavia. Participants can tie-dye a shirt or bandana, paint a rock for the rock garden, or pick up a Peace Day t-shirt; 8) The Foundation’s Strategic Plan has expired and will be refreshed in 2024. The Batavia Park District Board of Commissioners and Leadership Team are invited to share input; and 9) Additional programming will be previewed during the April Park Board Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS –

A. Carriage Crest Park Detention Basin Drainage Improvements –

Andrea Podraza and Rahat Bari from City of Batavia presented an overview of the Carriage Crest Park Detention Basin Drainage Improvements Project. There was discussion with the Board regarding tree removal and replacement and the impact to Carriage Crest Park and surrounding residents. Next month, the City of Batavia will seek a construction easement agreement from Batavia Park District.

B. Preview of the Peace on Earth Bridge Video –

The Peace on Earth Bridge video filmed by Shumway Studios was presented to the Park Board

CORRESPONDENCE – President Callahan acknowledged the following correspondence; 1) A letter from Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) congratulating Batavia Park District on achieving Distinguished Accreditation status; 2) A letter from Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) returning a portion of the District’s health program contribution due to a successful financial position; and 3) A letter from Illinois Department of Resources (IDNR) approving Batavia Park District to remove the existing playground at Clark Island Recreation Area, which is past its useful life, to make space for the new fitness court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Burgess read the following announcements: 1) What’s green and blue and read all over? The Spring Fun Guide! Guides reached Batavia homes this week and are full of fun spring programs and events! In District registration begins February 26! Program highlights include summer camp, adult trips, Spring Break Pickleball Tournament, early registration for the Windmill Whirl and more STEAM options. Curious about programs but you didn’t receive the guide? The Fun Guide is available online at bataviaparks.org; 2) Just because the new Fun Guide is out doesn’t mean the old guide is ready for the recycling bin. The Winter Fun Guide contains programs beginning in March such as fitness programs, adult variety and youth variety programs as well as spring soccer and spring softball; 3) Registration opened this week for two programs at the District. Early bird registration is now open for the Windmill City Festival Windmill Whirl 5k and the Kids Fun Run. The new Kids Fun Run Costs \$5 and introduces children to the thrill of participating in

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aces. Registration information is available at bataviaparks.org. Another program opening this week is the Spring Break Pickleball tournament. Taking place in a little over a month on March 25, this tournament has two brackets – one for beginners and one for advanced players. Players can enroll with a partner or register solo and we will place you with a partner. This is a great way to enjoy a Spring Break staycation! Registration information is available on the bataviaparks.org; 4) Hall Quarry Beach passes are now on sale at their lowest prices of the season. New this year! You can purchase your passes online as well as in person. The preseason rates are splash-tastic. Season passes pay for themselves after 6 visits; 5) On sale now are tickets to the new Batavia Uncorked casual wine event on June 8. Early Bird tickets are \$25 for 10 one-ounce tastings of local wines and other beverages. Sit back, listen to live music and enjoy this three-hour casual event while sampling vintages from over 8 local wineries and distilleries. Tickets are available online and in person at all Batavia Park District Community Centers. Designated driver tickets are also available for purchase; 6) The Batavia Depot Museum is proud to announce the opening of their spring exhibit “Markets and Meals”, Experience the history of Batavia food stories and how neighbors kept each other fed in this free family friendly exhibit showcasing intriguing artifacts, a grocery store play space, photos, stories and more! Explore the essential role grocers, butchers and bakers played in the health of Batavia from the city’s early days to today’s large retailers. The exhibit opens March 1 and runs through July 21. Check bataviaparks.org for exhibit hours; and 7) There is still time to enroll for the upcoming monthly senior citizens luncheon on March 20. These luncheons are a great way to meet new people, and enjoy great food and entertainment. The luncheon follows the Batavia Senior Citizen Club monthly meeting. All are invited. Pre-registration is required. More information is available in the Fun Guide and online at bataviaparks.org.

STAFF REPORTS – Director of Finance Strumpf stated the 2023 Financial Statement Audit is underway. Preliminary fieldwork has been started. The new credit card processor switch has been completed and there have been no reported negative impacts. Users can now use tap to pay, Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Director of Facilities and Trades Wyant shared the playground equipment at Clark Island Recreation Area will be removed and Upland Design will complete the final drawings of the Clark Island redevelopment project utilizing the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant. The District is working with Williams Architects on getting documents ready for the roof replacement project at Peg Bond Center to go before the Batavia Historic Preservation Commission for approval and City of Batavia for permitting. He also noted a productive meeting with the Batavia Historic Preservation Commission and Williams Architects for the Callahan Community Center.

Director of Parks Hansen shared the Fox River was designated a national water trail under the National Park Service. It is called “Fabulous Fox National Water Trail”. Grants are now available

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for land owners to improve access. Hansen is involved in conversations with Kane County to benefit the District's riverfront properties.

Director of Talent and Culture Boerman noted the Safety Committee is working on a safety orientation video for seasonal employees. Each department is involved in the video. Boerman noted the \$13,615.24 refund given from PDRMA for healthcare and noted the benefit of utilizing PDRMA. The District is nearly fully staffed for seasonal staff and have a few positions open. The goal is to be fully staffed by April 1st.

Director of Community Recreation Meyer highlighted new spring programs including the Spring Break Pickleball Tournament, pickleball rating days, and in-house soccer leagues.

Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Burgess celebrated the District taking home 1st Place in Large Format Printing and 2nd Place in the Printed Brochure at the annual IAPD/IPRA State Conference last month. The Marketing Department has been busy promoting spring programs. Marketing efforts are underway for promotion of the Hall Quarry Beach season passes utilizing mascot Chuck the Duck. Burgess thanked the Recreation and Finance Departments for their efforts in bringing pass renewals online. The new text messaging service is underway and the customer service team has been actively replying. User communities are being created so users can opt in to receive updates for specific programs and events. The Bruce the Spruce tip line will ideally be integrated into this program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Niemela shared the following updates: 1) Batavia Park District received Distinguished Accreditation status at the IAPD/IPRA State Conference in January; 2) The District received 1st Place at the IAPD/IPRA State Conference for Large Format Printing for the mural in the Civic Center and 2nd Place for the Fun Guide; 3) Superintendent of Parks, Alex Macias received the Bruce the Spruce Award for full-time staff and Lead Preschool Teacher, Kaylee Gallagher received the Bruce the Spruce Award for part-time staff at the Staff Recognition Party; 4) Niemela shared photos of the water main break at the Batavia Riverwalk. Restoration of this area will take place this spring in cooperation with City of Batavia. Staff will be in contact with any affected rentals; 5) Bruce the Spruce visited a Chicago Steel Mascot Party celebrating the Steel mascot's birthday; 6) The Depot Museum has received new carpet and a wood floor refresh to the main entrance installed by the Facilities and Trades Department; 7) The new "Markets and Meals" exhibit highlighting Batavia's grocers opens March 1st and will be on display through July. There is an interactive component in the exhibit; and 8) Eight new pickleball courts are coming to West Main Community Park this summer. New pickleball tournaments and lessons are coming soon.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

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NEW BUSINESS –

- A. Approval of Ordinance #415: An Ordinance providing for the issue of \$797,525 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2024, of the District for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing 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 Republic Bank of Chicago -** Aaron Gold from Speer Financial provided a background, overview, and recommendation on the bond sale.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Ordinance #415: An Ordinance providing for the issue of \$797,525 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2024, of the District for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing 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 Republic Bank of Chicago as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

- B. Adoption of the Fox River Corridor Master Plan**

President Callahan entertained a motion to adopt the Fox River Corridor Master Plan as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

- C. Award of Contract for Tree Removal and Trimming Services**

President Callahan entertained a motion to award the contact for tree removal and trimming services to Abbott Tree Care Professionals of Bartlett, IL. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

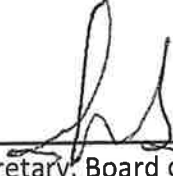
EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Personnel 2(c)(1) at 8:15 PM. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson Bell, and Callahan. Nays: None. Absent: Larson. Motion carried.

The meeting resumed at 8:37 PM

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD – None.

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ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.



Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:
Lindsey Williams, Executive Assistant