

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

REGULAR MEETING – The regular meeting was held via video conference and called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Vice President Tilmon.

ROLL CALL – Vice President Tilmon called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance via video conference per the District’s Use of Electronic Devices by Board Members policy were Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, and Gray. President Callahan arrived at 7:31 p.m. Staff in attendance via video were Director of Finance Mitch Bowlin; 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; Executive Assistant Shelley Kouzes, and Executive Director, Allison Niemela. Also in attendance was Legal Counsel Chris Welch.

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 – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda which included approval of the following: minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held May 19, 2020; Paid Expenditures; Expense Approval Report; Investment Summary; Income Statement; Approval of Purchases; Approval of Resolution #266: Notice of Appointment of Authorized IMRF Agent; Approval of Resolution #267: and Resolution to Allow FMLA Leave Expansion and Emergency Paid Sick Leave to Comply with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Motion was made by Dorsey, seconded by Gray to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Dorsey, Riley, Gray, Tilmon. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Callahan. Motion carried.

Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as established. Motion was made by Gray, seconded by Dorsey. 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. There were no guests in attendance.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS - Commissioner Dorsey commended staff and Board members for being flexible during the challenges of the current pandemic. Commissioner Gray extended appreciation to Superintendent Hansen for helping a friend with the District’s memorial program.

BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION - The Foundation is finalizing the marketing campaign for the scholarship program and is in search of Board members.

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FOX VALLEY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION - Fox Valley Special Recreation Foundation is planning a drive through version of their annual BBQ fundraiser. Fox Valley Special Recreation Association's virtual programs have seen a 60% increase in participation over 11 days.

CORRESPONDENCE - 1) Email of appreciation from Batavia City Administrator Laura Newman for the Park District's partnership and cooperation in preparing for the June 3rd protest.

STAFF REPORTS – Director Eby advised the Board the Depot Museum will open next Monday. For now, the museum will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The “Community, Culture and Conversation: African American Culture in Batavia” exhibit will be displayed through the end of the year.

Director Lacher advised the Board the flower installation has been completed and has received many compliments. LED lights have been installed on the Riverwalk fountain and it is up and running.

Director Bowlin advised the Board this was his last Board meeting and Friday will be his last day at the District. Director Bowlin thanked the Board and staff for a fantastic experience working at the Park District. Since the forecast was delivered to the Board last month, there have not been many changes. The District should know by September how the Capital Development Plan will be affected.

Director Meyer advised the Board staff has been very creative with virtual programming and looking forward to getting back to regular programming. Some current offerings are an At Home Adventure Box, kayak rentals, private tennis lessons, and outdoor fitness classes. Camp will begin July 6th.

Superintendent Hansen advised the Board survey stakes have been set and asphalt is being removed at Big Woods Park to begin grading. The backstop has been removed from the ball field which will also be graded.

The Board, Legal Counsel and staff discussed the opening of parks. There is no word yet from Governor Pritzker's office on when parks may be allowed to open.

Executive Director Niemela announced Director Eby will be retiring on December 31st of this year.

Superintendent Wyant advised the Board the patio at the Lodge at Laurelwood has been completed.

Executive Director Niemela introduced the District's new Legal Counsel, Emanuel Chris Welch.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Executive Director Niemela updated the Board on the following: 1) History was made in Batavia on June 3rd when hundreds of Black Lives Matter supporters held a peaceful protest on the Batavia Riverwalk to promote change; 2) In 1969 when African Americans were not allowed to swim in community pools alongside white people, Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers Neighborhood) invited an African American police officer on his show to cool his feet in a swimming pool with him; 3) Akilah Anderson, a former Batavia Park District intern, took part in the protest at the Riverwalk; 4) The Depot Museum is hosting a “Community, Culture and Conversations: African American Culture in Batavia” exhibit through the end of the year. The museum will open next week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.; 5) The Park District’s Civic Center will open next week and hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Social distancing protocols will be followed; 6) The Riverwalk fountain is up and running; 7) Flower pots and pallets with flowers from the District’s greenhouse have been installed at the Riverwalk, South Riverwalk Plaza and the Civic Center; 8) A new playground was installed at Levi Newton Park but is currently closed due to social distancing restrictions; 9) The 2nd phase of construction is underway at Big Woods Park. The City of Batavia donated two hundred loads of dirt for the project; 10) This week the Park District began offering fitness classes in our parks. A virtual option is also available; 11) The skate park will be reopening on Friday as well as the tennis courts for doubles; 12) The 2020 phase of work at the Eastside Community Center is ready to launch. New flooring and lighting fixtures are among the improvements to be made.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. **ADA Transition Plan Report and review of Findings** - President of ACT Services, Inc. (Accessibility Consultation and Training Services) Mark Trieglaff updated the Board on the goals and objectives identified in the ADA Transition Plan.

President Callahan asked Legal Counsel Welch to create an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District and the City of Batavia for the Fox River Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **First Reading and Introduction to the Fox River Master Plan Proposal** – President and CEO of Hitchcock Design Group Bill Inman introduced the Fox River Master Plan proposal to the Park Board. This was a first reading of the proposal.

- B. **Appointment of Board Officers**
 - i. **President Pro Tem**
 - ii. **Vice President Pro Tem**
 - iii. **Treasurer Pro Tem**
 - iv. **Secretary Pro Tem**

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- C. Election of Board Officers**
 - i. Board President**
 - ii. Board Vice President**
 - iii. Board Treasurer**
 - iv. Board Secretary**

Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to appoint Pat Callahan as President Pro Tem; John Tilmon as Vice President Pro Tem; Kevin Riley as Treasurer Pro Tem; and Tara Gray as Secretary Pro Tem. With no objections to the appointments, Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to elect Pat Callahan as President; John Tilmon as Vice President; Kevin Riley as Treasurer and Tara Gray as Secretary. Motion was made by Dorsey, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Dorsey, Riley, Gray, Tilmon, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

D. Appointment of Executive Director

E. Appointment of Law Firm

- F. Appointment of Organization Representatives**
 - i. Batavia Parks Foundation Board Liaison**
 - ii. Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (Alternate)**
 - iii. Batavia Chamber of Commerce (Alternate)**

Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to appoint Tom Dorsey as Batavia Parks Foundation Liaison; Allison Niemela as Executive Director; Ancel Glink as Legal Counsel; Allison Niemela as Primary and Brittany Meyer as Alternate for Fox Valley Special Recreation Association; and Allison Niemela as Primary and Josh Wyant as Alternate for Batavia Chamber of Commerce as presented. Motion was made by Dorsey, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Dorsey, Riley, Gray, Tilmon, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes 2(c)(21). Motion was made by Callahan, seconded by Dorsey. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD – Regular Session was reconvened at 8:43 p.m. Vice President Tilmon entertained a motion to maintain Executive Session minutes as closed per Resolution #265: Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes as presented. Motion was made by Dorsey, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Dorsey, Riley, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.



Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:
Shelley Kouzes