

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING**

REGULAR MEETING – The regular meeting was held as a virtual meeting and called to order at 7 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 Interim Director of Parks Kim Hansen; Interim Director of Facilities Josh Wyant; Director of Finance Shane Johnson; Director of Marketing & Public Relations Corinne Vargas; Executive Assistant Debbie Gentry; and Executive Director Allison Niemela. Legal counsel Joyce Jezeer 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 – Approval of the February 16 Board meeting minutes was removed from the agenda. Minutes will be presented for approval at the April Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA – President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda as presented which included approval of the following: Paid Expenditures; Expense Approval Report; Investment Summary; and Approval of Purchases. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Tilmon, Gray, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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.

BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION – None.

PRESENTATIONS –

- A. Two Spartans and a Bulldog:** Gabriele Benelli, Peter Angelini, Antonio Benelli, and Francesco Benelli presented the Park Activity Tracker project. The prototypes include a bracelet and web technology to encourage healthy habits and measure people’s activity throughout our Park District. Executive Director Niemela will work with Benelli and Staff to explore programming options to utilize this technology. Callahan will sponsor the project’s rollout.
- B. Encore Batavia:** Britta McKenna presented a progress report on the Batavia Men’s Shed and Intergenerational Playground projects. Park Board approved 30 more days of exploration on both projects.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS – None.

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING**

CORRESPONDENCE – 1) Letter from PDRMA Health regarding a reimbursement; 2) Letter from U.S. Census Bureau thanking the Batavia Park District for its partnership in the 2020 Census; 3) Letter from the Epilepsy Foundation notifying the Batavia Park District that it owns the trademark rights to the name Kamp Kaleidoscope.

STAFF REPORTS –

New Director of Marketing & Public Relations Corinne Vargas and new Executive Assistant Debbie Gentry introduced themselves to the Board.

Interim Director of Facilities Wyant advised the Board that the redecoration of Shannon Hall is 95% complete; the Quarry parking lot renovation bid went out on March 12 and will open on April 7. The bid will be awarded in April; preparation work has begun on the Quarry pump house and facilities for the season; he also is working with the City of Batavia regarding a future land swap and will present it to the Board next month.

Interim Director of Parks Hansen advised the Board that her department is completing the hazardous tree program, equipment servicing and park cleanups for the upcoming season.

Director of Finance Johnson advised the Board that he is continuing to prepare for the upcoming audit to be held at the end of March; he shared an update on the 2019 GFOA award process, and they are running approximately 9 months behind; the Batavia Park District was awarded five liquor licenses from the State of Illinois for five locations, and these licenses will be valid through June 30, 2021.

Director of Marketing & Public Relations Vargas advised the Board that she has been working with the Recreation Department on plans for signage, social media, events and programs for the upcoming spring and summer seasons; the fitness instructor also has developed a new program called the Spring Wingding, a two-week program of unlimited Zoom classes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Executive Director Niemela shared 1) The redecoration of Shannon Hall has been completed; she showed before and after photos of the space. 2) She and Museum employees Kate Garrett and Amber Foster visited the Schingoethe Center of Aurora University to examine their collections and storage protocols; Kate and Amber's 3-year work plan goal will be to tackle the backlog of Historical Society donations, and, in the future, to digitize the collections. 3) We are re-evaluating the timing of our special events due to ongoing Covid restrictions: For example, the Touch-a-truck event will move to the fall; Hall Quarry Beach will open on Memorial Day Weekend and reserved, two-hour time slots will be available to allow time for sanitizing between sessions. 3) The first day of registration for New Horizons Preschool garnered 81 registrants. 4) All Easter events have sold out. 5) We had 123

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
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registrants signed up for Zoom fitness classes this winter. 6) We are still deliberating when and where to hold Windmill City Festival this year and are awaiting further pandemic protocols from the State to decide upon plans. 7) We are still planning to hold a Craft Beer Festival this fall. 8) Our Recreation team will be offering several exciting new programs as a result of the five new liquor licenses we secured through June 30. 9) We will be adding a new Active Adult Gardening program this summer, in which we will partner with We Grow Dreams, Inc. Thanks to Commissioner Connolly for suggesting the Build your Own Terrarium class, which developed into the expanded program. 10) The Batavia School District notified the Batavia Park District that it will no longer need the Park District to run the Enrichment Program; they opted to provide this program themselves beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. 11) The School District allowed the Batavia Park District to expand the Kids' Club Program, so beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the Park District will be the primary childcare provider at all six elementary schools. 12) There is a group trying to organize a community garden, so we may be approached about this idea. 13) President Callahan reconnected the Batavia Park District to the Fox Valley Strikers Club. The Park District will be partnering with the Strikers by offering their developmental soccer leagues.

OLD BUSINESS – Second Reading and Review of the Teleworking Policy for the District.

Board and staff discussed the proposed policy. Changes should be sent to Executive Director Niemela. The policy will be brought before the Board at the April Board meeting for approval.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. **Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley to adjourn the meeting. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Gray, Connolly, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Non**



Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:
Debbie Gentry