

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2021
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 Riley, Connolly, Tilmon and Callahan. Commissioner Gray was absent. Staff in attendance were Director of Finance Shane Johnson; Director of Parks Kim Hansen; Director of Facilities & Trades Josh Wyant; Director of Marketing and Public Relations Debbie Gentry; and Executive Director Allison Niemela. Batavia Park District Recreation Supervisor Bethanne Guidarelli, Batavia Parks Foundation President Britta McKenna and Legal Counsel Meghan Mack also were in attendance.

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

ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA – Director Niemela added Leasing Property/Land Acquisition 2(c)(5) to Executive Session.

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 on September 21, 2021; Approval of Minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on October 2, 2021; Approval of 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 Riley to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as established. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – Eric Ashby of 290 N. Water Street expressed his support on a few of the Dam/Depot Pond concepts, and how they provide the best option for recreational redevelopment and benefit people from Batavia and elsewhere.

David Weiher of 282 N. Water Street also asked a few questions about how the Park Board and City Council will work together to decide upon the concepts, and about past Depot Pond dredging.

Marilyn Weiher of 282 N. Water Street expressed her support for a focus on the overall vision of the Fox River Corridor development beyond the Dam/Depot concepts.

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Kevin Chope of 704 Pine Street expressed his support for the Dam/Depot Pond concept that would bring white water rafting to Batavia.

Jim Hageman of 298 N. Water St. expressed his support for the Dam/Depot Pond concepts that provide recreational and revitalization opportunities, and said this is the City of Batavia's opportunity to improve the city in multiple ways.

R. Julia Rohman of Quarry Stone Pond Condominium Development shared her support for the Dam/Depot Pond concept chosen by the community in the recent survey and asked how the decision will be made on the Dam/Depot Pond concepts.

Larry Nybo of 392 Water Street expressed his support for the Park District's work on the Fox Valley Corridor.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS – Fox River Corridor Discussion

President Callahan and fellow Commissioners discussed and provided some clarifications on the broad Fox River Corridor Development project, which extends far beyond the Dam/Depot Pond discussion. The Commissioners discussed supporting water in the Depot Pond as well as new recreational opportunities. More information is needed. The community survey was a signpost, intended to give guidance and direction to the design team. The comprehensive plan will change based on impoundment vs non-impoundment. The next parts of the design study will further address economic development and recreational opportunities. It was suggested that the park district get a hydrologist report to shed light on what's projected for water levels over the next several decades.

BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION – New Foundation President Britta McKenna gave an update on the Foundation's Fall 2021 highlights. Encore Batavia planned for program integration into the Batavia Parks Foundation. Five Encore volunteers joined the Parks Foundation Board and new officers also were elected for the Foundation. Community Clean Up Day with the Batavia Park District was held on October 2 with 26 volunteers, and was a great success. More Clean Up Days will be scheduled for 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director Gentry read the following announcements: 1) Our spooky haunted forest hike at West Main may be over, but if you are still hankering for some Halloween fun, head over to Peg Bond Center on October 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Batfest, organized by Batavia Mainstreet. It's a frightfully good time for all, with downtown trick or treating, a pumpkin carving contest, games, special performances, costume contests and MORE! Check Mainstreet's website for more details. 2) Looking ahead to next month, on Sunday, November 14 from 1:30-3 p.m., enjoy a mini concert

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at the Depot Museum, entitled “An American Songline: A Musical Journey Along the Lincoln Highway.” Cecelia "Cece" Otto, a classically trained singer, composer, and best-selling author and historian, will charm visitors with the musical history of the Lincoln Highway through historic vintage music. 3) And... It’s not too early to start thinking about the holidays. Mark your calendars to enjoy the magical sights and sounds of the season at the annual **Celebration of Lights Festival** at the Riverwalk on Sunday, November 28, from 5-7 p.m. Treat your family to some joyful music, a community sing-a-long, hayrides, and crafts for kids. Hail Santa’s arrival, stroll the popular Christmas Tree Lane, and more! Visit the Park District’s website for a full schedule of holiday delights. 4) For more information on any of these events, visit our website at www.bataviaparks.org or give us a call at 630-879-5235.

STAFF REPORTS –

Director of Finance Johnson advised the Board that the 2022 budget is in full swing. The Draft Budget presentation to the Board is scheduled for November 30 at 6 p.m. The 2021 G.O. Bonds issued on January 5, 2021 and purchased by the Peoples National Bank of Kewanee is due on November 1, 2021. A wire in the amount of \$734,156.62, which includes principal and interest, will be processed and sent next week in advance of the due date. A Bond Issue Notification Act (BINA) hearing will be required this year to proceed with the issuance of the annual Rollover Bonds. All tenants at 150 Houston Street have successfully paid their October rent on time.

Director of Facilities & Trades Wyant advised the Board that his team is still working on completing the Quarry parking lot and fence renovation. The kitchen renovation at the Lodge has been completed, and includes new counters, cabinets and lighting. We are going to bid a shingle replacement project. We will soon begin working with Upland Design on the concept for the playground replacement at Washington Park.

Director of Parks Hansen advised the Board that she is working with Upland Design to close the path behind the Quarry permanently, as it is unsafe, despite the public’s attempt to keep using it. They are striving for a solution that is aesthetically pleasing; Hansen will notify the public so they understand what is happening.

Director of Marketing & Public Relations Gentry advised the Board that the Celebration of Lights’ Christmas Tree Lane is ready to go. Twenty-five local organizations and groups have reserved their tree, and decorating will take place between October 12-17. This month the Batavia Park District also is launching a pop-up apparel shop so employees and Board members can order logo wear.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Executive Director Niemela advised the Board that 1) We are progressing with the budget. Thank you for the clear direction and support from

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the Board at the October CDP Retreat. The Budget will be presented to the Board on November 30, and dinner will be served at that meeting. 3) Renovations at the Lodge at Laurelwood are finished, and include new cabinetry, countertops and lighting. FVSRA is still looking to rent the Lodge from us starting in January. 4) We have engaged Williams Architects work with us on development ideas for 150 Houston Street. We will start with field trips to other Park Districts to see possible new amenities for recreation programming and Historical Society storage. Board members will be invited to these field trips. 5) The Fox River Corridor Master Plan discussions continue. Tomorrow she will relay the Boards questions and concerns with the committee. The City of Batavia looks forward to meeting again soon with the Park Board to continue discussions. 6) The path behind the quarry is now unsafe, and Director Niemela shared a photo of one sinkhole that is especially dangerous. The Parks staff will close this path permanently and notify the public. 7) Hall Quarry Beach's parking lot and fence renovations are going well; all looks beautiful and now includes sidewalks as well. 8) Poochapalooza is a new/returning event that will be scheduled for September of 2022, allowing doggies to enjoy Hall Quarry Beach after it closes for people in mid-August. 9) The Batavia Rotary Club will be donating to the Park District a huge Adirondack chair that will be placed at South Riverwalk Plaza in front of City Hall.

PRESENTATIONS – Annual Operations Report: Hall Quarry Beach 2021 Season

Recreation Supervisor Bethanne Guidarelli introduced Michele Williams as the new Aquatics Supervisor, who will be in charge of the Quarry going forward. She also shared the annual Quarry Beach report with the Board and Staff. Hours and capacity were reduced somewhat by Covid this year, but we were happy to be open and many residents enjoyed the Quarry. Many people also traveled from other suburbs to come to the Quarry. We sold season passes at pre-season rates this year, and sold over 2000 season passes. Daily admissions totaled \$158,000. Punch passes were not sold but will be offered 2022. Though other places had lifeguard staffing shortages, we did not. We had new, young Quarry lifeguards this year but they did amazingly well. We received outstanding audits in June, July and August. Over 240 students also participated in our swim lesson program at the Quarry.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Transfer of Property (Prairie Commons) Between the Batavia Park District and the City of Batavia

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Transfer of Property (Prairie Commons) Between the Batavia Park District and the City of Batavia. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by

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Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

- B. Approval of Resolution #278: Estimating the Amount of Taxes to be Levied for Tax Year 2022.**

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Resolution #278: Estimating the Amount of Taxes to be Levied for Tax Year 2022. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

- C. Approval of Ordinance #400: Requesting the Transfer of a Parcel of Real Estate from the City of Batavia to the Batavia Park District Pursuant to the Local Government Property Transfer Act.**

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Ordinance #400: Requesting the Transfer of a Parcel of Real Estate from the City of Batavia to the Batavia Park District Pursuant to the Local Government Property Transfer Act. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

- D. IAPD Member Credentials: Annual Meeting Designations**

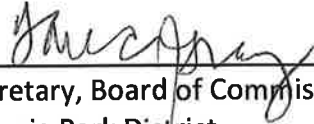
President Callahan entertained a motion to approve IAPD Member Credentials: Annual Meeting Designations. Commissioner Connolly was designated to attend the IAPD Conference in January of 2022. Commissioner Tara Gray was designated as the alternate. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:53 to discuss Leasing Property/Land Acquisition 2(c)(5). Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Gray. Motion carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD – Regular Session was reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Riley. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.



Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:
Debbie Gentry