

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019  
CIVIC CENTER - BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

**REGULAR MEETING** – The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Callahan.

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

**ROLL CALL** – President Callahan called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance were Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, Gray, and Callahan. Staff in attendance included Director of Capital Projects and Contractual Services Jim Eby; Director of Finance Mitch Bowlin; Director of Community Recreation Brittany Bruno; Director of Marketing and Public Relations Katie Drum; Executive Director Allison Niemela; and Executive Assistant Shelley Kouzes. Also in attendance was Legal Counsel Jim Rock.

**ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA** – None.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda which included approval of the following: minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held August 20, 2019; minutes from the Executive Session held August 20, 2019; Paid Expenditures; Expense Approval Report; Investment Summary; Income Statement; Approval of Purchases; approval of Ordinance #387: Surplus Property; Ratification of the approval of the Conceptual Design and Basic Architectural and Engineering Agreement with Williams Architects; and Ratification of the approval of Change Order #11 for the Eastside Community Center Foyer Renovation. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Dorsey to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, Gray, 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 Dorsey. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC** – None.

**MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS** – Commissioner Dorsey attended the Eastside Community Center playground dedication. The public is invited to use the new playground.

**BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION** – Batavia Parks Foundation Board member Ed Molitor informed the Board 52 tons of ball diamond lime has been laid at the ball field at Engstrom Park and the field has been cut and edged. The Foundation intends to do the same at other Park District ball fields. An 80's themed Casino Night fundraiser will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> at Shannon Hall from 7 – 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person.

**FOX VALLEY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION** – Executive Director Niemela attended a FVSRA Board meeting this morning. It is time for the annual

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membership contribution request. The association is under new management and working on a new strategic plan.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – 1) “Thank you” email from George Sloan for the use of Engstrom Park to host the August 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois Kubb Championship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Director Drum read the following announcements: 1) Are you looking for ways to give back to the community? The Batavia Park District and Parks Foundation Staff invite you to join us for the third and final of the 2019 Parks Clean-Up Day series on Saturday, October 5 from 8 am-noon. We will be tackling some projects at the Batavia Riverwalk. If you are interested, please RSVP to me at [KatieD@bataviaparks.org](mailto:KatieD@bataviaparks.org) by Saturday, September 28. All you need to do is show up, bring gloves, and we’ll provide the rest!; 2) Speaking of volunteering- the Batavia Park District is currently seeking individuals or groups interested in helping out at the annual Haunted Quarry. This is a great opportunity for service hours, team building, and community groups. The event takes place October 12 and 19 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Hall Quarry Beach. Channel your inner demon, ghost or zombie and volunteer to help out! If dressing up isn’t your thing, we are also looking for help with zone supervisors, and tour guides. Not interested in volunteering? Well, then we invite you to join us for a creepy good time and save the dates to work up the courage to tour the Haunted Quarry. Enter if you dare, escape if you are lucky!; 3) Back by popular demand, the Batavia Park District is excited to host the SECOND annual Halloween House Decorating Contest! We want to see your scariest and most frightening house decorations this season by competing against other Batavia households to win Best Overall Theme or People’s Choice. Judging for Best Overall will take place on Wednesday, October 23 between 4 and 9 pm and People’s Choice online voting will be open October 24-30 on the District Facebook page. The deadline to enter your haunted house of horrors is Tuesday, October 22 and there is just a \$5 fee; 4) Get ready to ‘Turn the Page’ on Thursday, October 24 at PechaKucha Night at Shannon Hall! Brought to you in cooperation with the Batavia Library, where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds each for a total of 6 minutes & 40 seconds. It’s a unique way each presenter can share their story. The doors open at 5:30 pm and the show starts at 7 pm. Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased at the door or at [batavia16.eventbrite.com](http://batavia16.eventbrite.com); 5) Save the date and experience a night of fun and excitement with the Batavia Parks Foundation for their Casino Night Fundraiser on Saturday, October 26! You can take a chance for a good cause. More details can be found at [bataviaparksfoundation.org](http://bataviaparksfoundation.org); 6) For more information please visit our website at [www.bataviaparks.org](http://www.bataviaparks.org) or call us at 630-879-5235.

**STAFF REPORTS** – Director Eby advised the Board the Depot Museum welcomed over 30 visitors last Friday during Batavia MainStreet’s Second Fridays program. A five-year changing exhibit plan has been created for the Depot Museum. In 2020, the museum will offer “Community, Culture and Conversations: African American Heritage in Batavia” in March, and a Batavia sports exhibit in July.

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Director Bowlin provided an investment update to the Board. Staff has been working on the budget and will provide a first draft to the Board next month.

Director Bruno advised the Board 16 teams participated in the Road Rally on Saturday. Mom & Son Wagon Rides are scheduled for this Thursday and next Thursday. Both dates are full with waitlists. Family and adult open gym is being offered at the Civic Center gym on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

Director Drum advised the Board staff is planning the Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala which will take place on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marketing staff has been utilizing a new platform to attract volunteers called Volunteer Fox Valley. Staff has been exploring new proofing software for marketing materials. Director Drum attended the first Census Bureau support meeting which addressed getting the word out to the community about the 2020 census. Batavia has had an 80% participation rate but the Census Bureau would like to see an increase in that number.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Executive Director Niemela presented the following highlights: 1) Invitations to the Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala were shared with the Board; 2) Sixty participants enjoyed the Road Rally on Saturday; 3) The Eastside Community Center playground dedication took place following the Road Rally. Commissioners Riley and Dorsey attended, as well as New Horizons staff. A tribute was given to the two preschool teachers who passed away, Courtney Oroni and Maureen McMullen, and to police officer Emil Jensen who helped students cross the street during construction; 4) Parks staff assisted Covenant Living at The Holmstad with a "Kindness Rocks" community project by placing 60 hand-painted rocks outside for people to take and share with others as a token of kindness; 5) Last week, students with the Aurora High School Special Recreation program helped to complete tasks at Mill Creek like raking mulch and refilling sand in play devices; 6) Congresswoman Lauren Underwood visited the Depot Museum earlier in the month. She has been invited as our guest to the IAPD/IPRA State Conference; 7) Tomorrow night, Executive Director Niemela and Director Bruno will attend the Batavia Senior Citizen's Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala; 7) In conjunction with the Batavia Public Library, PechaKucha, Japanese storytelling using 20 slides in six minutes and twenty seconds, will be offered through the Park District at Shannon Hall on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>; 8) An 80's themed Casino Night fundraiser will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> at Shannon Hall from 7 – 10:00 p.m.; 9) Upcoming Fall events include Haunted Quarry and a Halloween House Decorating contest; 10) The Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala will be held on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 – 11:00 at Shannon Hall.

**PRESENTATIONS –**

- A. Listening Tour Summary Report: Jeff Andreasen, aQity Research & Insights, Inc.** – Jeff Andreasen presented an overview of the Listening Tour conducted by the Park District in conjunction with aQity Research & Insights, Inc.

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- B. Illinois Kubb Championship Highlights: George Sloan** - George Sloan presented highlights of the August 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois Kubb Championship held at Engstrom Park.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Capital Development Plan Progress Report** – 1) Eastside Community Center renovations are almost complete; 2) The pavilion at Big Woods Park is being redone; 3) The creek at Woodland Hills has been reestablished.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of the Loan Agreement Between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Historical Society** – Before the Board for approval this month was the Loan Agreement between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Historical Society.

**President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Loan Agreement Between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Historical Society as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Dorsey. The roll was called. Ayes: Riley, Dorsey, Tilmon, Gray, Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

- B. Second Reading of the Operating Agreement Between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Historical Society** – Before the Board this month was the second reading of the Operating Agreement between the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Historical Society.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Leasing Property/Land Acquisition 2(c)(5). Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. 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** – None.

With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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Secretary, Board of Commissioners  
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by:  
Shelley Kouzes