

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

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

ROLL CALL – President Callahan called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance were Riley, Connolly, Tilmon, Gray and Callahan. Staff in attendance were Director of Finance Shane Johnson; Director of Community Recreation Brittany Meyer; Director of Parks Kim Hansen; Director of Facilities & Trades Josh Wyant; Director of Marketing and Public Relations Debbie Gentry; and Executive Director Allison Niemela.

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

ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA – None

CONSENT AGENDA – President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda as presented which included approval of the following: Minutes from the Special Board meeting held on September 8, 2021; Minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on August 17, 2021; Minutes from the Executive Session held on August 17, 2021; Minutes from the Special Joint Board Meeting with the Batavia City Council held on August 3, 2021; Approval of Paid Expenditures; Approval of the Expense Approval Report; Approval of the Investment Summary; Approval of the Income Statement; Approval of Purchases; Approval of the Windmill City Festival Financial Summary; and Ratification of the Approval of the Covid-19 School Personnel Vaccination and Testing Policy. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly 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. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – Marilyn Weiher of 282 N. Water Street thanked the Board for their sincere efforts to do what's best for Batavia; she also shared her opinion that option B, followed by Option E would be best for Batavia. She said many people have shared with her that they look forward to having white water rapids in our downtown area (and mention what Yorkville has done in this regard). She said it would be great for economic driver and business for our town. She asked that the current plan be expanded to allow for boat slips for canoes and kayaks, so people could stop and shop or eat in Batavia. She also said it is misleading to put pricing on the options, as many of these options are incomplete.

Tamra Ashby of 290 N. Water Street also spoke, thanking the Board for their work on the consideration and development of the Fox River Corridor. She shared her opinion

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
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that she is in favor of plans B and E. In her opinion, those are the plans that allow the City of Batavia to continue to develop and grow upon the great foundation already developed.

BATAVIA PARKS FOUNDATION – None.

CORRESPONDENCE – President Callahan acknowledged a letter from Batavia residents Robert and Joyce Saxon regarding their support for Plan B in the Challenge Dam/Depot Pond discussion.

FOX VALLEY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION (FVSRA) – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director Gentry read the following announcements:

1) Are you looking for another way to give back to the community? The Parks Foundation invites you to join them for the **2021 Parks Clean-Up Day** on Saturday, October 2 from 8 am – noon at the Peg Bond Center. The event will focus on cleaning up the Batavia Riverwalk. Registration is not required. Gloves, tools, water and a light snack will be provided to volunteers. 2) For pure fun and relaxation, snuggle into a fantastic fall **Drive-in Movie, “Beetlejuice,”** playing at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9 at West Main Community Park. It's \$20 per car and registration is required. 3) We need volunteers for the Halloween season, too. The Batavia Park District currently seeks individuals or groups interested in helping out at **A Nightmare at West Main**. This is a great opportunity for service hours, team building and community groups. The event will take place on October 15 and 22 from 7-9 p.m. at West Main Community Park. Volunteer and channel your inner demon, ghost or zombie to create some spooky ambiance and fun! Not interested in volunteering? That's ok; we invite you to grab your friends and family and join us for a creepy good time! 4) We are also excited to host our third annual **Halloween House Decorating Contest!** Show us your scariest and most frightening house decorations this season by competing against other Batavia households to win Best Overall Theme or People's Choice. The deadline to enter your haunted house is October 18 at 5 p.m. and there is a fee of \$5 per house. Judging for Best Overall Theme will take place on October 20 between 4 and 9 p.m. and People's Choice online voting will open on October 21 on the Park District Facebook page. The house with the most likes on Facebook by noon on October 27 will win the People's Choice award. 5) For more information on any of these events, visit our website at www.bataviaparks.org or give us a call at 630-879-5235.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Tilmon expressed that in the Dam/Depot Pond discussions, he remains passionate about maintaining the Depot Pond. He also expressed sincere thanks to the Park District Staff for their hard work on Windmill City Festival, a successful and well-done event.

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

Commissioner Connolly thanked the Batavia residents for attending. She said she wants to see the focus of the Dam/Depot Pond project to be NOT just on dam removal, but on the overall vision for Batavia. She wants to know what the overall options are: How is it going to create opportunities, excitement and the type of downtown that Batavia wants?

Commissioner Riley also thanked the Batavia residents for attending. He shared that besides having the City Council and the Park Board discussing the five plans, we also want to consider how the changes will affect the region, up river and down river, and not only Batavia itself. He said that the Park Board continues to look at the big picture.

President Callahan also gave kudos to the Staff and said he heard great things about Windmill City Fest from many people, even those who don't live in Batavia. He thanked the Batavia residents for attending and for their insights, and said it is important that the Board hears from people, whether in person or electronically. He said that impetus of the Dam/Depot Pond discussion goes beyond what happens to the dam. He said that the Board wants to expand opportunities along the Fox River, from Duck Island South to Clark Island or just past it. The river is a unique feature of Batavia and the Tri Cities area, and the Board feels that it is important to allow more opportunities to engage the river. He said he is passionate about the Depot Pond and about creating more recreational opportunities on the river, for residents and visitors alike.

President Callahan also shared that this Saturday, October 2 at 9 a.m. at the Peg Bond Center there will be another Community Open House at which Batavia residents may drop in and talk with consultants from Hitchcock Design Group about the Fox River Corridor Study and the dam removal concepts.

STAFF REPORTS –

Director of Finance Johnson advised the Board that the budget process with the Staff is well underway. He will be holding meetings with Executive Director Niemela and all Directors to review projections and budget requests in further detail. The District received a final distribution from IMET in the amount of \$3,859.49, representing a total of \$60,179.92 recovered. This is just under 60% of the District's account value as of 9/30/14, when fraud occurred. The CDP Retreat is scheduled tentatively for October 3.

Director of Facilities & Trades Wyant advised the Board that the Quarry operations began on August 16. The work is continuing smoothly and the team is a week and a half ahead of schedule so far. The facilities crew also is currently renovating the kitchen of the Lodge at Laurelwood. Lastly, the old salt truck was sold at auction.

Director of Parks Hansen advised the Board that she has met with members of the City of Batavia to go over checklists (and Josh also met with the developer) to outline what

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

still needs to be completed before we take ownership of the Prairie Commons property; there is a slight chance it will be ready this fall. She also said Windmill City Festival went well and very smoothly, and she thanked the Staff for making this happen, despite the fact that there were a lot of new people involved.

Director of Community Recreation Meyer advised the Board that over 56 kids signed up for the new developmental soccer league with Strikers Fox Valley Soccer Club. The Staff is excited that we have all six Batavia grade schools included in this year's Kids Club, and more than 183 kids in the program. Bethanne Guidarelli will be attending next month's Board meeting in Brittany's absence to give the Hall Quarry Beach End of Season Report.

Director of Marketing & Public Relations Gentry advised the Board that last month, we conducted a Fun Guide survey online with Park District program participants, and we received 225 responses. Next, we will hold some in-person focus/review groups to discuss possible improvements we can make to the Guide to be more relevant, timely, useful and interesting for residents. We've have chosen a new digital publishing partner called ISSUU for our Fun Guide flip book online; ISSUU is more user-friendly and has greater capabilities than our prior flip book program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Niemela advised the Board that 1) We are entrenched in the budget. October 2 at 8 a.m. will be the CDP Retreat, where we discuss the big picture, long-term priorities for the District. The Board also decided to hold the budget workshop on November 30 at 6 p.m. 3) Results from the first (virtual) Community Open House held by Hitchcock Design Group will be posted on the Park District website tomorrow afternoon. The second (in-person) Community Open House will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Peg Bond Center. There is also a survey on the Hitchcock Design Group's website, which is to be completed by October 1. 4) Closing on 150 Houston Street building will be on September 30. There are 9 tenants remaining in the building. The Park District and Batavia Historical Society will be working on an agreement for sharing this space for a variety of purposes, to include recreational opportunities and museum expansion space; it will be a functional, multi-purpose facility. 5) Hall Quarry Beach: Sidewalks have been added and parking lot and fence improvements are underway. Commissioner Gray asked about how many parking spaces this renovation will add. Niemela will find out and respond. 6) The Batavia Chamber of Commerce is holding its Harvest Celebration on October 6 at Oscar Swan; the Batavia Park District will be recognized for 25 years of service. Tony Winter, former Curator Chris Winter's husband, also will be awarded with the Donna Dallesasse Award. Board and Staff members are invited to attend. 7) Niemela said she is extremely proud of everyone's teamwork at Windmill City Fest. Even though there were many new employees and new Directors involved, everything went smoothly. She also thanked Commissioner Tilmon and Commissioner Riley for volunteering and assisting our Staff at the festival. She confirmed that next year's Windmill City Festival will be held in July,

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

and will include a carnival. 8) Donna Taylor has announced her retirement. 9) Senator Karina Villa, Commissioner Connolly and several Staff members took a trolley ride together recently. Director Wyant drove the trolley and Depot Museum Director Kate Garrett narrated the tour. The Senator enjoyed it and thanked us for our hospitality.

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – President Callahan entertained a motion to a motion to award the contract for printing of the quarterly brochure for 2022 (with option to renew for 2023 and 2024) to K.K. Stevens Publishing Company of Astoria, IL for the total amount not to exceed \$52,808.19. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:45 to discuss the Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes 2(c)(21). Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Regular Session was reconvened at 7:50 p.m. President Callahan entertained a motion to approve Resolution #277 Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes, as presented. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Riley, Connolly and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Resolution #277 – Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes:**
This is a Park Code requirement and provision within the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Park District is required to schedule, pass by resolution and post to the public and media the Regular Board Meeting dates that will be conducted for the year.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. 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:
Debbie Gentry