

Regular Meeting Minutes of the  
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners  
August 20, 2024

Vice President Paddock called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. The Vice President led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for roll call. Commissioners present: Chrissie Popper, Vicki Paddock, Aaron Dalzot and Gerry Crews. Commissioners absent: Jim Goshorn. Also present: Susie Kuruvilla, Executive Director, Melissa R. Marsh, Director of Recreation; Kraig Owens, Director of Parks; Mike Szpylman, Director of Business Services and Jennifer Gilbert, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, Christina Richmond, Accounting Manager, and Kari Hagen, Business Services Specialist.

A motion was made by Crews to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Popper. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Popper, Dalzot and Crews. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$1,447,981.24 presented on August 20, 2024, was made by Popper and was seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Popper, Dalzot and Crews. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion carried.

The financial report and treasurer's report were reviewed.

The Vice President opened the floor to visitors; there were no visitors present.

Department Directors reviewed their written reports with the Board.

A motion to approve the 23/24 Audit as presented was made by Popper and seconded by Crews. Hanna Cullerton from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP presented the audit to the Board. She indicated that there was a clean opinion and recognized the district for earning the GFOA Award. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Popper, Dalzot and Crews. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion carried.

Christina Richmond introduced the newest member of Business Services, Kari Hagan, who will be supporting payroll and other duties as a Business Services Specialist.

Director of Parks and Planning, Kraig Owens reviewed the parks report. Owens indicated that the shade structures at the O'Plaine pickleball courts would be ready in time for a scheduled tournament. He also reported that *Kids Around the World* came to remove the playground at Hunt Club Preschool and did an excellent job. The playground will be repurposed at an impoverished location overseas. Popper recognized Kraig Owens for "Perks in the Park", conversation and donuts designed to get in person feedback about the needs of the community, conducted at various locations such as Saturday soccer games.

Director of Recreation, Melissa R. Marsh reviewed the recreation report. Marsh indicated that the camp season closed for the summer and feedback was extremely positive. The Recreation Department is gearing up for the start of fall programs including CARE, preschool and special events.

Director Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the Marketing and Community Relations report.

Executive Director's report. Kuruvilla reminded the Board of several upcoming dates like the Intergovernmental Picnic, Christine Thompson Park Block Party, Bonfire and Brews, and Park Tours.

#### ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Crews to approve the fund transfer of \$110,000 from the Corporate Fund and \$300,000 from the Recreation Fund to the Capital Replacement/Development Fund and seconded by Popper. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Dalzot, Popper and Crews. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Popper to approve the lease agreement renewal with Athletico for five years starting August 1, 2025, as presented and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Dalzot, Popper and Crews. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Popper to enter executive session at 7:40 pm to discuss:

- A. Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes - Sec. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)
- B. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

Motion seconded by Crews. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Paddock, Dalzot, Crews and Popper. Nays: none. Absent: Goshorn. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Crews to return to the open session at 7:50 pm. Motion seconded by Popper. On voice vote, all voted aye, and the Board returned to open session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Crews and seconded by Popper. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

---

James G. Goshorn, President

---

Aaron Dalzot, Secretary