

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT  
September 10, 2024

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President Anton Mathews  
Vice President George Bridges

Commissioner Jacqueline Herrera Giron  
Commissioner Janet Kilkelly

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Treasurer Jeremiah Johnson

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Jay Lerner  
Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, Superintendent of Community Relations Shelby McDonald,  
Superintendent of Finance & Administration Jon Beckmann, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and  
Administration, Kalina Mendez, Superintendent of Recreation Errick Beverly, Deputy Superintendent  
of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics, Kaitlin Fischer, and Attorney Mandi Florip.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda Items included the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 (Board of Commissioners Meeting), Bills, Payroll, and Financial Statements.

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Commissioner Herrera Giron to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 (Board of Commissioners Meeting), Bills, Payroll, and Financial Statements, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Bridges, and Mathews  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Johnson

Motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tony Frizzo noted that Upton Park looks awesome. He also noted that in July he was at Hinkston Park walking and saw five shell casings in the north parking lot. He called Waukegan Police Department to

report the casings and sent them photographs.

Janet Kilkelly noted that she objects to the George Bridges 5K Run and Walk being named as such. She stated that it is an unfair advantage and violation of public trust to use Park District resources for personal gain as an incumbent candidate. She asked that her written comments be included in the record.

Margaret Carrasco noted that on August 4<sup>th</sup> legal counsel for the City of Waukegan, Stewart Weiss communicated with her regarding a political sign on public property. She noted that Ethics Act 5 ILCS 430/1.1 prohibits certain political activities. She noted that the George Bridges 5K run is on the Park District's materials and signage, which she stated is illegal as the Commissioner is up for re-election.

## **V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **VI. PROGRESS REPORTS**

A. Executive Director Lerner: Mr. Lerner presented his report and offered to answer any questions from the Commissioners. He reminded the Board that the Boys and Girls Club has its reopening. He also noted that a car is being pulled out of Bevier Pond at the moment of the meeting.

B. Attorney Report: Attorney Florip is busily working with staff to implement the new laws that impact the District.

C. Legislation/ IAPD Update: Attorney Florip noted that the legislature is set to return during veto session.

D. Division Reports:

D1. Recreation: Mr. Beverly presented his report. He stated that Halloween Fest Trick or Treat Trail and Turkey Trot are quickly approaching. The District continues to work on the Carnegie.

A. Superintendent of Sports, Fitness, and Aquatics – Ms. Fischer stated that the Field House membership count is at 8,854. She noted that the Field House is back open fully after the cleaning. Family Zumba and Parents Night Out are approaching. Yoga at the Beach will continue through the end of the month. The 5K is happening this Saturday.

B. Fishing Derby Event Report – Mr. Beverly offered to answer questions. Commissioner Kilkelly asked if the types and quantities of fish will be different with the dredging of the pond.

D2. Parks: Mr. Bejster was absent, as he was addressing an issue at Bevier. Mr. Lerner provided a brief update on his behalf. Commissioner Kilkelly asked if there are benches at Upton Park. Mr. Lerner confirmed that there are.

D3. Community Relations: Ms. McDonald presented her report. She noted that she is continuing work on the strategic plan. She stated that the District is receiving good feedback from the online site. The parade is this Sunday and she continues work on the IPRA awards. Commissioner Herrera Giron asked that an update be given to the Board regarding the community survey.

D4. Finance and Administration: Mr. Beckmann presented his report. He noted that he is working on finalizing the audit and is working on the new year's budget. Commissioner Kilkelly congratulated Mr. Beckmann on being elected Vice President of IGFOA.

## **VIII. REVIEW, DISCUSS, DECIDE**

- A. Motion to Approve Carnegie Museum Change Orders
  - a. Mechanical Chase Demo and Rebuild
  - b. Steel Lintel Installation

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Commissioner Herrera Giron, to approve Carnegie Museum change orders in amounts not to exceed \$32,304.61 and \$53,166.68 for the mechanical chase demo and rebuild and by \$43,057.93 for the steel lintel installation, as presented.

The change order will increase the project by \$32,304.61 and \$53,166.68 for the mechanical chase demo and rebuild and by \$43,057.93 for the steel lintel installation. Mr. Aulisio noted that they intend to get substantial completion by the end of September with the full conclusion at the end of October.

AYE: Herrera Giron, Kilkelly, Bridges, and Mathews

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Johnson

Motion carried.

- B. Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-14 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant – Sunset Avenue Median

Motion by Commissioner Herrera Giron, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly, to approve Resolution 2024-14, Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant – Sunset Avenue Median, as presented.

Ms. McDonald noted that this is for a grant submission to fix the median and traffic way. President Mathews asked why the District maintains this. Ms. McDonald stated that it is a partnership between the County, City and Park District.

AYE: Herrera Giron, Kilkelly, Bridges, and Mathews

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Johnson

Motion carried.

C. Upcoming Meeting: Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 2024

## **X. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Herrera Giron noted that keeping kids active and involved is so important. She thanked the Park District for all of the good work that they do for our community. Mr. Lerner congratulated Commissioner Herrera Giron on hosting a session at the January 2025 IAPD IPRA conference.

Commissioner Kilkelly expressed her appreciation to everyone who worked so hard over the summer season on the Park District events.

Vice President Bridges encouraged everyone to come out on Saturday for the 5K run to support the Park District. He also thanked staff for the Touch a Truck event and noted that it was a great event. He enjoyed being a part of the event in the dunk tank. He also stated that the Yoga in the Park program is doing incredibly well. He said the special recreation bowling and tennis teams are all stars and he is thankful that the District supports these programs so well. Vice President Bridges also noted that patrons at Victory Park have asked for some vegetation maintenance.

President Mathews thanked staff for all of their work. He congratulated the August employee of the month. He complimented Ms. Fischer on completing a continuing education course. He thanked the Field House staff for running the facility so efficiently. He attended a special recreation open house. He noted that there are a lot of good things happening at the District.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice President Bridges moved, seconded by President Mathews to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

On all ayes, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandi Florip  
Secretary

# Memo

9/10/2024

To: Waukegan Park District Public Comments ~~8/27/2024~~  
From: Janet E. Kilkelly, WPD taxpayer  
CC: Mandi Florip, of Counsel and Secretary  
Date: ~~August 27, 2024~~ 9/10/2024  
Re: Remarks for inclusion in public comments record

My statement is in response to the recently announced availability of Park Commissioner nomination papers. "The positions up are for the six-year positions currently held by Commissioner George Bridges, Jr. and Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson. The incumbents have announced their intention to run for re-election to the park board."

As a Waukegan Park District taxpayer, my objection is the name of our 5k Run/Walk event, the George Bridges 5k run/walk. It is an unfair advantage for a current park board commissioner as well as a violation of the public trust to promote themselves, and their branding, by means of using Park district resources, including media for their political advantage.

Let me be perfectly clear that this is not personal. These remarks would be directed to any of the commissioners including myself regarding blatant abuse of Park District resources for political gain.

