



ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Pottawatomie Community Center

September 14, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Call to Order

The St. Charles Park District Board met for a Regular Meeting at Pottawatomie Community Center on September 14, 2021. At 6:32 p.m., President Jim Cooke called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos called the roll.

Commissioners present: Bob Carne, Brian Charles, Jim Cooke, Karrsten Goettel (arrived 6:34 p.m.), Peggy McCarthy and Steve Ward

Commissioners absent: Bob Thomson

Administrative staff present: Director of Parks & Recreation Holly Cabel, Superintendent of Parks & Planning, Deputy Director Laura Rudow, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Cathy Camm, Golf Course Manager & PGA Golf Pro Ron Skubisz, IT Manager Jeff Essig and Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos

Other Staff present:

Guests in person:

Consent Agenda

Mr. Charles moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board approve the following Consent Agenda items, including the following:

- Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on August 24, 2021

A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, McCarthy, Ward and Cooke. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Public Appearances

Administration and Finance

Swim City Update

Mr. Cooke said that Mr. Steve Pratapas was unable to make it to the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. We will reschedule his presentation for an upcoming meeting.

Grant Update

Ms. Rudow reviewed the status of grants that the Park District staff has submitted, as well as potential grant opportunities to pursue. Current projects with grant funding include: Pottawatomie Inclusive Play and Sensory Garden, for which the District will receive a \$248,000 OSLAD grant; wheel chair and adaptive swings, \$15,000 from Kiwanis; and the Union Pacific Railroad

Acquisition is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for \$474,500. Pending applications include: Primrose Farm Ag Lab, \$750,000 Illinois Museum Grant; Otter Creek Wetland Trail and South Elgin Connection, \$200,000 Regional Trail Program through IDNR; and Prairie Centre Development, \$224,900 OSLAD grant. Staff intend to apply for a \$400,000 OSLAD grant to help develop the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice land, as well as a \$100,000 Illinois Tourism Grant to support a tree lighting project in Pottawatomie Park. Mr. Carne asked if there is any new money available due to Covid-related initiatives like the America Rescue Plan. Ms. Cabel stated that the tourism grant opportunity is newly available to Park Districts due to recent legislation as well as there are a couple of new grant opportunities funded by American Rescue funds. Mr. Carne wondered if there are grants available that would target development in more highly populated areas near downtown St. Charles.

Recreation

Parks, Planning, and Facilities

Request for Usage

Ms. Rudow asked the Board to approve the request from Kayak on the Fox/Mill Race Cyclery to use Mt. St. Mary Park for purpose of hosting a kayak event on the Fox River on October 3rd, 2021 and the request from Running Stitch Relay to use Mt. St. Mary Park for the purpose of hosting a run/walk relay fundraiser benefiting the Salvation Army food pantry on October 23rd, 2021.

Mr. Carne moved and Mr. Charles seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the two requests for use of Mt. St. Mary Park. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

None

Director's Report

Ms. Cabel shared the following information with the Commissioners:

- Carol Glemza, longtime employee of the Park District, passed away August 31 and staff have ideas on how to honor her memory. Mr. Charles would like to see the District recognize her as soon as possible. Ms. Cabel said there will be a press release.
- Best of the Best Gala – St. Charles Park District won Intergovernmental Cooperation Award in conjunction with St. Charles Library. Gala is Friday, October 15th in Wheeling and Ms. Santos will follow up with an email
- Busy weekend coming up: Farm Frolic and Barn Dance on Saturday.
- Sip-n-Stroll last weekend was a huge success with 220 people attending. Jazz Festival happened the same weekend so there were musicians playing in Mt. St. Mary Park during the Sip-n-Stroll that added to the ambiance of the festivities.

Commissioner Comments

Peggy McCarthy: Ms. McCarthy said River Corridor Foundation is doing River Clean-Up this Saturday. She added that she's been enjoying the parks, golfing, playing pickleball and boating.

Steve Ward: On a recent trip to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone Park, Mr. Ward felt the excitement generated by the national parks to be outside and enjoy nature. He encouraged staff to continue to borrow that excitement to generate new ideas to get our community out into the parks. Mr. Ward then asked what the feedback has been regarding the rocket ship climbing structure at Kehoe Park. Ms. Cabel said that there were a lot of emails and phone calls immediately after the sign went up in Kehoe Park over the weekend. Residents expressed their concern about the rocket structure being taken out of the park. Ms. Cabel said that the District clarified its intention to preserve the rocket in some way other than as a climbing structure. Ms. Cabel also said that the article in the Kane County Chronicle for which Ms. Rudow was interviewed made clear the Park District's intentions. Mr. Ward added that the District needs to pay attention on how to preserve the aesthetic of the park and structure. Ms. Cabel said the plan has always been to engage the community in what amenities might replace the structure, space-themed or otherwise.

Bob Carne: Mr. Carne thanked the staff for handling the "mini-crisis" of the community response to Kehoe Park. He said that he recognizes that he offers a lot of ideas to the staff that he believes to be right. He acknowledged that sometimes he is wrong, as was proven this weekend at James O. Breen basketball court. He had suggested several times that the next time basketball courts were installed, the District should install adjustable hoops that patrons can manipulate to get the desired height. Mr. Carne said that Ms. Rudow on her thoughts on this suggestion were right because this weekend he saw a youth climb up the basketball backboard and sat on the hoop. He also gave kudos to the staff at Primrose Farm for promoting and providing great activities. He believes Primrose Farm is a hidden gem in our community. He also expressed concern about the alarming rates of child obesity and provided some suggestions for what staff could do to address this health crisis. He also expressed his sadness that Kathy Adrini, a longtime employee and volunteer for the Park District, passed away. He said that people like Kathy are who makes St. Charles a wonderful place to live.

Brian Charles: Mr. Charles mentioned a different article about Kehoe Park that was in the Daily Herald and was pleased that the article accurately conveyed the District's position and intentions regarding the beloved rocket slide.

Jim Cooke: none

Karrsten Goettel: Mr. Goettel mentioned that with Covid, people are taking advantage of more outdoor winter activities. He would like to see the District figure out how to get a long-term ice skating rink. He also said that he has recently started playing Pickleball and he hears nothing but praise for the new courts at James O. Breen. Finally, he asked about the parking situation at Primrose Farm Park. He was concerned about all the people parked along Crane road. Ms. Rudow explained that there was an issue with a tournament that happened the past weekend during which the event organizer did not plan enough time between games to allow spectators out before new ones came in for the next game. Staff has addressed the issue with the event organizer for future tournaments.

Bob Thomson: Absent

Executive Session

Mr. Ward moved and Mr. Charles seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board temporarily adjourn to a closed session, for the purpose of considering the following subjects, per the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): (1) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and (2) litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Goettel, McCarthy, Thomson and Cooke. Nay: none. The motion carried. At 7:11 p.m., the Board temporarily adjourned to proceed to the Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:54 p.m.

Other Business

Adjournment of Meeting

There being no further business, Mr. Goettel moved and Mr. Carne seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cooke adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.



Secretary

Date Approved: September 28, 2021