

Call to Order:

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cagle, Jason Heisler, Michael Jacobson, Karen Johnson, Sarah Michehl, Eric Anderson

Commissioner Absent: Linda Matthias

Legal Counsel: Scott Puma, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer, P.C.

Staff: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Amy Olson Manager of Park Planning and Development, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Citizens: Jim Heisler, Resident, Robert Wyman, Resident, Robert Kosin, Resident, John Streit, MCYSA, Marc Sparber, Resident

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Anderson requested that Discussion Item B. Barlina Barn be moved before Discussion Item A.

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl. All were in favor.

Matters from the Public:

Robert Wyman, Resident stated that he was not in favor of the removal of the Barlina Barn. He would rather the Park District find other uses for the structure. He stated that the barn was built in 1884 and submitted some articles on the History of the Barn to the Park Board for their review.

Robert Kosin, Resident, stated that he is a committee member of the Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commissioner, asked the Board to consider keeping records on the history of the Barlina Barn.

John Streit, President MCYSA, reported the 31st MCYSA tournament is scheduled to be held in Crystal Lake, July 12 through July 21. There are 95 teams registered with 5 teams from Puerto Rico, 2 teams from the Dominican Republic, 2 teams from Brazil and 1 team from Japan. He noted that several events will take place at Lippold Park and he encouraged the Park Board to attend.

Jim Heisler, Resident, noted that he had toured the barn and was very impressed. He asked the Board for time so that he can put together a program and be able to reach out to people that may help with donations to help with the cost to make repairs to the barn.

Director Herbster stated that he received a letter from Bob and Diane Miller, Residents. They requested that the letter be read at the Board meeting. The Board received a copy of the letter and agreed it was not necessary to read it. A copy of the letter will be included in the correspondence section of the April 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting packet.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

- A. Approval: The Voucher Expenses for the month ending, February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$351,163.29.
 - B. Approval: The Interim Voucher Expenses for the month ending March 31, 2024, in the amount of \$378,874.20.
 - C. Accept: The Treasurer's Report for the month ending, February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$15,828,005.45.
 - D. Approval: Regular Meeting Minutes 02.15.24
 - E. Approval: Committee Meeting of the Whole 03.07.24
 - F. Approval: Chicago Orienteering Club Event Request
 - G. Approval: Brian Meyers Picnic Shelter Fundraiser Request
- Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Johnson, Michehl, Anderson) Nays: 0

New Business Action Items

- A. Approval: Contractual Mowing Bid Approval
Commissioner Jacobson moved to accept the lowest responsible, responsive bid for 2024 Contractual Mowing submitted by Four Seasons Care, LLC, in the amount of \$46,480.00. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl. All were in favor.
- B. Approval: Used 2022 Dump Truck Purchase
Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the purchase of 1 Used 2022 Chevy 3500 Dump Truck with snowplow and salt spreader package for \$79,072.44 from Martin Chevy of Crystal Lake. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl.
Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Heisler, Jacobson, Johnson, Michehl, Cagle, Anderson) Nays: 0
- C. Approval: Ordinance: 23.24.13 Crystal Creek Intergovernmental Agreement with the Crystal Lake Park District and the City of Crystal Lake
Commissioner Michehl moved to approve Ordinance 23.24.13, an ordinance approving an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Crystal Lake to re-establish Crystal Creek, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Attorney Puma noted that the City of Crystal Lake is looking to bring back the creek and needs the two easements across from Lundahl Middle School. Executive Director Herbster noted that the baseball backstop will be removed and the City will pay for the relocation of the backstop and the City will maintain the property.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Jacobson, Johnson, Michehl, Cagle, Heisler, Anderson) Nays: 0

- D. Approval: Ordinance 23.24.14 Tree Preservation
Commissioner Jacobson moved to approve Ordinance 23.24.14, an Ordinance amending the Park District Manual Ordinance 11.13 – Tree Preservation Ordinance, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl.

Manager Amy Olson noted that the Park District received an Urban and Community Forestry grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 to plant 75 trees within the parks. A requirement of the grant is to create a policy to include in the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Commissioner Michehl requested not to include Roses of Sharon; an invasive plant. Olson stated that she will remove the Roses of Sharon from the Urban Forestry document.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Johnson, Michehl, Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Anderson) Nays: 0

Discussion Items

B. Barlina Barn

Commissioner Cagle noted that she had met with Diana Kenney, Crystal Lake Historical Society, Brittany Niequist, Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission and other members of the Historic Preservation Commission to discuss the possibilities of keeping the barn. It was suggested that only the roof and siding could be replaced to keep costs down, and that the building could be used for storage. She noted that the barn is of historical significance and qualifies for historical plaquing.

Commissioner Anderson asked what work would need to be done to get the barn to a safe condition. Amy Olson stated that the silo has damage, the lean twos need to be removed, a structural beam needs to possibly be replaced and the foundation is in need of repair. These costs could be approximately \$250,000. She recommended hiring a structural engineer to inspect the site. Olson noted that the feedback received from the Community meeting included safety concerns, and not to renovate the barn to use for events that would create heavy traffic

Commissioner Anderson asked the Board for their feedback. Commissioner Michehl stated that she would need to see the total costs for the work needed to be done for this year. Commissioner Cagle noted that she will forward information to Executive Director Herbster regarding grant funding to save the barn. Commissioner Johnson stated that she agrees that recording history is important and asked if the District would be able to budget annually for future repairs and maintenance. Commissioner Jacobson expressed concerns of investment and returns of this project. Executive Director noted that there is the issue of the lack of parking to consider and future use may be limited. Commissioner Cagle suggested the open land on the west side of the barn could be used for parking. Commissioner Johnson noted that the neighbors may not be in favor of a parking lot, as that area backs up to their property.

Commissioner Anderson asked the Board for a motion. Commissioner Cagle moved to place an additional \$210,000 to the \$90,000 that is currently in the proposed budget and to have move the discussion to the Committee of the Whole meeting in April. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. Roll Call: Ayes: 4 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Anderson) Nays: 2 (Michehl, Johnson)

A. 2024-25 Proposed Budget Review

Marketing Staff Position Changes: Cathy Cagle expressed concern that the proposed change to promote the marketing manager is being made due to the high volume of work and to increase their salary. She suggested having three people to cover the workload and to hire an intern. Executive Director Herbster added that there is a need to have qualified people working and a need for succession planning. He did not want to higher new positions if not needed. Herbster noted that before COVID, there was a part time person. The two staff have absorbed the workload and are comfortable without hiring a third person. Commissioner Jacobson asked if other Districts have more than two marketing staff. Herbster noted that some have three staff members, but one staff member's duties are to monitor the metrics of social media, which is not needed at our District.

Weed Harvester:

Commissioner Anderson requested to increase the budget for weed harvesting by transferring \$10,000 from the Hey and Associates Lake Ecology line item to the operations of the harvesting machine. Commissioner Michehl asked what services would be taken away from Hey and Associates. Executive Director Herbster explained that it is difficult to determine what will be needed from year to year, as every season is different. The intergovernmental agreement the District has with Lakewood and the City states that funds in the budget would go towards harvesting operations and Hey and Associates for lake ecology.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the tentative budget as presented, with the modifications to the Barlina Barn and the transfer \$10,000 of the \$15,000 proposed budget from Hey and Associates for weed harvesting to the Weed Harvester fund. Seconded by Commissioner Cagle. Roll Call: Ayes: 4 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Anderson) Nays: 2 (Michehl, Johnson)

Executive Herbster stated that the budget adjustments will be made and the proposed budget will be placed on display for 30 days.

Budget and Appropriation:

Executive Director Herbster noted that he surveyed the budget and appropriation at 10 Districts; 3 used 10%, 3 @ 15%, 3 @ 20%, and 1 @ 25%. A couple districts adjust the accounts more to accommodate corporate and capital, and repairs and replacements. Commissioner Cagle suggested 10% to see how staff works with it; as the goal is to come close to having a balanced budget. Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern of not having enough to cover and suggested 15%. The Board agreed. Executive Director Herbster noted that staff will adjust the budget and appropriation ordinance to reflect 15%.

B. Lake Safety -Resident Suggestion

The Board agreed to establish a rule for the Park Districts watercraft rentals to remain within the buoys and the shoreline during wake hours and to make a recommendation to the Village of Lakewood patrol. Executive Director Herbster will bring a copy of the boat rental rules to the Committee of the Whole meeting in April.

Reports to the Board:

Executive Director Herbster

- Gave a park tour to a NRPA staff member, who is a Crystal Lake resident. She will be writing an article for the NRPA magazine on Sterne's Woods Fen with John Fiorina, Interpretive Services Facility Manager, and Preston Skultety, Manager of Natural Resources.
- Community Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 20.
- The Nature Center re-Grand Opening is scheduled for June 1.
- The Racket Club New Outdoor Courts Grand Opening is scheduled for April 27.
- The Legislative Conference is scheduled for May 8. Park Board members are to contact Executive Director Herbster if they will be attending.

Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Kurt Reckamp

- Reckamp and Herbster met with District 155 Director of Community Outreach to discuss student focus groups and teen programming. A group of students at Prairie Ridge High School will be able to research and work with approximately 30 students on a solution for teen programming for 12 to 18 years of age. They can provide the District a presentation with their recommendations. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled after spring break to discuss the process and Park District needs. Herbster added that they reached out to District 47 and their middle school student council is eager to work with the Park District.

Manager of Park Planning and Development, Amy Olson

- Distribute pictures of the artificial turf installed at Spoerl Playground.
- The exhibits for the Nature Center will begin installation on April 15. Thanks to the Park Services
- The Dawn Breakers and two scout troops will join the Nature Center Planting Day on May 18.
- Received three semi-truck loads of playground equipment for Della Park. The equipment will be stored until ready for installation.
- OSLAD Grant document has been received for Haligus Park.
- Commissioner Jacobson commented that the new deck at Main Beach looked good.

Matters from the Board:

- Commissioner Cathy Cagle asked about the turn-out for the Barn Dance event. Reckamp stated that there were approximately 25 participants.
- Excited to hear about the EV Charging stations grant program.
- Cagle thanked staff for working on the teen programs and for reaching out to the school districts.

Commissioner Micheal Jacobson asked if the board was satisfied with Superintendent Becke's adjustments to the proposed Health Insurance budget. Executive Director noted that Becke presented a 20% reduction to the health insurance budget to meet the current plans, which is \$218,000 less from last year's budget to this year.

Executive Session: None.

Adjourn: Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary