

Commissioner Cagle was nominated to be President Pro Tem

Call to Order:

Commissioner Cagle called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call:

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

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, Tina Becke, Superintendent of  
Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services,  
Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Remote Attendance: Aaron Gold, Speers Financial Advisor

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens: Bob Wyman, Robert Kosin, Jim Heisler

Public comment regarding the Barlina Barn is included under New Business Item H. Barlina Barn.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cagle requested the Barn Discussion be moved after item A. General Obligation  
Park Bond Update.

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

Matters from the Public: See item H. Barlina Barn

Discussion Items:

A. General Obligation Bonds

Executive Director Herbster noted that at the last Park Board meeting, the Board requested a  
comparison for private placement and public placement of the General Obligation Park Bond  
Alternative Revenue Source, Series 2024. Aaron Gold, Speer Financial, reported that Crystal Lake  
Bank and Trust offered a preliminary rate at an interest cost of 4.20% as compared to a  
competitive public offering of an interest cost of 3.52%. Mr. Gold added there will be savings of  
net interest cost and the cost of issuance with the private placement option and suggested this  
option would be best for this issuance.

It was a consensus of the Board to move forward with the private placement. Mr. Gold noted that  
Speer will prepare the documents and to be on schedule, the BINA notice for a public hearing for  
two issuances be posted prior to May 9. The BINA hearing will take place at the Regular Park  
Board meeting on May 16, 2024.

H. Barlina Barn

Public Comment: Jim Heisler, Resident, stated that he appreciates the time spent researching the barn and expressed his appreciation for the Park Board's work with the public.

Bob Wyman, Resident, thanked the Board and staff for providing the information on the barn and suggested contacting Eifler and Associates for a proposal, as they have done work in Crystal Lake i.e., the Gates House and other work throughout McHenry County. Mr. Wyman noted that he will provide information on the Gates property for the Board to review. He expressed his desire to assist in the research of the barn in order to save the barn.

Robert Kossin, Resident expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Park District and suggested that the Board consider working with the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission.

#### Board Discussion:

Commissioner Cagle asked Manager Olson what she wanted to gain by bringing this information to the Board. Olson stated that she believes it is important to document the history of the barn and is hoping to hire a consultant to examine the structure of the barn and to obtain an archeological/historical review whether it is preserved or not. She reviewed several consulting proposals. Commissioner Jacobson agreed with Olson and with the importance of identifying if the barn is structurally sound and to have its history documented.

Commissioner Cagle stated that the discussion has been regarding historical documentation, and that the direction of the Board was to preserve the barn not to just document the history. Herbster stated that the original direction of the Board was to remove the barn and Olson's memo was including that discussion as part of the Board's recent direction to find costs to restore the barn. Olson stated that the Historical Commission requested that the Park District document the history and other community communications at the community input meeting were more focused on replacing the barn with amenities like a playground. Commissioner Johnson stated that the Board wanted to know the cost of reconstructing the barn and historical documentation of the barn. She agreed that the District should hire a consultant that will provide structural and historical reports along with a cost to restore the barn.

Executive Director Herbster noted that staff's recommendation is to hire McGuire Iglesias and Associates for consulting services to assess the structural integrity of the barn and corn crib along with documentation, historical review and costs to restore the barn. Manager Olson will contact Eifler and Associates in regard to architectural and historical documentation costs. Commissioner Cagle requested that the recommendation for consulting services be placed on the agenda for the Regular Park Board meeting on May 16, 2024. Executive Herbster noted that the item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

#### B. Annual Planning Calendar

The Annual Planning Calendar for 2024-2025 was reviewed and will be placed in the Drop Box for the Park Board and staff's reference.

#### C. Health Insurance Renewal

Executive Director Herbster noted that staff budgeted for a 25% increase in health insurance premiums. The District received rates with a 2% increase on the health and 6.9% decrease on dental. The proposed budget has a \$200,000 reduction from the previous year and the 2% increase would place the amount for insurance over \$200,000 under what was budgeted. Executive Director Herbster requested that the premium contributions be considered for

adjustment to 80%/park district and 20%/ employee from the current 75%/park district and 25%/employee. To provide an incentive for the employee to move to the HSA Insurance Plan staff is requesting that the employer deductible HSA contributions be increased from \$2100/individual and \$2600/family to \$3000/individual and \$4400/family. The HSA employer deductible has not been increased since the HSA plan was introduced several years ago. The deductible for the HSA plan is \$3500 individual and \$7000 family. Herbster noted that these adjustments will be reviewed and adjusted if needed on an annual basis. The Board agreed to add the employee health insurance contribution to the agenda for approval at the Regular Park Board meeting on May 16. Commissioner Cagle requested that more information be provided at the Regular Park Board meeting.

#### D. Annual Agency Goals/Executive Director Work Initiatives:

Executive Director Herbster explained that the Agency and Department Goals document is compiled from the Comprehensive Master plan priority items for department specific items. The Executive Director Work Initiatives outlines the initiatives for the year that will be a focus. Both documents will be updated quarterly.

Commissioner Cagle addressed the following topics.

- Teen programs to be listed as a priority under recreation services.
- Executive Director Herbster stated that Parks goal C. includes two homes next to the maintenance garage that cannot be connected to the City sewer. The garage has a connection that they will be able to access. This will be clarified in the document.
- Establish Site Utilities at Shamrock Hills: Add clarification of property boundaries.
- Feasibility study for rec center, fitness and walking track. Executive Director explained the study is included in the Master Plan. This is the next step to determine community wants and needs, which can most likely be done by staff.
- Marketing research alternatives to printed guide. -Reduce or eliminate advertising in the brochure to be more cost-effective.
- Culture Education and Development: Relabel to -Develop a Comprehensive Art in the Parks Plan to included exhibits and art opportunities.
- Annexation: Commissioner Cagle suggested Executive Director Herbster look for additional annexations of properties within Crystal Lake that are located outside of the Park District. Commissioner Johnson asked Cagle for the purpose of this. Cagle stated that this could eliminate confusion among residents of Crystal Lake, and to provide additional votes and additional taxes to the District. Commissioner Cagle questioned a forceable annexation process. Attorney Puma noted that forceable annexations can be done on properties that are surrounded by Park Property. Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern of those that live outside of the District do not want to pay taxes to the Park District.

Updates to the Annual Agency Goals/Executive Director Work Initiatives will be made and placed on the agenda for approval at the Regular Park Board meeting on May 16.

#### E. Park District Affiliate Project Process:

Executive Director Herbster explained that when affiliates add amenities to their fields on park district property, the addition must be approved by the park district and all permitting, and City requirements must run through the park district. Superintendent Reckamp stated that staff work with affiliates. Cagle asked how other parks manage affiliate requests; as most park districts do the work, not the affiliate group. Reckamp stated that he would like to review the operations process further. Herbster stated that the goals will include project review and review of affiliate fees.

F. Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Draft Review

Executive Director Herbster noted that the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Draft has been on display for three weeks. Cagle asked if the Board had any questions. There were none. The Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Draft will be on the agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting on May 16.

G. Annual Lake Management Consultant Work Plan Review

Executive Director noted that the Lake Management Consultant work plan proposal is the same proposal submitted last year. The annual meeting fees are not included in this proposal. There is \$75,000 placed in the 2024-2025 budget for this work plan. Staff will coordinate with Hey on harvesting, which is scheduled to begin next week.

~~H. Barling Barn~~

I. Memo of Understanding -Crystal Lake Park District and Lake Ecology Advisory Committee

Executive Director Herbster noted that Commissioner Anderson asked that all references to the SPOA and CCAPOA be stricken from paragraph #5. Cagle stated if the purpose of the committee is ecology and suggested to re-word the paragraph to have them coordinate with the lake ecology advisory committee. The Board agreed to reword paragraph #5 but will review it again at the next Park Board meeting on May 16.

J. Lacrosse Wall at Lippold Park

A resident has submitted a request for a Lacrosse Wall to be installed at Lippold Park. Superintendent Reckamp explained the affiliate group has approximately 60 participants. He reached out to the high schools and found s Lacrosse is not a booming sport. Reckamp stated there is research to be done to determine costs and type of structure. He will reach out to the resident and contact the Affiliate group to see if there is any interest.

Matters from the Board

The Board discussed an email regarding portable ice rinks. Commissioner Cagle expressed her interest and thought this would be a great opportunity to give back to the community. Executive Director Herbster will research and present more information to the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Cagle noted her disappointment in the Board's decision not to enter into Closed Session to discuss Board member attendance. She noted three members have not followed the Park Board policy. Her intention was to discuss the need to adhere to the policy set by the Park Board, so that decisions can be made as a group and not hinder the quality of the Board.

Commissioner Cagle adjourned the meeting at 7:41PM.

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_ Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
President Secretary