



**THE LISLE PARK DISTRICT  
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR MEETING- Remote via Zoom  
December 17, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** President Cook called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. via remote access, stating the pursuant to State of Illinois Executive Order 2020-07 suspending the requirement of in person attendance by members of the public body, the December 17, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held using remote participation. Director Garvy, Superintendent Silver, Commissioner Richter, Commissioner Ferron and Commissioner Olson were present at the Lisle Park District Recreation Multipurpose Room, 1925 Ohio Street, Lisle, IL 60532.

Director Garvy Called Roll:	Commissioners Present via telephone remote access:	Altpeter Cook
	Commissioner Present in person:	Ferron Olson Richter
	Staff Present in-person: Director of Parks & Recreation Superintendent of Finance	Garvy Silver
	Also Present via telephone remote access: Superintendent of Recreation Human Resources Manager Cultural Arts, Rental & Office Manager Superintendent of Parks Recreation Program Manager Athletic & Youth Camp Manager Youth & Early Childhood Manager Recreation & Fitness Manager Parks Manager Marketing Specialist	Pratscher Welge Nadeau Cerutti Breihan Wise Jehs Jayne Hamilton Kosartes

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**  
None.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

President Cook thanked Superintendent Silver for his 15 years with the District, saying his strong financial background has helped the District stay on course and stretch every dollar and the board cannot thank him enough. He also thanked Sheila Cockerill for her 15 years with the District, saying she has been the only custodian at the District during these difficult times and also started the Bob K scholarship program.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tom Hummel said he agrees with the policy change of removing commissioner perks. He said he also feels the tax levy should reflect the percent that the District needs not the 4.99% maximum.

#### **V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting for Thursday, December 17, 2020. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Richter, Ferron, Olson, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Olson moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, C, D, and E.

A. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 12, 2020.

B. Approve the November 2020 Voucher List in the amount of \$1,482,818.90.

C. Award the Carriage Hill Park asphalt paving project to Evans and Sons Blacktop, Inc. from West Chicago, IL for an amount not to exceed \$33,892.00.

D. Adopt Resolution 121720, a resolution to approve an amendment to the Joint Agreement for the Southwest Association of Special Parks and Recreation to establish the agency's fiscal year to be from January 1 through December 31.

E. Approve the reservation of Friday, July 23, 2021 to Sunday, July 25, 2021 for the Christmas in July Races in Community Park.

Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Ferron, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None

#### **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

#### **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Board Policy Manual – remove section 1.03 (H) 4, Commissioner use of District Programs and Facilities.

Commissioner Richter stated he has been the hold out on this. He believes an involved commissioner is a better commissioner and if we have a way to help encourage commissioners to participate it is a good idea. He said in seven years as a commissioner, he received a gym pass when the District was struggling with that facility so he can see how it works for himself and he went twice, and if that constitutes abuse then he does not know what to tell people who think that. He said he would still like to see a way for commissioners who do not have the financial wherewithal to be able and does not want to see someone locked out from participating if they are of limited means. He said the

more you make it prohibitive and restrictive, the worse it is going to get. He said he will support this, but still thinks commissioners should have access in some way because a commissioner should not be an armchair quarterback and should get involved.

He continued and said there has been a lot of pressure from social media and various watchdog organizations, and he does not want those people making policy decisions. He would rather see these decisions made by commissioners, through advice of staff, legal counsel, and doing what is right and not what is expedient to make people be quiet about what they are harping about next. He said if this gets them off our back great, he is sure there is something else on their list they will want to come after us for, but if those people really want to be a part of government, then they should run for office and quit standing on the sidelines.

Commissioner Ferron said he agrees with Commissioner Richter and involvement of commissioners is of the utmost importance in order to see what is going on. He asked what other districts have done to make sure commissioners are involved in the process. Director Garvy said they charge the resident rate, or they will allow someone into a program or facility just to observe for a short period of time. He said it is not as hands on or interactive though. Commissioner Richter said he prefers hands on, and there are a lot of people in Lisle with limited means and wants everyone to have a chance.

Commissioner Olson said he understands Commissioner Richter's comments and said he is aware of the expense in running for public office and the ability to participate and understand the product that is being delivered to our residents. He said hopefully staff's answer about how a commissioner can secure access to observe can work. He said there is no reason to believe the policy should be changed because of any abuse. He said he has been in a position of privilege and has been able to make the decision to pay for any and all programs, but not everybody has that, and it is a valid point.

Commissioner Altpeter said sometimes policies get outdated and this is the case with this one. She said she agrees with the other commissioners in that it cannot be cost prohibitive to be a commissioner. If you make it prohibitive to allow commissioner access, then a commissioner cannot adequately do their job. She said nobody runs for commissioner to get a free pool pass, they run to be public servants. She said there has been no abuse, but it has been at an educational level for commissioners to be able to access these programs to make the best decisions when governing.

President Cook thanked everybody for their input. He said this has not been abused, and people think because it is a policy that it is being abused and that is not the case. He agreed with Commissioner Richter that we will take this off the books but they will find something else to complain about.

Commissioner Olson moved to remove section 1.03 (H) 4, Commissioner use of District Programs and Facilities. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Altpeter, Cook

Nays: Ferron

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

B. Approve Ordinance 20-07, an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Lisle Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending

December 31, 2021 and direct staff to file same with the DuPage County Clerk no later than December 29, 2020.

Commissioner Olson moved to approve Ordinance 20-07, an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Lisle Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021 and direct staff to file same with the DuPage County Clerk no later than December 29, 2020. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Commissioner Richter stated that last month this was discussed in some detail, and the levy could be reduced at a later time in the spring. He said he wanted to make it clear that it can be revisited later and asked Superintendent Silver when that would be. Superintendent Silver said he was not certain, but it is in the spring. Commissioner Richter said that he cannot see hamstringing the district by levying a lower amount when we don't know how things are going to turn out and reiterated they will revisit this in the spring.

Commissioner Olson stated there may or may not be more clarity but to remind the board, staff, and public that a disproportionate amount of revenue in the park district budget is from user fees that other units of government, like the library district, do not have and they have not had to make the difficult decisions with staffing. He said the Park Board is making decisions because of the uncertainty, and close to 40% of the budget is user fees and will remain impacted for an undetermined amount of time in 2021. He said while others may be able to accurately project exactly how much of that 40% will be generated by the park district, he cannot. He said he understands the challenges of those in difficult financial positions and said we are trying to balance the needs of the park district.

Commissioner Altpeter said she agrees with Commissioner Olson and said the park district is in the rarity because a giant portion of our budget is determined by user fees and none of that is very predictable. She said the park district is an entity that relies on user fees, and we want to be able to provide the highest level of service we can, and we need to preserve the park district for all of the stakeholders in the community.

Commissioner Ferron stated he feels staff has done a great job and said he does not believe the district has never received the 4.99%, but he also understands it can be a point of optics for those who may not completely understand the process. He said we wants to say what he has said every year, in that he would like to see the park district base the levy on its actual needs rather than going to the maximum. He said he agrees with Commissioner Richter about abating these taxes and keeping that option in our back pocket.

Superintendent Silver stated the District does not maximize its levy and explained the District continues to abate about \$200,000 every year. He said he wants everyone to understand we do not take every dollar and estimates the District will get 2.1%. He said the District is allowed to capture up to 5% or the CPI, whichever is less. He said he agrees with Commissioner Ferron with people not understanding the process, and that people write and post inaccurate information. He said he is happy to talk to anyone from the community who has questions about how the tax levy works.

President Cook thanked everyone for their comments and asked for roll call.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.  
Nays: Ferron.

Motion Passed.

C. Approve Ordinance 20-08, an Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on \$400,000 general obligation refunding park bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2019B, of the Lisle Park District, DuPage County, Illinois.

Commissioner Richter motioned to Approve Ordinance 20-08, an Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on \$400,000 general obligation refunding park bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2019B, of the Lisle Park District, DuPage County, Illinois. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Olson pointed out that in the initial draft of the budget staff recommendation was to not abate, but the board requested in acknowledgment of concerns of finances of taxpayers with the labor market and economy that we abate this final year. He said he wants to thank the board for considering this input.

Commissioner Olson seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Richter, Olson, Ferron, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

Motion Passed.

#### **IX. STAFF REPORTS**

President Cook stated he was very happy with the numbers from Carriage Hill pathway bid.

Commissioner Altpeter stated it was great to see the golf numbers. She said ironically a lot of it has to do with COVID, but we have been fortunate to have such great weather and see the opportunity for so many people to see the great course.

#### **X. PARTNERS FOR PARKS REPORT**

The Partners for Parks Report is included in the Board Packet.

#### **XI. SEASPAR REPORT**

The SEASPAR report is included in the Board Packet.

#### **XII. OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **A. President, Commissioner Cook**

President Cook reported he attended the virtual Lisle Chamber's annual meeting. He said this is the end of 2020, and it has been disheartening what COVID has done to the park district and all of our residents, and staff has done a great job adapting services. He said he wants to deeply thank staff for all the extra work they have done this year to keep the park district running smoothly. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

##### **B. Treasurer, Financial Reports ending, August 31, 2020.**

Commissioner Altpeter commended staff for their incredible work ethic, and they are doing the work of 200 people. She said we have staff playing multiple roles and

everyone has risen to the challenge and wished everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas.

Superintendent Silver stated the District's investments are all collateralized or FDIC insured. He said he is confident the District can make it to June when more tax dollars come in. He said staff has made many cuts early and many tough decisions and that has helped the District. He reported the golf course is up by \$253,000 in revenue which is the best it has ever done. The Recreation Fund is behind last year at this time due to such limited programs. The District is stable and healthy and said we will come out the other end much leaner. Commissioner Altpeter thanked Superintendent Silver for his 15 years.

### **C. Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Richter congratulated Scott on his 15 years of service and commended him on his ability to stretch dollars so far. He thanked staff for their work and abandoning their job descriptions, doing whatever was needed, and putting in the number of hours everyone has done is amazing.

Commissioner Ferron agrees with everyone else on the board's comments and commended staff for having to make some many adjustments throughout the year. He said staff made some very good moves throughout the year and appreciates everyone's efforts. He said he wants to congratulate staff member Mary Liz Jayne on earning her Master's degree amidst COVID and trimming down of staff, he wanted to acknowledge this great accomplishment.

Commissioner Olson reported he visited Discovery Playground recently and said it was great seeing so many people of various abilities and needs playing. He said he wanted to thank the Park District for participating in the Holiday Caravan. He thanked staff for their contributions and work this year and wanted to acknowledge and thank those staff who are no longer here with the District for their time over the years as well as their time during a very difficult year.

President Cook thanked the Commissioners for another year and helping staff get through the year.

### **XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Olson moved to enter into closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)1, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Ferron, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

President Cook stated the motion passed at 7:48 pm.

### **XIV. OPEN MEETING**

### **XV. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Director Garvy stated the Board is back in open session at 8:24 pm. and took roll with the following commissioners reporting present: Richter, Altpeter, Olson, Ferron, Cook.

President Cook said the closed session was held under Section 2(c)1 the appointment,

employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

**XVI. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

A. Director of Parks & Recreation compensation. No action taken.

**XVII. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING**

Commissioner Olson moved to adjourn the open meeting at 8:26 p.m. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Ferron, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

Motion Passed.