



**Westmont Park District Board of Commissioners  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Ronald J. Gunter Administrative Center  
55 E. Richmond St., Westmont, IL 60559  
January 10, 2024 6:00 pm**

**Agenda Item #1 Call to Order**

President Karesh called the Meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Agenda Item #2 Roll Call**

Commissioners: Bill Belmonte, Mike Conneely, John Karesh, Sue Zapinski  
Staff Present: Bob Fleck, Executive Director, Joel Hymen, Supt. of Revenue Facilities & IT/Asst. Director, Luke Wyss, Supt. of Recreation, Rosy Fejzic, Finance Manager & Accountant, Lenore Farmer, Finance Assistant & HR, John Chorney, Parks & Facilities Foreman, Rachel Buster-Dorsey, Athletics Coordinator, Latresa James, Landscape Specialist

Guests: WYBA Board: Dominic Dicera, Justin Krone, John Kovas, Anthony Glitto, Bill Cahill

**Agenda Item #3 Pledge of Allegiance**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item #4 Consent Agenda**

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2023
- b. Special Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2024
- c. Claims Ordinance – January 10, 2024
- d. Other

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Zapinski and seconded by Commissioner Conneely.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Zapinski, Conneely, Belmonte, Karesh

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Moffett

Motion Carried.

**Agenda Item #5 Open Forum and Correspondence**

- a. General Public

There was no one present from the general public.

- b. Written

Bob shared thank you notes from two staff members. In addition, he referenced an email from Leslie Wright, a board member from Maercker School District 60, requesting that Westmont Park District Board Meetings be video or audio taped. According to Bob and Joel, there are different ways this can be done, including streaming on YouTube. The Board discussed, expressing concern about cost, and possibly audio only, so a camera will not be needed.

President Karesh noted that taping the meetings is not required, and Bob confirmed that we meet all State requirements for open meetings. The Board agreed to consider this request. Joel will bring recommendations to the February meeting and Bob will respond to the email request on behalf of the Board.

c. Other

There were no additional comments or correspondence.

Agenda Item #6 Introduction of New Staff Member Latresa James

Bob introduced Landscape Specialist Latresa James to the Board. The Board welcomed her to the District. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for Westmont Park District.

Agenda Item #7 Recognition of Staff Anniversaries – Lenore Farmer 15 Years

The Board expressed their appreciation to Lenore for her years of service to the District.

At this point, at 6:14 pm, Commissioner Moffett entered the meeting.

Agenda Item #8 WYBA Annual Presentation and Report to Park Board

WYBA members Dominic Dicera and Justin Krone provided a presentation to the Board recapping the 2023 season, including Spring Little League, Express Travel, and Fall Ball. They reviewed the league structure and registration numbers, and presented highlights of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, tournaments, and community involvement. Following a successful fall season, a check for field use in the amount of \$25,965 was presented. The WYBA members then requested several items for next season, including: adding additional bays to the batting cages at Veterans and Ty Warner parks, shade structures in the dugouts at Fritz Werley Park, and a pitch counter at Ty Warner Park. Bob noted that many surrounding communities have dropped their little league programs, so WYBA boundaries have expanded. The WYBA members thanked the Board and District staff for their support. The Board complimented the WYBA program and expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

Agenda Item #9 Unfinished Business

a. Bellerive Park/Diane Main/Fritz Werley/James Long Park Special Use Conditions Language Recap

Bob reported that we will be in front of the Village Board tomorrow night. He referenced Attorney Steve Adams' memo regarding the Special Use Conditions, which mostly impacts neighborhood parks, and we are committed to keeping neighborhood parks just that. He explained that this will be a formality at the Village meeting and we expect a unanimous approval vote. President Karesh urged that we do not want to settle and we need to protect future Park Boards; any language against parks needs to be eliminated. Bob agreed, stating this is why the zoning language needs to be reworked. In addition, he referenced the appeal clause referenced in Steve Adams' memo. Bob summarized: the Village Board will be voting on our variance request at James Long Park; site plan and SUP at Bellerive and Diane Main Parks; development at Grant Street Park, all of which passed Planning & Zoning.

#### b. Grant Update

Bob reported on the lack of response from the IDNR regarding the \$90,000 reimbursement for the North Grant Street property. Documents were submitted on October 2, 2023 and again last week. After phone calls and emails went unanswered, he was able to reach the Director of Grants, and was informed that we should receive the reimbursement in the near future. He then informed the Board that he was notified today that we did not receive the PARC Grant for the permeable paver parking lot at Ty Warner Park.

#### c. Capital Project Report

Bob presented the Tentative 2024 Major Capital Project Timelines for the Board's consideration. He reviewed each project.

- James Long/Fritz Werley Park is packaged as one bid packet.
- Williams Cove, age's 5-12 playground, will be completed through the joint purchasing program, so no bid is required. Bob recommended working with Landscape Structures, who are part of the joint purchasing.
- Preschool Demo and Electric: Bob proposed starting in August, following the conclusion of Summer Fun Camp. This should take approximately three weeks and will be completed before fall soccer begins.
- Skate Park Install: Bob requested a final decision from the Board for location of the new skate park. He then suggested two options for starting install: September 2024 or April 2025. The Board discussed the need to consider other options, due to cost, before committing to Spohn Ranch. Bob explained that American Ramp Company is the only other choice, however Spohn Ranch is the preferred company and is also part of the joint purchasing program. He also advised that the skate park is a custom project and we are not going to design it.
- Bellerive Park Pickleball: Bob noted that pickleball cannot start until the new skate park is complete.
- Satellite Garage: The plan is to go out to bid this spring, so construction can begin in July. Bob recommends working with Capital Steel, a division of General Steel, as supplier. He reviewed the process of choosing the building package first, which would include stamped architectural plans, and will then be included in the bid package. Early building cost estimates are at \$110,000, which does not include engineering, site work, utilities, etc. The Board discussed other options, and wanted to see a picture of the building. Bob then explained a design build approach, which would be a higher cost. After discussion, the Board was in agreement to work with Capital Steel.
- Grant Street Park: This is on hold, pending grant announcements.

Following the Capital Project report, Commissioner Conneely requested an updated budget listing. Bob will create a new spreadsheet.

Joel presented pictures of memorial fence examples, along with an actual picket, and requested Board feedback. Created by the same company who does our park signs, Joel explained that these pickets can be personalized and sold. The Board discussed and was in favor of a memorial fence.

#### d. State Conference

Bob confirmed registration and attendance for this annual event, held January 25-27. Lenore will provide schedule and complete details for attendees.

#### e. Other

There was no additional unfinished business.

## Agenda Item #10 New Business

### a. 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting Dates

Bob suggested holding this meeting at the end of April, so that we have two weeks to prepare the Tentative Budget for the May Regular Meeting. After discussion, the Board agreed to schedule budget Workshop for Thursday, April 25, 2024.

### b. Event Hall Liquor Policy Consideration

Bob reviewed the current policy, which is cumbersome for renters, as they are required to supply host liquor liability. Bob explained that this additional policy will cost \$1,200, with a \$50 cost to add each approved liquor request to the policy. We could then charge each facility rental group \$150. Additionally, we can charge \$200 for the new building at Veterans Park. According to Bob, there were 17 approved requests last year. Pending Board approval, the policy will be updated immediately.

A motion to approve the event hall liquor policy was made by Commissioner Belmonte and seconded by Commissioner Zapinski.

### Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Belmonte, Zapinski, Conneely, Moffett, Karesh

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

### c. Treasurer's Report

Rosy reported that the checking accounts total \$6,619,027.25, bearing an interest rate of 5.66%, for a total of \$30,509.78. The accounts payable total is \$322,361.35. Commissioner Conneely inquired about the new IMRF rate, which is lower than last year's rate. Rosy explained that IMRF designates the rate, and lower rates are better for the District.

### d. Revenue Facility Report

Joel reminded the Board about the new advanced email spam filtering. He reported that the IPRF safety grant, totaling \$3,964, has been received and was applied to the purchase of safety gear for maintenance staff. He continues to work on the financial history data conversion, to prepare for the new financial software upgrade. Also, the new AED units have arrived. The Bellerive Park soccer field lighting project is complete, as well as the LED lighting upgrade in the Fitness Club gymnasium. The Golf Course remains closed for the season, however, it will reopen for the Winter Open on February 3. Fitness Club membership totals are up and the Winter College Special remains active. Following the mailing to all Clarendon Hills residents who are Fitness Club members, in which they were informed they will no longer receive the resident rate as of March 1, 2024, there have been eight membership cancellations. However, none were due to the cost. Finally, Joel provided the 5-year membership revenue comparison, noting that we have returned to 2019 numbers.

### e. Parks/Maintenance Report

Bob reported that snow removal is the current focus. He informed the Board that the sanitary sewers under the floor in the Ty Warner Pavilion men's restroom need repair and replacement of parts, which will require cutting into the floor in the storage room between the restrooms. Also, Holly Days decorations have been taken down and staff is in the process of storing. In addition, Bob noted the very popular recent Facebook post regarding the sled library at Ty

Warner Park. Finally, Bob presented a picture of graffiti on the Bellerive Park pavilion, which maintenance staff has cleaned up.

f. Recreation Report

Luke updated the Board on December's Holly Days events, reporting that Santa's Train Ride brought in \$6,214 in revenue. Also popular was Santa's Sleigh Visits, with 71 visits this year. In addition, Luke review Kids Club revenue, and fall senior trips. Finally, he reported that Biddy Basketball revenue is lower than last year, however, revenue for Wolverines Travel Basketball is higher than last year.

g. Other

A motion to approve the location of the new skate park at Diane Main Park was made by Commissioner Belmonte and seconded by Commissioner Zapinski.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Belmonte, Zapinski, Conneely, Moffett, Karesh

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Belmonte inquired about park patrol at Diane Main Park, and suggested that residents may want to assist with this. Bob confirmed that this has happened in the past. This led to discussion about security at District parks and facilities. Joel reviewed camera locations for the Board, noted that there is no audio, and stated that every camera costs approximately \$1,500. Bob confirmed that there have only been two "catches" resulting from video surveillance. Joel explained security camera locations, both inside and outside, for the new building at Veterans Park. Discussion continued about camera locations and views, and it was suggested that security cameras should be included for Budget Workshop.

Agenda Item #11 Adjournment

Seeing no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Moffett and seconded by Commissioner Conneely.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.