

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 22, 2016

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Wednesday, August 22, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President Timothy P. McMahon presided over the meeting.

Present: President Timothy P. McMahon, Vice President Craig W. Hays, Commissioners Alvin S. Griggs, Barbara J. Kuhl, and Jane L. Solon, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall.

Staff Present: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Kevin Crump, Director of Operations and Planning, Tammy Hogatt, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Risk, and Andrew Weiss, Landscape Architect.

Other staff were in attendance as well as members of the public.

Call to Order

President McMahon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Presentations

General Obligation Bonds

David Phillips, Speer Financial, Inc., presented a brief overview and answered questions about General Obligation Bonds. He discussed principal alternatives for financing capital projects for Illinois park districts. Mr. Phillips addressed the Park District's history of debt service extension base (DSEB) noting that it was established in 1996 when the tax cap was imposed in Champaign County. He discussed the relationship between the General Obligation Bond (GO) issue and the Alternate Revenue Bond. Mr. Phillips concluded that the GO bond was pledged as the revenue stream to pay future debt obligations on the alternate revenue bonds, thereby requiring the annual issuance of GO bonds.

Request for Qualifications for Operations Shop and Yard Expansion

Presentations were made by the following architectural firms for planning and design services for the operations shop and yard expansion: Gorski Reifsteck; Farnsworth Group; and BLDD Architects, Inc. Each firm presented for 20 minutes and was allowed 10 minutes to respond to questions from the Park Board of Commissioners.

Discussion ensued about the process for selecting a firm for the project. Vice President Hays reported that Commissioner Griggs and he met with staff and worked to narrow the list to the three that presented tonight. He suggested that Commissioner Griggs and he continue to work with staff to narrow the list and provide a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Kuhl noted that all three firms are qualified to complete the job.

President McMahon suggested that the matter be returned to the Board for discussion with a plan to move forward.

New Business

Approval of a Bid for Hessel Park Phase 2 and 3

Mr. DeLuce reported that staff compiled additional information and answered questions raised by the Board. He stated that staff would like the Board to make a decision on either accepting or rejecting the bid.

Discussion ensued about whether to accept or reject the bids. Commissioner Solon did not favor accepting the lowest bid because of its excess over budget. She suggested that the project be reengineered and rebid. Commissioner Solon also suggested including certain items as alternatives in order to stay close to the budgeted amount.

Commissioner Griggs stated that if the project is rebid, the Board will have to keep in mind that the project will be completed late. President McMahon commented that the project will be later or completed as originally planned.

Vice President Hays indicated that he forwarded his comments to Mr. DeLuce. He concurs with Commissioner Solon's comments in that he would like to see alternatives bid and reworking of the plan, be it the splash pad or restrooms. He does not favor accepting the lowest bid recently received.

Commissioner Kuhl and President McMahon agree that the bids should be rejected and the scope of the project reworked and rebid.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to reject the current bids for Hessel Park Phase 2 and 3 and reengineer it with alternatives to try to decrease the cost, and then rebid the project. The motion was seconded by Vice President Hays. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLuce noted that the Park District will incur cost for the redesign of the project. He stated that staff will bring it back to the Board as a discussion items. Commissioner Kuhl questioned the design of the entrance of the restroom building.

It was the consensus of the Board that this project remain a priority.

Approval of Ordinance No. 610: An Ordinance Providing for Disposal of Personal Property

President McMahon stated that staff recommended approval of Ordinance No. 610: An Ordinance Providing for Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Champaign Park District, which authorizes and approves disposal of slow pitch softballs.

Vice President Hays made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 610: An Ordinance Providing for Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Champaign Park District, which authorizes and approves disposal of slow pitch softballs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Items

General Obligation Bonds

After the presentation about General Obligation (GO) Bonds, it was the consensus of the Board to proceed issuing the full amount of GO bonds.

Champaign Parks Foundation 1st Quarter Financial Update

Mr. DeLuce asked the Board if there were any questions about the report. Vice President Hays discussed naming the youth scholarship program after a potential donor who is interested in donating \$25,000/annually over a five year period. Discussion issued about whether a specific naming would discourage other donors. He also addressed the funds from Midland State Bank. Discussion ensued about the naming of the program and how donations would be distributed from other donations.

Attorney Hall suggested that there be an agreement between the donor and the Champaign Parks Foundation, which would be ratified by the Park Board. Commissioner Griggs suggested that the naming policy be followed.

Champaign Park District 1st Quarter Financial Update

President McMahan stated that everyone received a copy of the report and suggested that Board review it and let staff know if they have any questions. Discussion ensued. Ms. Wallace expressed concern related to the capital improvement fund and the property replacement tax. The Park District had estimated an amount and what the state just recently released is substantially less. She thinks the Park District has enough savings at this point and should be okay in making everything balance. The Park District expects to receive the \$300,000 grant for the improvements to Douglass Park. She updated the Board on the calculation from 2014 and reported that the Park District ended up owing the Illinois Department of Revenue money which they have not asked for yet.

Spalding Park Master Plan

Mr. DeLuce plans to keep this moving forward. He reported that included in the Board packet was a more complete feasibility study completed by BLDD Architects. Mr. DeLuce stated that Attorney Hall suggested that the Park District could work with BLDD since it has an existing working relationship with them. He reported that he asked BLDD to prepare a proposal for a feasibility study.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Kuhl applauded staff on a challenging weekend during the Taste of CU. She stated that people seemed to be enjoying themselves and thanked staff for the extra effort. Vice President Hays echoed the comments by Board about the Taste of CU.

Commissioner Griggs questioned the status of the grants funds for the state. Mr. DeLuce reported that the Park District received a letter notifying it that the funds are no longer suspended. Once the money is released a check should be coming. The Public Museum grant for the Virginia Theatre was not included in the stop gap budget. There has been no word yet about future grants.

Commissioner Solon reported that she attended CU Days and that it was a very nice event. She stated that Taste of CU went well. She commended staff on adding the directional sign in the middle of the park and suggested a couple of more be added to entrances. She received feedback for staff to include on the website about no pets being allowed.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Jones reported that staff felt that Taste of CU went well. Mr. DeLuce talked about the elimination of the dollar per ticket charge and the amount of donations collected at the entrances.

Commissioner Kuhl asked if there were more incidents as it relates to the Pokémon Go game. Mr. DeLuce responded no. He reported that the Park District is holding a Pokémon Go event on August 28th at 1 p.m. in Hessel Park.

President McMahan reported that CU Days was a well-run and attended event. He also stated that Taste of CU went well and that there were more vendors this year.

Adjourn

There being no further items to come before the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Craig W. Hays, Vice President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary