

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

**February 26, 2020**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. Vice President Miller presided over the meeting.

Present: Vice President Kevin Miller, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Timothy P. McMahon and Treasurer Donna Lawson. Absent: President Craig Hays and Attorney Guy Hall.

Staff Present: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Dan Olson, Director of Operations, Jameel Jones, Director of Recreation, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities, Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, and Steven Bentz, Director of the Virginia Theatre. Also, Cody Evans, Leonhard Recreation Center Facility Manager.

**Call to Order**

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

**Comments from the Public**

Vice President Miller called for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

**New Business**

Approval of the Extension of a Temporary Easement for the Zahnd Park and Carle at the Fields Path  
Mr. DeLuce presented the report. He stated that this matter involves the final connection of the Carle at the Fields trail. Mr. DeLuce stated that the project was delayed in the fall due to weather conditions. Staff recommends granting an extension of the temporary construction easement at Zahnd Park to The Carle Foundation Hospital until May 30, 2020.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to grant an extension of the temporary construction easement at Zahnd Park to The Carle Foundation Hospital until May 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the 2020 Prairie Farm Master Plan

Mr. DeLuce introduced the topic. He stated it is staff's desire to have the Prairie Farm Master Plan be approved by the Board, if the plan is approved, any items for construction would be included in either the capital or operations budgets and would require Board approval. Mr. DeLuce reported that the master plan is merely a guideline for staff to move forward on ideas for Prairie Farm.

Mr. Weiss reviewed highlights of the master plan. He reported that the two main features proposed for Prairie Farm include a barn with restrooms and an active play zone. Mr. Weiss stated that staff's desire is to include funds for design of the barn in the capital budget. He stated that the master plan proposed is compilation of staff's thoughts and ideas possible implementation over the next five to ten years. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Solon expressed concern about making the proposed improvements without a cost estimate and whether the estimated cost for the barn was feasible. She also stated that she would prefer that the master plan and the operational plan be considered jointly. Commissioner Kuhl discussed the blueprint for Prairie Farm proposed by staff and asked if staff wanted the Board to approve the concept for what is being envisioned for Prairie Farm in the future with capital investments coming to the Board for approval. She stated favors expanding the season

for another gem in the community and encouraged staff to consider including heat in the barn while cautioning staff about proposed concessions. Commissioner McMahon commended staff for compiling the master plan and questioned whether it was necessary for the Board to approve the plan. He stated that a master plan should be approved unanimously by the Board and acknowledged President Hays' absence and suggested that it be presented to the full Board for consideration. Mr. Weiss stated that an approved master plan was helpful when applying for grants.

Commissioner McMahon made a motion to table approval of the 2020 Prairie Farm master plan contingent upon comments about the operational plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 4-0.

#### Approval of the 2020 Prairie Farm Operational Plan

Mr. Gleason highlighted the proposed operational plan. He discussed the plan for purchasing animals, purchasing a trailer for transporting the animals, current and proposed season programming, and staffing. Mr. Gleason stated that additional operational changes would occur if the master plan is adopted including, extending the hours, charging an entry fee to the play zone, and adding a new full time manager and part time staff. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kuhl suggested hour changes for birthday parties. She also stated that she would support not making major changes for FY21. Vice President Miller stated that the Board shared concerns about increasing the operational budget, expanding the season and increasing staff. Commissioner McMahon stated that this would be a good year to try some of the new ideas and show proof of concept and gauge the demand for adding new staff expenses.

Commissioner McMahon made a motion to reject the 2020 Prairie Farm operational plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **Discussion Items**

##### FYE21 Capital Budget and the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. DeLuce presented the capital budget and plan. He stated that staff would like the budget and plan to be approved at the regular meeting in March. Discussion ensued. Commissioner McMahon inquired about the impact of the reserves on the proposed capital plan. Ms. Wallace discussed revenues, reserves, and carryover as it relates to the plan.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeLuce discussed the Dog Park lease. Mr. Olson discussed the problems at the Dog Park including the parking lot, lack of shade structures, and turf issues. He talked about possible long term solutions to address turf issues and the current temporary solution being used. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the following: purchasing radios for special events and operations; adding funds for re-lamping the lights at the Dodds 4-plex, adding overhangs at the four backstops and the alley way at the Dodds 4-plex; Marten Center and Human Kinetics Park improvements, and utility access for the Leonhard Recreation Center conditioned upon Board comments relating to curb cuts and stormwater fees.

Commissioner Kuhl departed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued. There was a consensus by the Board to not include funding for purchasing trash cans for the Virginia Theatre. There was a consensus to move forward with re-wiring the Virginia Theatre, and Fitness on Demand for the Leonhard Recreation Center. There was discussion about the pros and cons of overlaying eight courts at the Lindsay Tennis Center. There was further discussion about the current and proposed future of the tennis courts in Spalding Park. The Board then addressed proposed funds to design a barn for Prairie Farms. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this item at the next meeting.

Ms. Wallace discussed the schedule for approval of the budget and plan. The budget and plan will be presented for additional discussion at the regular meeting in March.

Discussion ensued about the HVAC for Springer Cultural Center, roof replacements for Dodds Tennis Center, Rotary shelter, and Douglass concession stand, and wood timbers for Douglass Park. Mr. DeLuce discussed trail grants. It was the consensus of the Board that staff move forward with a grant request for new bike bridge to connect the pipeline trail with Porter Park.

**Old Business**

None.

**Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Solon thanked staff for putting the budget information together and stated it was appreciated. Commissioner McMahon concurred.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner McMahon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Approved

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Craig W. Hays, President

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Cindy Harvey, Secretary