

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

March 14, 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. President Hays presided over the meeting.

Present: President Crag Hays, Vice President Kevin Miller, and Commissioner Jane L. Solon.
Present Electronically: Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl and Timothy P. McMahon, 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, Steven Bentz, Director of the Virginia Theatre, and Joe Kearfott, Risk Manager.

Call to Order

President Hays called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He recited the following statement:

In accordance with Section 120/1.02 of the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Commissioners desires to permit attendance of Commissioners Kuhl and McMahon by means other than physical presence to attend the Special Emergency Meeting, March 14, 2020. This is called for the purpose of addressing the Park District's plan of action related to the circumstances and action in relation to the national and international emergency created by the COVID-19 Virus. Commissioners Hays, Miller and Solon are physically in attendance at the meeting to satisfy the requirement of the presence of a quorum in attendance. Commissioners Kuhl and McMahon are available by audio means.

President Hays asked if there was a consensus of the quorum present that Commissioners Kuhl and McMahon be allowed to attend the meeting electronically pursuant to statute. Commissioner Solon, Vice President Miller and President Hays all responded, yes. Attorney Hall also attended electronically.

Comments from the Public

President Hays called for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

New Business

Consideration of Approval of Formal Action Related to the COVID-19 Virus

President stated that the Illinois Governor issued an order that schools be closed through the end of March 2020, and that guidelines have been issued by the State of Illinois and the Champaign County Public Health Department. He stated that in his opinion, and hopefully the opinion of the Board, that the Park District follow the state guidelines which means it will close facilities and programs through the end of March 2020, and reevaluate at that time. He also stated that it is opinion that during the closure, facilities scheduled for use as polling places for the Primary Election remain open, and that all full-time and part-time staff affected by facilities and programs closures be paid.

Mr. DeLuce that all facilities and programs would remain closed through the end of March 2020 with the exception of the Virginia Theatre which would remain closed through May 10, 2020 based on state issued guidelines for number of people gathering in one place. President Hays concurred that the Park District would follow stated guidelines to limit gathering of people.

Mr. DeLuca stated that staff recommends closing facilities and program through April 12, 2020. President Hays stated that it is his opinion, and hopefully the opinion of the Board, that the closure be the same as the state mandated for schools through the end of March 2020 and reevaluate at that time.

Commissioner Kuhl discussed the recommendation to close all facilities and programs through the end of March 2020 except for the Virginia Theatre which will remain closed through May 10, 2020 which aligns with the state's mandate of closing schools, and to leave facilities open as polling places. She expressed her concern about remaining open as polling places. Commissioner McMahon stated that he concurred with Commissioner Kuhl about the facilities remaining open as polling places.

Commissioner Kuhl discussion options for paying a portion of part-time salaries up front and the balance when facilities reopen and programs resume. Commissioner Solon stated that with the number of closures, she was not concerned with staff not returning to work for the Park District. She also stated facilities remain available for use as polling place due to the short timeframe to notify the County. Discussion ensued. It was decided that the facilities remain open for early voting at Leonhard Recreation Center and as polling sites at Bresnan Meeting Center, Hays Recreation Center and the Douglass Annex. Park District staff would only be responsible for opening and closing facilities. Vice President Miller cited reasons for facilities to remain as polling locations and stated that it would be for the good of the public.

Commissioner Kuhl asked Mr. DeLuca what authority he needed to make decisions from the Board. Mr. DeLuca reported that staff have been working closely with the Champaign County Public Health Department and the Urbana Park District. The Urbana Park District closed their facilities and programs through April 12, 2020. He stated that staff recommends closing the facilities and programs through April 12, 2020. However, if it is the Board decision to authorize closure only through the end of March 2020 at this time, give him the authority to end the closure date thorough April 12, 2020, if necessary, at which time he would notify the Board in advance as well as consult with others as necessary. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Solon expressed concern about closing through April 12, 2020 with school closures, and that she would like to see the Public Health Department, School Districts, the City's police department and Park District determine what is best for the public. Mr. DeLuca stated that the Park District is working with these agencies during this time.

President Hays called for a motion. Commissioner Solon made a motion to follow the state guidelines, closing facilities and programs through March 31, 2020, with the exception of the Virginia Theatre which will be closed through May 10, 2020, allow Leonhard Recreation Center to be used as an early voting and polling site, and Bresnan Meeting Center, Hays Recreation Center and Douglass Annex to be used as polling sites, with these directives to be reevaluated with the Executive Director and Board President if the closure deadline need to be extended or rescinded. The motion was seconded by Vice President Miller. The motion passed 5-0.

President Hays asked Board consent was needed relating to payment of wages. Commissioner Kuhl stated that payment of staff wages should be Mr. DeLuca's decision and not require Board approval. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to leave the decision to pay employees through March 31, 2020 to the discretion of the Mr. DeLuca.

Commissioner Solon commented on these trying times and thanked staff for the time and energy put into dealing with this. Commissioner Kuhl and McMahon concurred with and thanked staff as well. Vice President Miller stated that this is not an easy decision to make, however, it is all for the good of the public. All closures will take effective immediately.

President Hays stated that because of the actions of the Board during this year and previous years, the Park District have reserves and this will not put a financial stain on any of its current or future

programs. He noted that it is due to the prudence of the Board that the Park District has the ability to make these decisions without having any financial impact upon the Park District. President Hays thanked staff during these trying and difficult times. He stated that the Park District will address concerns and follow best practices.

Comments from Commissioners

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Approved

Craig W. Hays, President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary