

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

**January 27, 2021**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, and online due to President Hays' determination that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act was not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 disaster. The Special Board Meeting occurred pursuant to published notice duly given.

President Hays presided over the meeting. The three individuals identified below were physically present at the meeting with appropriate social distancing. Citizens were given the opportunity to participate in the teleconference at the web address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89438812005?pwd=bIVFTkVyKzVOcHk4bkhOS3hFK3N3dz09> or by calling 312-626-6799. Citizens were also offered the opportunity to submit comments or questions by email prior to the meeting. Those comments were to be announced by President Hays during the public comment portion of the meeting. Email submissions were solicited from the public through a notice of intent to speak or comment to be submitted by noon on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 to the Executive Director of the Park District at: [joe.deluce@champaignparks.org](mailto:joe.deluce@champaignparks.org). There were no email comments or questions submitted by citizens for consideration by the Board.

Present in-person: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, and Jarrod Scheunemann, Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary.

Present electronically: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Kevin J. Miller, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, Timothy P. McMahon; Attorney Guy C. Hall, and Treasurer Brenda Timmons.

Staff present in-person: Tammy Hoggatt, Director of HR, Risk, and IT.

Staff present electronically: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, Dan Olson, Director of Operations, Jameel Jones, Director of Recreation, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities, and Bret Johnson, Grounds & Maintenance Supervisor.

Sean Widener from Clark-Dietz, Inc. also attended the meeting electronically.

### **Call to Order**

President Hays called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Presentation**

Sean Widener from Clark-Dietz, Inc. was asked to present an update on the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail connection between Heritage Park and Kaufman Lake. Mr. Widener highlighted the history of the project. He stated that the Park District and Clark-Dietz had been working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Canadian National Railroad (CN) to determine the feasibility of two trail connection options. Mr. Widener stated that CN required the closure of an at-grade crossing on its line within the area for the first option. He reported that only one at-grade crossing possibility had been identified and the owner of the property was unwilling to sell the property. The second viable trail connection would involve an updated lease with CN and permit coordination with IDOT. Mr. DeLuce commented that the second option on the east side of the train tracks will be less expensive and safer due to removing the need for an at-grade crossing. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Miller requested clarification on the connection's route and construction specifications. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners Kuhl and Solon requested that staff contact the owner of the property for the first option to determine if he is still unwilling to sell. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Weiss commented that this project is supported by an Illinois Bicycle Path grant for \$200,000 and would need to be completed by January, 2022 to satisfy the grant requirements. Discussion ensued.

Vice President Miller requested clarification about modifications to the scope of work if property becomes available at a future date. Discussion ensued.

### **Comments from the Public**

None.

### **New Business**

#### 1. Approval of Agreement for Professional Services for the Greenbelt Bikeway Connection

Mr. Weiss presented the report. He stated that the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail connection would provide a safe link to extend trail use and provide opportunities for residents who highly value this recreation activity.

Commissioner Kuhl asked for an update on the total project cost. President Hays responded that the final estimate was \$735,500, but the Park District could realize potential savings by applying left-over funds from the Heritage Park shoreline stabilization project (\$125,000) and \$200,000 from the Illinois Bicycle Path Grant. Discussion and clarifications about the scope of work, budget, and related negotiations ensued.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Clark-Dietz, Inc. for the final engineering phase of the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail Connection provided that, the first option property owner be contacted as to a sale of land to address the equivalent at-grade crossing issue, and review completion of agreement terms by Park District Legal Counsel. Vice President Miller seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; Vice President Miller – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; and President Hays – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Weidner departed the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

#### 2. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Recordings of Executive Sessions

Mr. Scheunemann presented the report. He stated that this action was an annual housekeeping matter. He added that staff recommended approval of a resolution authorizing the destruction of audio recordings of executive sessions.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing, approving and ordering the destruction of the verbatim audio records of the following executive session meetings: February 13, 2019; April 10, 2019; April 24, 2019; May 8, 2019; June 12, 2019; June 26, 2019; and July 10, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Vice President Miller – yes; President Hays – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; and Commissioner McMahon – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

Vice President Miller virtually departed the meeting at 6:34 p.m. and reconnected virtually at 6:35 p.m.

### 3. Approval of Renaming the Bicentennial Center to Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation Center

Mr. Jones presented the report. He stated that staff recommends the Board approve renaming the Bicentennial Center to “Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation Center.”

Commissioners Kuhl and Solon requested additional research and options. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to table the approval of renaming the Bicentennial Center. Commissioner Solon seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Hays – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Vice President Miller – yes; and Commissioner McMahan – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Discussion**

### 1. 2020 Park Report Card Report

Mr. Scheunemann presented the report. He noted the methods of data collection, analysis, benchmarks, comparative data, and outlined his observations and the Operation’s Department action plan. Mr. Scheunemann highlighted the Operations Department for its stewardship of the Park District’s parks and dedication to keeping the parks clean and safe despite pandemic challenges. He thanked the Commissioners, staff, and community members for their participation in the study.

Commissioner Solon shared her pride in the Park District’s parks and addressed some concerns about some of the parks in light of COVID-19. Vice President Miller expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to visit and spend more time in parks that he visits less frequently.

Mr. DeLuce noted that the Park District saved \$30,000 in consulting fees by having staff members lead this study.

### 2. Updates to Board Policy Manual

Mr. Scheunemann presented the report. He stated that review of Board policies occurs every five years and is standard operating procedure. Mr. Scheunemann requested the Board discuss several policy updates as well as a new Telecommuting Policy and Procedure. Discussion and revision requests ensued.

## **Comments from Commissioners**

None.

## **Executive Session**

Commissioner Solon moved pursuant to the bases set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahan. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Vice President Miller – yes; President Hays – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahan – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl - yes. The motion passed 5-0. The Board convened in Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) for the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purpose of approval by body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

## **Return to Regular Meeting**

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

## **Executive Session Action Item**

### Approval to Make Available for Public Viewing Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve making available for public viewing minutes from

Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Special Meeting

Executive Session meetings on November 13, 2013, November 22, 2013, November 23, 2013, November 24, 2013, December 4, 2013, December 9, 2013, February 10, 2016, March 9, 2016, March 30, 2016, April 13, 2016, July 13, 2016, December 13, 2017, February 27, 2019, and July 22, 2020. The motion was seconded by Vice President Miller. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: President Hays – yes; Vice President Miller – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; Commissioner Kuhl– yes; and Commissioner Solon – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

**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. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes; President Hays – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; and Vice President Miller - yes. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Approved

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Craig W. Hays, President

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Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary