

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF DECATUR PARK
DISTRICT, MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD AT
DECATUR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
620 E. RIVERSIDE AVENUE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS
AT 12:00 NOON ON THE 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Decatur Park District, Macon County, Illinois, met in a regular session on Wednesday, the 2nd of February, 2022 at the hour of 12:00 Noon at the Decatur Park District Administration Office, 620 E. Riverside Avenue, Decatur, Illinois at which time and place there were present the following officers and members of said Board:

Stacey Young, President – via Zoom
Bob Brilley, II, Vice President
Dr. Kristin White, Commissioner – via Zoom
Chris Harrison, Commissioner – via Zoom
Matt Whitehead, Commissioner – via Zoom

Due to current COVID-19 guidelines regarding meetings, Park District staff, the media and the public were invited to join the meeting remotely via Zoom.

A quorum of the members of the Board of Park Commissioners being present, President Young called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

NO. 16134 A motion to approve items 1-2 on the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Dr. White and seconded by Commissioner Chris Harrison. Commissioner Matt Whitehead abstained and all voted aye.

1. Minutes, Study Session Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of the Previous meeting
2. Bills for Approval

PRESENTATION Aaron Gold from Speer Financial presented via Zoom Bid results for the approximately \$4,569,020 General Obligation Park Bonds, Series 2022A and approximately \$286,155 Taxable General Obligation Park Bonds, Series 2022B. Both received favorable interest rates. Out of 5 bids, Bank of Springfield provided the best bid for Series 2022A with the net interest of 0.49%. After the sale, to target a specific bond and interest property tax levy the issue was resized to \$4,590,100. Out of 4 bids, Bank of Springfield provided the best bid for Series 2022B with a net interest rate of 0.99%. The issue was resized to \$284,855. Mr. Gold recommended approval of the bids as stated. Both issues will close February 16.

NO. 16135 A motion was made by Commissioner Matt Whitehead and seconded by Commissioner Chris Harrison to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01, providing for the issue of \$4,590,100 General Obligation Park Bonds, series 2022A, and \$284,855 Taxable General Obligation Park Bonds, Series 2022B of the Decatur Parks District, Macon County, Illinois, for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District,

to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding bonds of said Park District, and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of the 2022A Bonds to Bank of Springfield and the 2022B Bonds to Bank of Springfield. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

NO. 16136 Staff recommended approval of the revised wage Ordinance No. 2022-02 Setting Wages, Salaries and Guidelines for Non-Union Employees. The approval of this ordinance will allow staff to make adjustments believed to be necessary to the compensation structure to ensure adequate and appropriate staffing levels at the Decatur Park District to continue to carry out our mission to the community. A motion to approve the revised Ordinance No. 2022-02 Setting Wages, Salaries and Guidelines for Non-Union Employees was made by Commissioner Dr. White and seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

RETIREMENT PRESENTATION Bev Rhoades will be retiring on Friday, February 4th. Bev has been with the Decatur Park District for 30 years. She started in 1991 as Payroll clerk and is currently the HR specialist. Bev's contribution to the District over the past years have been invaluable. Her dedication and passion for our staff and their financial health heading into retirement is unparalleled. Unfortunately, due to the weather Bev and HR Manager Kristi Orrick were unable to make it to the meeting. Kristi relayed to Kristin that Bev has been such an asset to the District and always puts the employees first to make sure that they are taken care of. She has worked for years to educate and share knowledge of planning for retirement with employees, now it is her turn. She would always stay late or come in early when staff needed her. The District is going to miss Bev and all that she contributes week after week. Staff will have a reception for her at the Administration office Friday, February 4th to wish her the best as she heads into this next chapter of her life. Bev sent a message to the board meeting to thank everyone for the opportunity to be a part of the Decatur Park District for the past 30 years. There was a time she needed her employer the most and the Park District stepped up, from the coworkers to supervisors. for which she is very grateful for their support. She will carry this experience with pride as she moves into the next phase of her life. President Stacey Young extended her congratulations to Bev.

AIRPORT Crews continue to deal with the removal of snow. Staff came in at 1:00 a.m. this morning to clear the runways. As of this time all flights have been canceled due to the winter storm. Airlines continue to struggle with crew shortages, weather and COVID. Delays and cancelations have become a common theme at airports over the last few months. There was a brief discussion regarding Skywest flight schedules and challenges with crew staffing.

RECREATION The Greater Decatur Chorale Winter Concert has been canceled due to lack of ticket sales and the increase in COVID cases. Practices will start back up mid-February to rehearse and prepare for the annual Memorial Day weekend with the Cooking with the Chorale concerts.

Director of Recreation Jamie and Devon Manager Mike presented at the annual IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago on Friday, January 28th. The seminar was about how to make music work for a park district, with a venue or without.

Staff will be holding a Job Fair at the Decatur Indoor Sports Center on Friday, February 11th from 3-7 p.m. Those interested in employment will be able to complete an application and speak directly to hiring supervisors. Anyone age 16 and up can be hired and there is possibility of being hired on site. This is the first time the Decatur Park District has held a hiring fair to recruit employees.

The Devon Amphitheater 2022 Season ticket renewal began on Wednesday, January 26th. The first single ticket show is Aaron Lewis and will go on sale to the public Friday, February 4th.

Tracy Hewitt has been hired as the new Splash Cove Supervisor. Tracy is currently the Decatur Indoor Sport Centers Fitness Supervisor. Staff agree Tracy will be a great fit for Splash Cove. She is highly motivated and has a good way of working with people. She will continue with group fitness classes and staff will help with her duties as needed.

CFO Jamie and Kristin are working on revising the Decatur Indoor Sports Center facility fees. They should be done by the end of next week and ready to schedule 2-2-1 meetings.

There are no golf rounds to report at this time due to no golf played.

FOUNDATION Aly Delatte attended the IAPD/IPRA conference the weekend of January 28th. This was the first time attending and it was a great opportunity to learn and get ideas from the various seminars. Aly commented on what a great job Recreation Director Jamie Gower and Devon Manager Mike Wilcott did presenting for the Decatur Park District. They did an awesome job and were very informative.

The Annual Mailing numbers are consistent with 2019. In the future staff may rethink ways to reach out to the community. There was a brief discussion on the amount of cost that goes into the mailing verses the amount received in donations.

OPERATIONS Snow crews were in early this morning to start the removal of snow from the overnight snow fall. Crews focus on snow removal from the roads first and foremost, then the parking lots and eventually the trails.

Through PDRMA sledding is not encouraged but it is allowed through the District. Park Crews will work on clearing parking lots throughout the parks used for sledding.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Supervisors are gearing up for Summer. There are many challenges staff are still facing with the continued mandates.

April 1st will be the opening of Overlook Adventure Park and Scovill Zoo.

Scot Wrigton and Executive Director Gerhard met Wednesday, January 26th to review several items including the storm water fees, the airport firehouse and Marina Development. Talks will be continued in the future.

Rob Lipic and Scott Magruder submitted a proposal to revive the Standing Paddleboard Co. at Nelson Park. There will be details coming soon regarding the proposal for discussion and approval at a future meeting.

Executive Director Gerhard thanked Chief Hubbard and Park Police staff for the recovery of the stolen wood chipper. Kudos to Chief and his crew for not giving up on finding the unit. Even more interesting there were about a dozen email responses to an email sent out to Decatur Park District employees announcing the return of the chipper. All responses were positive reinforcements to the good work the Park Police do. This is such progress on shifting our culture in the way employees are positively reinforcing other departments in a very public way. It truly warms the heart.

WAND initiated an interview regarding the positions the Decatur Park District has available both part-time and full-time. Executive Director Gerhard was interviewed and the segment was aired on last Thursday's news cycle.

With the recommendation from President Young the Herald & Review will be conducting an interview at Scovill Zoo tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Whitehead Clay did a good job on the WAND news last night.

Commissioner Dr. White being one of the trustees of IAPD and attending the conference with over 2500 participants it was amazing to see how the Decatur Park District staff represented the District. Thank you to Clay, Jamie, Aly and staff for an awesome job!

President Young Thank you to all of the Decatur Park District staff and thank you for the flexibility to go virtual for the meetings. Please mark you calendars for the Juneteenth Celebration at the Devon Amphitheater. There is not a need for executive session.

Commissioner Matt Whitehead made and Commissioner Chris Harrison seconded a motion that the meeting adjourn. All voted aye and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:49 p.m.

/s/ Stacey Young
President, Board of Park Commissioners

/s/ Melanie Moore
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners