

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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  
Bob Brilley, II, Vice President  
Dr. Kristin White, Commissioner  
Chris Harrison, Commissioner entered at 12:01pm  
Matt Whitehead, Commissioner

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

**NO. 16137** 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, and Executive Session Minutes of the Previous meeting
2. Bills for Approval

**UPDATE FROM SKYWEST** Daniel Belmont, Director of Market Development for SkyWest attended the meeting via Zoom to give the update. SkyWest is experiencing a pilot and flight attendant shortage. This has been a challenge in the aviation industry since the pandemic began and during recovery of the pandemic. Although SkyWest has a strong hiring pipeline, the industry's challenges are bigger. To ensure SkyWest can maintain service it has made the difficult decision to reduce flight schedules at this time. During the month of March the flight schedule will still remain two flights a day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday and one flight a day on Tuesday and Saturday. This schedule will have no overnight inbound flight to Decatur. SkyWest is optimistic that it is a temporary situation and plan to reevaluate this summer. Daniel added SkyWest is looking at combining Decatur with Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to keep Decatur with 12 flights per week. Decatur will continue to have a non-stop flight to Chicago. Daniel concluded that while aviation experiences this

challenge across the network SkyWest will continue to deliver the best product possible for passengers using the Decatur airport.

**NO. 16138** Staff recommended approval of a lease for Standing Paddle Board Company with Rob Lipic and Scott Magruder to operate in Nelson Park during the 2022 season. Rob Lipic was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the board of Commissioners. Rob gave a brief preview of what to expect for the season including rentals, yoga and special events. Hours of operation will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. including Memorial Day and Labor Day. Rob would like to work with the Decatur Park District adding special events. He added safety is the first priority. A motion was made by Commissioner Whitehead and seconded by Commissioner Harrison to approve a lease for Standing Paddle Board Company. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

**NO. 16139** A motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 2022-03 This is an ordinance the Decatur Park District approves annually. This abatement of taxes has to do with the debt payments on the District's outstanding alternate revenue bond issues 2017B. Debt payments on the alternate bond issues do not come from separate taxes levied, rather a portion of general obligation bond issue proceeds are used to make the required payments. As, such the separate levy for annual debt payments must be abated and filed with the County. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Harrison and seconded by Commissioner Whitehead to approve Ordinance No. 2022-03. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

**NO. 16140** A motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04 abating the tax levied for the year 2021 to pay the principal of and interest on General Obligation Bonds alternate revenue source series 2021C. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Dr. White and seconded by Commissioner Harrison to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

**NO. 16141** Staff recommended approval of the 2022 Facility Fees presented on January 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed in further detail with Board members during the recent 2-2-1's. CFO Sowa explained while increases of any sort are never taken lightly, the proposed increases in most cases are designed to cover mandated minimum wage increases as well as any known operating cost increases. A motion was made by Commissioner Brilley and seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

**NO. 16142** Staff recommended approval to purchase a Wireless Portable Digital Radiography System Package from MinXray Inc. of Northbrook Illinois for \$48,700. MinXray was the only bid the Decatur Park District received. Scovill Zoo manager Ken Frye attended the meeting via Zoom and explained the needs for the mobile xray machine. Currently the University of Illinois charges the zoo to utilize their machine. The vets come to the zoo once a week, using it several times a month. It will be very beneficial and cost efficient to have one on site. If approved this machine will be funded by the Ramona Borders funds. Scovill Zoo staff will be trained and University of Illinois vet techs will use it on site. A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. White and seconded by Commissioner Whitehead. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

**RECREATION** Staff did a fantastic job at the hiring fair. There were approximately 155 prospective employees that filled out applications.

The Valentine's Day Senior luncheon was Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Scovill Activity Center. There were 70 Seniors in attendance and they had a great time.

The indoor 4v4 futsal tournament will be held at the Decatur Indoor Sports Center February 26<sup>th</sup>. There are 62 teams currently registered. The District has not seen this amount of participants since 2016.

Registration for youth baseball and softball opened up February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scovill Zoo and Overlook Adventure Park will be opening for the 2022 Season on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Splash Cove will open Memorial Day weekend.

Perform tickets went on sale February 7<sup>th</sup> for parents and February 14<sup>th</sup> for the general public. Currently there are 678 tickets sold.

Devon Amphitheater tickets are beginning to go on sale every few days. Many of the shows are garnering a lot of interest and seem to be in demand. Manager Wilcott continues to work on prospects for a few more additional acts.

**CFO** All paperwork related to the sale of the bonds have been received and will be processed after today's meeting.

Staff continue to work on the 2022 budget. Plans are to have it out by the end of April for the boards tentative approval and then put on public display.

**AIRPORT** Snow operations have been in full affect with all of the recent snow fall. United had to cancel all flights on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the weather. The airport was open and prepared for their arrival on February 4<sup>th</sup>. All central Illinois airports were closed at some point during the winter storm. Staff are currently preparing for the next round of snow and ice to hit this week.

Air traffic control tower operational counts for 2021 were at 36,775 which were up from 2020.

Director Wright will remain in contact with SkyWest and continue to keep the board updated. Unfortunately, all major airlines are dealing with the same issues.

**FOUNDATION** Zoo Open will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Point Golf course. Preparations continue to go well and the golf staff are excited for the event. As this event approaches there will be additional information sent out to the board.

The Foundation was awarded a Rotary Grant for the 2022 Juneteenth program.

**OPERATIONS** Crews continue to work on snow removal operations during these winter months.

Westside Parks staff are working to demolish the old Fairview Pool.

Eastside Parks staff have finished deep cleaning the concession stands at the Amphitheater, Overlook Adventure Park and Splash Cove. They continue snow operations and working to get facilities ready for spring.

Red Tail Run Golf course is still undergoing renovations to the Grille Room and Pro Shop.

There will be a number of bid notices being placed in the coming weeks that have been held off due to supply issues worldwide.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Welcomed Marketing Director, Katie Myers back after her maternity leave. The District is excited to have her back and starting her new position as Marketing Director.

Conversations continue with G&H Marine weekly to move the Marina Expansion project forward.

Staff continue talks with Architectural Expressions on options to address the roof on pavilion #1 at Nelson Park.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Dr. White** Kristin and staff did an excellent job recommending facility fees for 2022. The time put into it is very much appreciated.

**Commissioner Brilley** stated the hiring fair was really put together well. Staff did a great job!

**President Young** thanked staff for their hard work on the hiring fair. There is a need for executive session.

At approximately 12:55 p.m., Commissioner Whitehead made and Commissioner Dr. White seconded a motion to move into executive session. Upon call of roll, all voted aye.

A motion to adjourn executive session and return to open session was made Commissioner Dr. White, seconded by Commissioner Whitehead and unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn the open session was made by Commissioner Dr. White and seconded by Commissioner Whitehead and unanimously approved.

/s/ Stacey Young  
President, Board of Park Commissioners

/s/ Melanie Moore  
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners