

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:01 PM, Don Peasley called to order the Lincoln Park District Board of Commissioners’ monthly business meeting.

ROLL CALL – Commissioners attending were Don Peasley, Laura Duffer and Bob Thomas. Gary Nodine and Dave Perring were absent. Attending from the Park District were Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Jennifer Prather, Jaylee Swinford, and Angie Coombs. None were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING - At 6:02 PM, Don Peasley asked for a motion to open the floor for the public hearing to discuss the next item on the agenda:

“Conduct a public hearing for the issuance of General Obligation Limited Park Bonds for park purposes, to pay outstanding obligations of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto.” Laura Duffer made the motion to begin the public hearing, which was seconded by Bob Thomas, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote. Don read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which had been published in the Courier. Next, Don asked any guests present if there were questions or concerns regarding the sale of the 2021 Series GO Bonds. There were no guests in attendance to comment. Seeing no further discussion, Don requested a motion to close the public hearing and Laura Duffer made the motion, which was seconded by Bob Thomas, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote. Public Hearing was closed at 6:03 PM.

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the August 11,2021 and September 8, 2021, meetings were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested changes. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Thomas seconded the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

VISITORS – NONE

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – The operating expenses were submitted for approval in the following funds:

GENERAL	-	\$	6,997.14
RECREATION	-	\$	6,246.18
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	547.73

Don asked if anyone had any questions about the listed Accounts Payable. With no questions presented, Don requested a motion regarding the list of Accounts Payable. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve Accounts Payable, which was seconded by Bob Thomas, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW REPORT – The following balances were reported as of September 30, 2021.

GENERAL	-	\$	172,364.66
RECREATION	-	\$	(41,184.76)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	-	\$	913,885.67
AUDIT	-	\$	4,245.92
LIABILITY	-	\$	110,034.03
2014 DEBT CERT.	-	\$	5,052.86

Angie stated that she had included, in August’s report, an updated summary of both Real Estate and Personal Property Replacement Tax distributions received in 2021 for the

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Board's review. Angie pointed out that there were no expected Real Estate taxes to be received in October, but the final distribution and interest payment were scheduled for November. Also, Angie pointed out that the PPRT monies received thus far have already exceeded monies received the past two years' totals, and another distribution was expected before the end of 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A slideshow presentation was displayed as she spoke on a few topics:
 - Mud Run held at Memorial Park:
 - Thanks were given to Vern and Tony for all of their hard work building obstacles.
 - Approximately 60 participants; lots of laughter was heard throughout the event.
 - D.A.R.E. Officers brought their grill and cooked hot dogs for participants.
 - 9/11 Memorial Run:
 - Approximately 49 participants
 - Courthouse ceremony was well attended and enjoyed.
 - Thanks were given to Jen, as she helped CIVC set up and organize the run.
 - Lincoln CEO program participants toured the facility:
 - Jaylee and Becky gave a brief presentation to the group.
 - Played a short game as an ice breaker.
 - Spoke to the group about planning and strategizing, as well as flexing to accommodate new requirements and stipulations implemented during COVID-19 mandates.
 - Some members of the group expressed their interest in volunteering with the upcoming Halloween Fun Fest events.
 - One member requested a meeting to discuss a possible collaboration for a winter festival, which may include food trucks.
 - City Parks:
 - Becky, Don, and Angie Attended the City of Lincoln Council meeting on September 14th to discuss the topic.
 - A PowerPoint presentation was used to review strategic plans and show examples of ideas for possible improvements.
 - A brief history of Operational and Control Issues was discussed regarding the 1961 Ordinance that granted control of City parks to LPD since LPD was maintaining them.
 - Liability concerns were discussed as well.
 - Vern pointed out that, for example, a pavilion was built at Ray White with no notification provided to LPD prior to. It was simply discovered after the fact. Angie stated that Walt Landers informed Becky and Don at the end of their presentation that he was coordinating the construction of a pavilion to be installed at Postville Park.
 - Becky continued with a summary of her presentation to the City, focusing on the community impact.
 - Becky informed the Board that the Aldermen did discuss the matter amongst the Council and it was made clear that there is no current plan on the agenda to improve the parks.
 - A minority of the Council shared their displeasure of the possibility of a tax increase.
 - It was pointed out by an Alderman that it cannot be both ways; wanting improvements, but not allowing monies to be raised by levying taxes to fund those improvements.
 - Becky explained the benefits to the community and City if the Park District owned the parks, as it would allow for the possibility of more efficient use of tax funds.

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- Community survey data from the LPD Master Plan development process was displayed and showed the majority opinion in favor of LPD owning the City parks
- Previous concerns were discussed, such as possible tax increases, improvements being contingent upon grant approval, and parks being sold in the future.
 - Becky detailed how near impossible it is for Park Districts to sell land.
 - A new Intergovernmental Agreement between municipalities would be an acceptable next step if both parties could agree on terms within the document.
- Becky stated that she would like to move forward and work together to improve the community.
- Becky informed the Board that one Alderman did contact her to share their support on the efforts to improve the community parks.
 - There is one Alderman that is explicitly against the transition of ownership and stated the main concerns as follows:
 - ◆ Concerns of property taxes being raised; both to fund the improvements and, as a result, the improvements then increasing homeowners' property assessments.
 - ◆ Staffing concerns.
 - ◆ Membership rates and condition of Park district-owned parks.
 - Vern pointed out that LPD has maintained City parks on the current budget and staff; there would be no real change.
 - Becky did state that Aldermen did ask about the City's history of improving the parks and any upcoming plans of improvement, which both past and present was answered with "none".
- There was a small issue regarding a post on FaceBook about the City park topic.
 - Becky received a phone call from the Mayor.
 - Mayor Welch informed LPD that Alderman suggested a retraction of the Park Maintenance Ordinance.
 - Becky stated that FaceBook was not the proper forum to discuss the topic and thanked the Board for not adding any comments to the post.
 - The City could use ARP funds to maintain and improve the parks.
 - Both parties could accept blame on failure to improve the parks previously.
 - Membership rates were brought up again.
 - Creating a Park Committee, comprised of representatives from both municipalities, was suggested.
 - ◆ Bob Thomas and Gary Nodine would represent the Park District.
 - ◆ Rick Hoeffle and another would represent the City.
 - ◆ Laura asked about the purpose of the committee, which Don clarified it to be to work out the terms of an intergovernmental agreement.
 - It has been relayed that the Council was not liking LPD's "all or nothing" option.
 - Becky stated that she had also spoken with Alderman Kevin Bateman on the phone and he suggested a revisit of the 1961 Ordinance.
 - ◆ If the existing Ordinance is deemed insufficient by both parties, perhaps a new agreement could be decided upon.
 - ◆ Collaboration to create an agreement for 1 park; and if that works well, continue to enter into an agreement for another park.
 - It was suggested to contact ALMH to see if the City could deed over the 8th Street property, perhaps a collaboration could exist to improve that site.

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- ◆ If the City still offers 8th Street as a park to focus on first, as previously proposed,
in lieu of LPD mowing Mayfair, Melrose, Ray White, and Postville parks.
- ◆ Vern questioned why 8th Street would be the first.
- ◆ Becky stated that it was the best location for an Improvement Plan.
- ◆ Laura expressed her concern about the City including a “take back” clause within the agreement.
- ◆ Becky suggested requesting an exchange, free and clear, 8th St for all the other parks’ maintenance.
- Bob pointed out that the Fitness Court on the 8th St property needs to be repaired.
 - ◆ Becky stated that ALMH had requested to split the cost of repairs with the City.
 - ◆ The City denied the request.
- A new Fit Zone Desk Attendant has been hired.
- Concession season was extended due to travel teams scheduling late season games.
- Foundation fall fundraiser dance has been postponed until spring.
- Building rental agreements are being updated.
- Court reservations will be using a new software platform.
- Becky is working to improve staff communications via the Crew App.
 - The Fit Zone staff is encouraged to learn more about events and activities.
 - This will help staff answer questions from the public and promote the facility.
- Becky has been reviewing pricing along with the Budget, regarding the facility and pool.
- COVID-19: no change.

OPERATIONS REPORT – VERN HASELEY

- Vern stated that the recent rain has delayed mowing.
- The John Deere tractor will be needing some work done soon.

PROGRAM REPORT – JAYLEE SWINFORD

- Jr. Railer registration started October 1st and we have already received 20 registrations.
- Music Lessons has about 10 participants and lasts 8 weeks.
- Swing Dance class has 4 couples and will be ending soon.
- The Cupcake decorating class filled up quickly and currently has a waiting list.
- The Job Fair had 14 business in attendance a handful of applicants.
- The free Outdoor Movie was the Goonies and had around 50 in attendance.
- The Stargazing event included an interesting presentation, viewing through a telescope and drew between 20 and 25 people.
- Paint Class has recently had 2 events and the most recent had 18 participants.
- Scarecrow Building had 12 participants and some returned from last year’s event.
- Riot Softball requested a meeting with Jaylee and Becky; Rob and Craig attended for Riot. They suggested some improvements, such as a flag for when the National Anthem is played before games. Vern and Tony were able to install a new flagpole prior to their tournament. A 12-team tournament, and a few smaller ones, were scheduled. Another improvement suggested, was more variety in the concessions. It was suggested that there be more meal options than just hot dogs and pretzels. Jaylee stated that chili, mini pizzas, and walking tacos were added. The concession stand sold out of a lot of products the first

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day and profits were estimated around \$700.00. She plans on offering the same menu for the other tournaments scheduled in October.

- The new online reservation system is a calendar format. It went live on Tuesday October 12th. The Riot teams have already been utilizing the system to schedule fields for practice.
- Planning for the Halloween Events is going well. I have been working with Troy on the haunted trail, which will be held in Memorial Park. Also, 12 businesses have registered to participate in the kids' event at the LPD facility.

FITNESS MANAGER'S REPORT – JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group Fitness class attendance for September was 485; still under the mask mandate, but September 2020 was 667.
- With the lower attendance numbers, the minimum class requirement is 3 participants.
- We offered free group classes October 1st-7th and there were a few new participants.
- The Self Care / Foot Massage class was held on September 10th.
- Katie Davis offered a Core/Pelvic Floor class, which had 5 participants.
- I have 4 new Personal Training clients, including a few new members.
- Due to demand, I have added another Active Ager Class. Deidre has helped me call everyone on the waiting list to offer them a spot.
- November will have a new program offered called YoMassage by a new instructor.
- The Grid Iron challenge will take place during the month of November, with teams of 4 competing to earn points by completing workouts and attending classes.
- December will have a program called "Health Yourself", which will be an advent-based self-care program that offers daily tips and coupons.
- Dr. Goldstein, who presented the Health and Wellness seminars, has resigned from Schneider Chiropractic.
- Mania was held October 1st-3rd, and I learned a lot, which I will be sharing with some other instructors.
- I will be sending out some postcards to reach out to members and former members, which are more personable than emails and phone calls.
- An Open House is scheduled for October 16th, and I have received some product donations to be used for prizes and giveaways.
- Spin® for Schools is scheduled for November 6th, which will go towards Chester East's new playground.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. The selection of First Midstate, Inc. as Underwriter/Placement Agent and Chapman and Cutler LLP as Bond/Disclosure Counsel to the Underwriter/Placement Agent with respect to the District's General Obligation Limited Park Bonds. Laura Duffer moved to approve the selection as stated. Bob Thomas seconded the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Capital Improvements:
 1. Rotary Wheelchair Swing.
 - a. Rubber mats were previously delayed, currently in production.
 - b. Bree Construction has not yet been on site to pour the pad and have been unreachable via phone.
 - c. Vern contacted Koehler Construction to see if they were available.

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2. Club Exchange Park: Done.
- C. Aquatic Center:
 - a. Bodine will be in to install the variable speed motors.
 - b. Helm Group has the design plans from Burbach Aquatics.
 - i. They will be down to review the situation.
 - ii. Vern asked if the Board was ok for the pools to be drained at this point, which the Board agreed to.
 - iii. Vern stated that they had been testing multiple ways throughout the season to try and find the source of the leak, but the Helm Group can test via liquid nitrogen.
 - c. Vern would like to install a system to track water being added to the pool.
 - d. Bob asked how old the pool was and about the warranty, to which Vern answered that it was built in 2015 and the warranty has expired.
- D. Parks owned by the City of Lincoln: See Director's report.
- E. COVID:
 - a. Laura asked about the current mask mandate and its enforcement.
 - i. Becky stated that the mandate/policy is posted.
 - ii. However, there have been complaints about the issue from both pro and con sides.
 - b. Becky stated that enforcement is difficult when there is no continuity in the community.
 - i. Becky informed the Board that she did contact IAPD about the issue.
 - ii. By posting the mandate in full public view, the "onus is on the individual".
 - c. Laura asked if the staff were wearing masks and clarified that she has not heard any complaints about them not wearing them. Most complaints are about patrons wearing masks into the building then taking them off.
 - i. Becky verified that staff do wear masks in public and have partitions.
 - ii. Laura then stated that there has been a complaint about group fitness classes being stricter on the policy than other areas of the facility.
 - iii. Becky stated that she offered clear visor-type face masks for instructors as it can be difficult to hear them through a cloth mask.
 - iv. Becky also suggested moving group fitness classes to a larger area so that patrons can spread out more.
 - d. Laura expressed her concern about losing patrons by not enforcing the mandate and Angie stated that some were lost when it took effect because they didn't want to "have to wear a mask while working out."
 - e. Bob inquired if instructors are enforced to wear masks while teaching, to which Jennifer replied that they are and that some instructors asked to be taken off because of that.
 - f. It was decided that the mandate is not a law which can be enforced by Park District staff. However, the Park District must post the requirement, and each individual is responsible for their attentiveness to the mandate.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Selection of First Midstate Inc. as Underwriter/Placement Agent and Chapman and Cutler LLP as Bond/Disclosure Counsel to the Underwriter/Placement Agent with respect to the District's General Obligation Limited Park Bonds: See Unfinished Business.
- B. 2022 Tax Levy:

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1. Angie stated that she and Becky were still going through the process of reviewing the ordinance and had been checking with the County Clerk about caps.
 2. State Law requires both the ordinances be available for public review no less than 30 days prior to any action being taken by the Board to adopt them.
 3. November 8th is the last day to finalize the Ordinances for the 30 day review period.
 4. The Board has agreed to meet at 4:30 PM in October to review and officially present the 2022 Tax Levy and Budget & Appropriation Ordinances for public review.
- C. 2022 Budget & Appropriation: See above.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Laura Duffer moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried. Adjournment: 7:36 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. regarding the 2022 Tax Levy & Budget & Appropriation Ordinances. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.