

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 09, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:00 PM, Don Peasley called to order the Lincoln Park District Board of Commissioners' monthly business meeting.

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

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the February 9th, 2022, meeting was presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested changes. Dave Perring made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

VISITORS – Alex Downing, Lincoln College Intern / Summer Lifeguard

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

GENERAL	-	\$	8,509.42
RECREATION	-	\$	9,360.66
LIABILITY	-	\$	4,504.00
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	2,713.30

Dave Perring made the motion to approve Accounts Payable, which was seconded by Gary Nodine, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW REPORT – The following balances were reported as of February 28, 2022.

GENERAL	-	\$	57,057.63
RECREATION	-	\$	48,342.26
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	-	\$	1,197,374.56
AUDIT	-	\$	5,528.41
LIABILITY	-	\$	123,481.79
2014 DEBT CERT.	-	\$	20,036.57

Angie stated that the Recreation Fund still owes some reimbursements to the General Fund for its portion of payroll, but that funds would be reimbursed as income allowed it to be done. Angie informed the Board that the General Fund balance may need to borrow money from the Capital Improvement fund until the registration income increases the Recreation Fund enough to enable some of those payroll reimbursements. Don asked Angie how much she thought would be sufficient for an interfund loan. Angie stated that \$25,000.00 should be enough. Don then asked for a motion to approve the interfund loan in the amount of \$25,000.00 from Capital Improvement to General, should the Executive Director find it necessary. Gary Nodine made the motion to approve the Interfund Loan, under the criteria previously mentioned. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A slideshow presentation was displayed as she spoke on a few topics:
 - Jr. Railer program had ended.
 - A parent survey was issued; around 25 were returned.
 - 1 survey respondent was chosen randomly to win a pool pass.
 - The survey responses will be used in the fall.
 - Jen stated that she had heard praise from the public about the kids playing during the LCHS half-time shows, even the away team's audience cheered for the kids.
 - Becky stated that she had never been to a LCHS basketball game, was impressed with how the school included the children in their game, and that all the kids enjoyed playing.
 - The facility has been busy with Volleyball, a Kid's Cooking class, the John Welsh Basketball Tournament:
 - The JW Tournament went very well and LPD received quite a few compliments on the facility from those that traveled from other towns.
 - Don asked if the number of teams was up or down from previous years, which Becky replied that they had fewer teams playing this year.
 - Gary stated that he was aware of other towns holding similar tournaments.
 - Open House / Customer Appreciation:
 - The Summer Program is being prepared for disbursement.
 - Community partnerships have been invited to participate. (i.e., Creekside)
 - There will be demos of the Aerobics classes.
 - A few activities will be available for the children.
 - Refreshments will be provided.
 - Earth Day Collaboration with Creekside:
 - Dennis Campbell is excited to work together on more than just Earth Day.
 - Working to include a field trip option for District 27.
 - Bike Rodeo:
 - Collaborating with the Police Department and Lincoln College.
 - There will be an obstacle course.
 - Swing Dance Fundraiser – May 15th – is being discussed.
 - Pool – Started the process of ordering supplies.
 - July 4th Celebration – Scheduled for July 3rd, have touched base with the Band.
 - Registration for the summer ball league programs have begun.
 - Gary and John have been helpful during the process offering advice and tips.
 - Sign-ups will go live this week online.
 - Solar Project – Vern stated that the preliminary paperwork has been signed and is being processed, the actual contract has yet to be signed.
 - City Parks:
 - The City Council had discussed the topic of Ordinance 123 at their previous council meeting, and it resulted in several questions being left unanswered.
 - One key issue that is uncertain, is the matter of the taxes levied under that ordinance.
 - Becky contacted IAPD for advice, and it was reported that the issue of such an ordinance being repealed has no existing precedent.
 - LPD was advised to also seek council from the local legal team, which Becky has a meeting scheduled for that discussion.

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- Angie contacted the Logan County Clerk for assistance in researching the Real Estate Tax Levy line items listed on LPD's levy.
- Angie also looked up levies for surrounding counties to research which tax line items are used by others. (i.e., Springfield and Bloomington)
- Dave stated that he is more concerned about the City's request for "control" of any changes/updates to City owned parks by LPD, even if deeded over to LPD.
- Becky stated that she believes the City Aldermen are understanding the situation more fully, as it was stated that LPD is in a better position to improve and maintain the parks with the existing tax levies.
- Gary stated that he had spoken with Parrott, who seemed to support LPD gaining ownership instead of the City repealing the Ordinance, which would require the City levying taxes to maintain, when LPD can do more with ownership without increasing the existing tax levy.
- Becky stated that she feels LPD cannot continue to wait for the City to decide.
- Focus should be on LPD's parks until the City can decide.
- Lincoln Memorial Hospital has reached out offering to collaborate in developing a park.
 - This collaboration would have few constraints and/or restrictions.
 - Will improve an LPD park that can be considered the "diamond" as was requested by the City before they would (at one point) consider deeding over City owned parks.
 - There is a tight timetable to collaborate with the LMH Foundation, but Angie Stoltzenburg and Becky are working on creating a presentation for their May meeting.
 - Lehn & Fink would be the first of potentially more projects open for collaboration.
 - The Hospital Foundation does require the project to result in significant improvement to the surrounding neighborhood and community.
- Gary asked if the plans would be to make Lehn & Fink a better park by removing the existing diamond, which Becky verified that it would likely be removed.
- Becky provided a slideshow of nearby parks that provided examples of what could be done with Lehn & Fink park through this collaboration; none of which can be found within Lincoln currently.
- Gary asked if all the examples shown were from communities with a higher tax base, which Becky verified that they are.
- Jen stated that she had shared with Becky a park that included a bike training course for children.
- The goals of the collaboration were detailed on a slide, which included items such as being inclusive with community, being an economic driver and providing a location for community engagement.
- Dave asked if people will really come across town to play at this park, which Angie stated that when she babysat, she often drove the kids to other playgrounds for something new for the kids to do. Both Becky and Jen agreed that families often travel to other communities to partake in their free outdoor amenities.
- The collaboration seeks to help LPD and the community battle obesity, mental health issues and substance abuse problems by providing alternative activities.
- The goal is to install inclusive features, with an area for adults and children to interact with each other, where teens will not be seen as intrusive, and those with a handicap/disability can join in the fun.
- A new issue included in the park design research has shown that existing playgrounds have left females lacking in playtime activities, which affects the mental health issue.

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- Gary inquired about the parking being an issue for this area/neighborhood, which Becky stated that she had pointed that issue out to the committee, and it will be included in the park upgrade.
- Regarding the location, it would be a benefit to local tourism, as there is no such park in town, especially on that side of town, and it is located closer to the downtown area.
- Becky informed the Board that since the current diamond would be removed, she would like their consideration for updating one of the diamonds out at Memorial park for public use.
- Becky then presented a slide with the proposed breakdown of financing from both parties.
 - The Hospital Foundation is prepared to dedicate \$250,000.00 each year for 3 years.
 - The Park District would contribute incrementally over the 3-year period; Year 1 \$100,000.00, Year 2 \$150,000.00 Year 3 \$200,000.00 for a total of \$450,000.
 - The total would be \$1,150,000.00 from both parties over the 3-year period.
 - Questions were asked verifying the 3-year term, amounts and 1 location for the project.
 - Don and Dave both stated their concerns on the project should the Foundation back out.
 - Dave stated that he would have liked more time to consider the project.
 - Vern pointed out that there is still more infrastructure work needed to be completed within the main complex grounds.
 - Dave stated that he does not want such an expensive project and long-term commitment to potentially put LPD in a financial bind in the future.
 - Gary asked Angie if she felt that the financial situation would support such a commitment, which Angie stated that the amounts proposed could be supported by the current Budget & Appropriation Ordinance and could easily be factored in the next 2 years' as well.
 - Gary stated that he had some reservations after the facility collaboration between ALMH and the local YMCA, which has yet to be completed.
 - Gary Nodine made the motion to proceed with contracting Design Perspective to create a design plan and official estimate of the desired Lehn & Fink park upgrade project, and that the Board will be contacted with that information to get a consensus, voting via phone once the design fee is more solid. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- Becky stated that she believes the Hospital is looking for projects to improve the City and the amenities provided to improve the health concerns.
- Becky is still waiting to hear back from the High School regarding the diamonds.
- Sportsman software is live, and the staff are busy making necessary adjustments.
- One application for the Maintenance Apprentice position has been received, an interview has been scheduled.
- The wristbands being issued upon entrance has helped with the evening security issue, but the morning regulars are not fans.
 - Dave asked if any tennis or pickle ballers have been caught sneaking in without paying.
 - All staff stated that there have been issues with those patrons as well.

OPERATIONS REPORT – VERN HASELEY

- Vern stated that the new truck delivery has been pushed back until July.
- The Sport Complex HVAC had an issue where the east unit shut off, but the thermostat showed that it was running. Entec will be onsite to troubleshoot the issue. He and Tony isolate the issue to the variable speed drive, which also shut down the Front Office unit.

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- Fertilizer has been ordered for the fields.
- Vern has been busy rolling the grounds.
- The shop has some new LED lights, which has improved visibility greatly.

PROGRAM REPORT – ALISON BAKER

- The morning Pickleball league is done, and the evening league has started.
- Volleyball League finished with a tournament and many requests for a summer league.
- Summer ball league registration opened Monday, March 7th, and is going well with several registrations via both the internet and in office. The coaches' meeting has been scheduled and a skills assessment will be held. The Tremont meeting is April 10th. Gary asked if the HS baseball team would be helping with the skills assessment, which Allison verified that they would be.
- The Kid's Cooking class was well attended. Each participant received a personalized apron and child-safe knife. Offering a class quarterly and possibly adjusting the age range has been discussed, but not yet decided.
- Music lessons with Lincoln College has 5 participants.
- The Babysitting class was held on President's Day, when the kids were out of school. The class filled up quickly and had a lot of positive feedback from both the instructor and the participants.
- A paint night with Jody is scheduled for March 10th, and we have already started discussing possible future dates.
- The Job Fair was February 28th, and we have already received 25 applications for concession stand workers. Moriah will be managing the concession stands and will be coordinating everything with Allison's help. The first tournament is scheduled for the end of March.
- Sportsman is up and running and Allison has been working on double checking the memberships to make sure the data was transferred correctly.

FITNESS MANAGER'S REPORT – JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group Fitness class attendance for February was 591, which is good for having been closed due to weather for a few days.
- Virtual Memberships have a Squat and Wellness Challenge in March, which was created by the new instructor, Kelsey.
- The Race Day ride lasted 90 minutes, and approximately 29 miles. There were 4 participants, and they requested more dates for race rides.
- Instructors taught live online when the facility was closed for snow days.
- Spin® Certification is scheduled for March 26th, and Ashleigh will be getting recertified.
- Sunday's Spring into Action had 24 Participants in the private Facebook page and a full room for Sunday's in-house activity.
- February's Health & Wellness meeting only had 1 participant, but the ALMH Physical Therapist did speak with Jennifer after the presentation to discuss exercises for seniors. Which Jennifer feels helps to strengthen the partnership, and the PT plans to return in May. April's event will feature Katie Davis, who will speak about Core exercises.
- Jennifer is working on scheduling classes for the upcoming Open House.

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AQUATIC CENTER – JENNIFER PRATHER

- Lincoln Land Communication finished installing the new sound system, and it sounds so much better out on the deck.
- Opening day is scheduled for May 30th, since it is always cold on Memorial Day weekend, and this will allow a few extra days to train and certify guards.
- The open house will be the first day the public can register for swim lessons, purchase pool passes and schedule pool parties.
- The possibility of offering pool parties during regular swim on certain days is being discussed.
- Many applications were handed out to people interested in lifeguarding and pool admission positions during the job fair.

ALEX DOWNING – INTERN

- His internship started in January and since then he has been able to design programs and challenges, such as the Gridiron challenge.
- He has helped Jennifer prepare for the pool opening by revising the manuals, emergency plan, and restocked the first aid supplies.
- In preparation for the job fair, he emailed the schools, which provided experience communicating in a more professional manner. He also visited businesses to hand out fliers advertising for their participation in the event.
- Since he is currently taking classes to help prescribe exercise regimens, Jennifer helped him contact clients to practice with. Together, they were able to work with 3 participants, 1 of which was new and unexperienced with an exercise regimen.
- He was able to work with Carroll Catholic School's track team to improve their conditioning, which consisted of 8 kids visiting weekly. The coach even stopped in and provided positive feedback.
- At the end of his internship, Alex feels that he feels more comfortable working with people and can present himself more professionally.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Capital Improvements:

1. Complex / Aerobic Room HVAC System: Running normally.
 2. Roof / Solar Project:
 - a. The on-site survey was conducted, and the proposed installation was considered and compared to the site's capabilities of housing such a solar array.
 - b. The roof is the preferred location, which would use a bracket system that the panels would clip to, avoiding drilling into the roof itself.
 - c. The array would be closer to the meter, be smaller, but still meet the needs.
 - d. The company has worked with Garland Roofing before, and the installation would not negate the roof warranty. Ryan is willing to address the board to discuss any concerns.
 - e. Gary asked about the advantages vs disadvantages, which Vern stated that it would be installed at the correct angle.
 - f. Gary expressed his concern that if there is a leak, there will be an issue with both parties pointing the finger at each other before the matter can be resolved.
 - g. Gary requested more time to review the solar farm contract details.
- B. Aquatic Center:

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- a. Vern and Tony have been working to rebuild some valves.
- b. A new motor has been ordered, as we currently do not have a spare on hand.
- c. Bodine will be coming next week.
- d. A motor was pulled out to inspect the impeller, which is already eroding a little.
 - 1) Vern and Tony predict that it will only last 1 more year.
 - 2) The Board will need to decide to order more, cast iron or brass, or research more options and/or possibilities.
- e. Gary asked if this was due to a cavitation issue, which Vern verified that it was.
 - 1) Dave asked why there were new motors being installed.
 - 2) Vern stated that the new variable speed motors are to help with the cavitation issue.
- f. Tony and Vern both agreed that the deck needs better lighting.
 - 1) The current lighting is "old school" and can be upgraded for better visibility.
 - 2) The Board just needs to decide if they want to install better pole lights or the kind that wash down the walls.
 - 3) Angie reminded the Board that the pool is unable to be used if the guards cannot see to the bottom of the deepest sections.
 - 4) Vern stated his concern for safety and security, that it should be better lit at night.
- C. Parks owned by the City of Lincoln:
 - a. Dave suggested waiting to hear more from the City after their council meetings.
 - b. Becky stated that she had spoken with Tracy, and he did confirm the council's desire to retain control of any upgrades or developments done to their parks.
 - c. Becky informed the Board that Alderman Downs had contacted her after the most recent council meeting requesting another joint committee meeting, but Becky expressed her desire to wait until after she had a chance to discuss the matter with the Board.
 - d. Becky did state that during the council meeting, it was said that a co-ownership of the parks had been offered, but the LPD had turned it down, which she did not remember having heard that offer previously and fears that it might complicate the discussion.
 - e. Dave inquired about a possible timeframe for the City to make an official decision and if they had taken into consideration the cost of fuel and equipment.
 - f. Becky stated that the City is unable to procure the necessary equipment due COVID, but they still want control, even though the current ordinance decrees that the control was relinquished to the Park District with the taxes. Their desire to revoke the ordinance to maintain control, and possibly the taxes, raises several concerns.
 - g. Becky stated that the public should be included in the decision on what amenities could be installed, a suggestion which Tod Stanton, of Design Perspectives, supported in a previous discussion on the topic.
 - h. Dave also stated his concerns with the City's possible desire to revoke the tax via repealing the ordinance.
 - i. Becky and Angie stated that they were attempting to verify which tax within the LPD levy that was contingent upon the ordinance being passed previously. Angie informed the Board that the Park District Code book stated that there needed to be a justification for levying such a tax by referendum.
 - j. Becky explained that the City would need to take on a new expense to maintain the parks themselves, which would require levying a tax. Treasurer Conzo did state that the current and upcoming fiscal year's tax levy has already been filed.

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- k. Becky asked the Board if everyone was on the same page regarding the co-ownership that the City had mentioned during their last meeting, which the present Commissioners all agreed that they did not favor that option.
 - l. Becky also informed the Board that during the Council meeting, one Alderman stated that an Alderman should be installed within the LPD Board. Thankfully, Treasurer Conzo pointed out that the LPD Board is elected as is the City Council.
 - m. Dave stated that he feels that Becky knows where the Board stands on the issue, and Becky even stated that Bob had come to speak to her, knowing that he would miss this meeting.
- D. COVID: No News.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Dave Perring made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss an employee matter, which was seconded by Gary Nodine, and passed unanimously. The Board entered into closed session at 7:43 pm and exited at 8:05pm with no matter requiring a vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Gary Nodine moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Perring moved to second the motion. The motion carried. Adjournment: 8:07 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.