

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:09 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, and Laura Duffer. Bob Thomas was 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 May 11th, 2022, meeting was presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested changes. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

VISITORS –

Brad & Benita Fanale addressed the Board first, with Mrs. Fanale speaking on the matter she wished to discuss. When the couple first moved to the area a few years ago and used the facility, the atmosphere felt cliquish and uncomfortable. After a few years, with encouragement from friends, they tried again and met Jennifer who gave them a tour. Since then, they have had a membership the past 2 years, as the gym vibe was amenable. Mrs. Fanale wished to discuss her experience with staff when she renewed her membership a few days before. Don Peasley asked that the rest of the discussion be paused until the Board could enter executive session, as it dealt with an employee matter. Katy & Victoria Parrott were present. Mrs. Parrott stated that she was there on behalf of her daughter, Elizabeth, who was unable to attend due to work. Mrs. Parrott read a letter from Elizabeth which explained that she was a head guard at the park district pool and had a few grievances to discuss. Don Peasley asked the next guest, Jack Soloman, the topic that he wished to discuss with the Board, and Jack stated that he was an employee who wanted to discuss a complaint. Don then asked that the discussion be paused, and that the Board enter executive session to discuss the matter.

At 6:13 PM, Don Peasley requested guests and staff exit the board room, except for the Parrotts, as they were in the middle of their presentation to the Board about another employee related matter. Don Peasley explained that the other guests would be called in one at a time. After the Parrotts finished, Mr. & Mrs. Fanale were asked to continue the previously paused discussion. Once the Fanales completed their discussion, Jack Soloman was invited to discuss his matter in executive session, as he was an employee. The Board exited executive session at 6:40 PM.

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

GENERAL	-	\$	6,858.90
RECREATION	-	\$	10,213.33
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	180,509.22
LIABILITY	-	\$	4,484.00
2014 DEBT CERT	-	\$	14,981.25

Don inquired about the payment made to Woods & Bates, which Angie explained was for the research regarding the City’s desire to abolish Ordinance #123 and all that it might

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

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

CASH FLOW REPORT – The following balances were reported as of May 31, 2022.

GENERAL	-	\$	54,033.47
RECREATION	-	\$	54,610.72
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	-	\$	1,173,567.45
AUDIT	-	\$	5,528.54
LIABILITY	-	\$	119,316.90
2014 DEBT CERT.	-	\$	20,036.90

Angie stated that the PPRF funds received has helped. The previously approved inter-fund loan was not needed as the tax money was sufficient to cover overhead expenses.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A slideshow presentation was displayed as she spoke on a few topics:
 - Becky began by updating the Board on the Logan County Board’s ice rink proposal.
 - The Logan County Board approved the purchase of the rink, the installation of the required concrete pad, and shed.
 - Laura inquired as to which side of the park it was to be installed, which was verified to be on the McLean Street side.
 - Laura requested a quick synopsis of what was discussed on the matter.
 - Becky stated that the Logan County Board requested LPD assistance via online registration, utilizing the new software, and staff for 6-8 weeks in the winter.
 - Becky explained that there would be an intergovernmental agreement in place, which would cover issues such as liability coverage and terms on fees and funds received.
 - Becky informed Laura that the concrete pad would be utilized as an outdoor pickle ball court the rest of the year.
 - Don stated that the Logan County Board also approved hiring grounds/maintenance staff at their previous meeting.
 - City Parks:
 - Becky stated that there had been another committee meeting where she, Gary and Bob met with the Mayor and Aldermen Downs & Hoefle to discuss the parks.
 - Becky stated that she felt both groups arrived with different ideas on what was to be discussed.
 - Becky explained that LPD questioned the City’s intent and shared their interest in creating a partnership to better serve the community.
 - Currently, the City Council has expressed interest in partnering with LPD and discussing the possibility of transferring the parks to LPD.
 - It was expressed that the initial denial from the City to transfer the parks to LPD was a “knee-jerk reaction”.
 - Becky stated that she felt the City may be willing to discuss how LPD is better suited to care for and own the parks, so that the City can focus their efforts on other matters.
 - Becky explained to the committee that LPD wishes to focus the conversation on clarifying the maintenance aspects of the City’s parks since a determination was made to focus on improving LPD parks.

LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022

- Gary stated that he thinks the City is ready to push forward, acknowledging the advantage to both entities to transfer the properties, and the ability to build a better intergovernmental agreement between them.
- Dave expressed his concern on the Council's previous focus on the matter of retaining control of the parks.
 - Becky stated that the new intergovernmental agreement would detail and answer any remaining questions about the required maintenance.
 - Laura stated her opinion that the Council does not understand what it takes to monitor and maintain all the parks owned by the City.
 - Gary pointed out that LPD should not have to pay to have trees removed in City parks if the City has the means and ability to do so with their current staff/resources.
- Becky stated that she feels there is a better chance of the two entities working together.
- Gary reminded the Board that Vern has a good relationship with the City's Streets Department Head, but that a written agreement needs to be in place as either may leave at any time in the future.
- Becky updated the Board about recent events.
 - The next City event, 3rd Fridays, was coming up the following week, but the first one went well despite a few setbacks from the weather.
 - July 3rd and 4th will have festivities for the public; planning is underway.
- The roof project is in progress, but there have been some rain delays.
- The Lehn & Fink proposal went over well at the LMH Foundation meeting.
 - Becky was informed that the Board seemed favorable to the presentation.
 - The LMH Foundation will be voting on the matter in August.
 - Dave inquired if the project would be affected if the City transferred the parks to LPD, but Becky did not think the project would be jeopardized, but it may offer more possibilities for future collaborations with LMH Foundation grants.
 - Becky informed the Board that Phil Martin, of Margin Engineering Company, was contracted to perform the topographic studies, and that a title search had been performed as part of the preliminary work.
 - A private location of utilities will be the next step.
- Becky informed the Board that she wanted to discuss the driving range.
 - After ordering around 3,000 balls within the last year, and the fact that they keep disappearing, Becky has come to the determination that it is an area where LPD will keep sinking money.
 - Don and Laura both asked about the current system.
 - It was explained that the baskets of balls are purchased at the Fit Zone Desk, and a deposit is left to be refunded when the empty basket is returned.
 - Children at the ball fields can turn in 10 balls to the concession stands or Fit Zone staff to receive a free popsicle, which is an attempt to keep them from being taken home.
 - Becky stated that \$1,000 was spent on 1,500 balls in 2021, and almost another \$1,000 more recently.
 - Angie stated that LPD can stop selling baskets and leave the range to one where you bring and shag your own, then the only fee would be mowing.
 - Don stated that Atlanta charges \$6.00 for a small basket and \$10.00 for a large, but LPD only charges \$5.00 for the one size, which is a large in other places.
 - The consensus was that the matter would be discussed when the current stash of range balls has diminished to the point where action needs to be taken.

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

- The fate of Lincoln College's Creekside land is still an unknown matter.
 - Becky stated that she has attempted to touch base regarding the issue.
 - Dave expressed his concern that the acreage in question is at risk of overflow from the creek and the surrounding timberland.
 - Gary stated that he believed the property would be better suited if another organization took over the care and maintenance.
 - Gary Nodine made the motion to contact the entity overseeing the dissolution of Lincoln College to notify the Park District's decision be removed from any list of organizations and/or entities interested in taking over the maintenance and control of Creekside. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, which then passed after an unanimous, roll-call vote.
- Balloons over 66 Glow:
 - The event is scheduled for August 27th, and last year there was a problem with traffic.
 - Don asked that there be a stipulation to using LPD grounds for the Glow; that the organization request traffic control assistance from the local police.
 - Becky stated that she could also contact the High School next door to see about coordinating some of the overflow.
 - Gary and Don stated their opinion that the Balloons over 66 committee should be responsible for staffing the traffic control.
 - Whether or not the group would be providing a certificate of liability for the participating pilots was also asked.
- Community Survey:
 - So far, 300 responses have been received and are still being reviewed.
 - One question did prompt a phone call from a City Council Alderman, which was pertaining to the Community's desire/wish for the future of the 8th street property.
 - One submission from June will be selected, and the family will receive a family pool pass for the season.
 - There will be a drawing for a prize after each 3rd Friday event, where most people learn about the survey.
- Staff pool party:
 - Scheduled for June 12th, for all staff and their families.
 - A potluck dinner is also planned for the evening.

OPERATIONS REPORT – VERN HASELEY

- Vern stated that this has been the worst weather in a while, it has been hard to keep up with the mowing.
 - Memorial Park grass has gotten so tall that it will need to be collected as they mow to keep it from bogging down the decks.
- Gary asked about the trees out at Memorial Park, and Vern stated that they look good.
- The tractor is down due to the tall grass, and a bearing went out on another mower.

PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER

- Summer programs are going well so far:
 - Art camp had 20 kids in the first session, and 12 in the second.
 - The Tie Dye party is scheduled for next week.
 - A few more camps and clinics will be held next month.
- The Adult Kickball League was moved back a week due to late registrations; there are 4

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

teams total this year.

- Women's Softball only had 3 teams and decided to organize their own league. It worked out for them to rent the field and schedule the games for their 5-week season. Laura asked if it was more like a pick-up league, which Allison stated that it was and that the participating teams are happy to play.
- CoEd Softball had no registrations, but it may be offered again later in the fall when families are less busy with the children's activities.
- Rec League Baseball and Softball is moving along. Vern asked if it might be possible to improve communication when games get canceled. Allison explained that changes had been made to the schedule by other teams due to not having enough players. Gary inquired if Riot was part of a national league, which Dave stated that it is not, but the local teams have played others that are part of one. Gary pointed out that, at the national league level, the tournaments need to be sanctioned. Allison did state that the umpires were doing well this year.
- Concessions is a work in progress. Allison has been working with Megan to organize the schedule so that the workload is balanced among the staff. Megan has been working on ordering inventory and trying to bring in new products, such as Starbucks.
- The new slushie machine is up and running as of today, and there will be a flavor of the week offered throughout the summer.
- Sportsman has had a few minor issues with getting the card reader to work at the pool admission desk, but Allison has been working on fixing that problem.

FITNESS MANAGER'S REPORT – JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group Fitness class attendance for May was 596, and there was one week off.
- Virtual Memberships have a body-weight challenge designed by Kelsey for June.
- The Health & Wellness events are going well, and June's topic of discussion was sleep.
- Both Jen and Cody have had a steady amount of Personal Training Clients; Jen currently has 3 (2 of which are new) and Cody has 2 current clients.
- The last Balloons Over 66 meeting went well. The Tourism Bureau is expecting higher numbers this year, which means an increase in revenue for the town. Jen is anticipating some funds from the Tourism Bureau for the 5K race.
- The new program, Max 360, was canceled, but the few interested participants became the new PT clients instead.
- Active Agers will have a picnic in June and are to bring in some baby pictures for their theme of "Remember When".
- The first week of July will offer free group fitness classes to the public.
- Zumba® kids will be held in July.

AQUATIC CENTER – JENNIFER PRATHER

- Lifeguard certifications were held May 21st and 22nd, and we have 21 guards this year.
- The new sound system has had a few hiccups, but the equipment is still under warranty and is out for repairs. Lincoln Land Communications has provided us with a temporary unit. The problem was discovered the day before opening day.
- Family fun days are scheduled, June's theme is luau, and donations will go to the local food pantries.
- Jen has been trying to take photos of patrons using the Aquatic Center and posts a new one daily. Angie asked if photo release waivers are being signed, which Jennifer stated that she does ask for verbal permission. Angie suggested perhaps getting paper copy in

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

case another parent/guardian has an issue with their child/children's photos being posted online.

- The guard schedule for June and July is finished.
- Swim lessons will start in June and there are already 12 interested in private lessons.
- Jr. Lifeguard program starts Monday. Don inquired about the number of participants, and Jen answered that there are 2 registered.
- Family Swim is held every other Tuesday night, alternating with Adult Swimming, and the first evening had 27 attendees. Laura stated that she had not seen any advertising for the special swim time, which Jen admitted that she did not advertise it as early as she had planned but would make sure future events would be well advertised.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A complaint about garbage out at Memorial Park had been received.
- There have also been a few complaints about patrons smoking close to the doors, even though there is signage displaying the state laws requiring smokers to keep 15 feet away from public entrances. Jennifer stated that she believes the bench being so close to the entrance is part of the problem as people want to sit while they smoke. Don asked that the bench be moved. Also discussed was the proximity of the ashtray to the entrance, which Jennifer informed the Board that at least once a year a lit cigarette starts a fire in the ashtray. Gary asked if state law requires that LPD provide ashtrays outside. Don stated that if the ashtrays are not required, then they should be removed if they cannot be positioned according to federal regulations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Capital Improvements:

1. Roof Project:

- a. Vern stated that the company cannot find the same materials to patch holes left from removing the old vents and requested that the company be allowed to cap the holes, which the Board was fine with.
- b. The first side is almost done, but the amount of recent rain has caused delays.

2. Solar Project: On hold until the roof project is complete.

B. Aquatic Center:

1. Vern stated the leak is still somewhere in the splash pad/wading pool.

- a. Gary asked how there can be a leak and not see water loss in the pool.
- b. Vern stated that there are pumps that keep recirculating the water leaking back into the pool from the pits under the vessels.
- c. Vern thinks that the leak is in the gutter system, which was not previously tested.
- d. Gary questioned Vern's belief of the leak location, to which Vern stated that he had concluded after a process of elimination.

2. Vern informed the Board that the pump for the sand filters will need to be replaced.

- a. They are currently waiting on parts for the current jet pump, and he would like permission to begin pricing a new unit.
- b. Gary asked if the jet pump was a custom pump, to which Vern answered it is not.
- c. Vern explained that small plastic pieces were found during the spring backwash process, which means that the equipment is beginning to break down.
- d. Halogen, a supply company, was contacted and there are no replacement parts available, which means that new sand filters may also be needed in the future.

C. Parks owned by the City of Lincoln:

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 08, 2022**

- a. Don requested clarification on Mayfair park, which was verified as a City-owned park, as he had received a few comments on the “planted beds”.
 - b. Becky asked Gary if he remembered the discussion about Mayfair park during the last committee meeting, which he stated that Alderman Hoeffle said something about a church group that had worked on the planted beds within the park.
- D. COVID: No News.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Vern explained to the Board that the two front-end mowers are 2008 models and will need to be replaced soon.
 - 1. There have been cracks found on the decks each time the blades are changed and/or sharpened and have been severe enough to need welded back together.
 - 2. Vern stated that he is mentioning the issue now, as the lead time on purchasing some types of equipment is longer due to supply and demand.
 - 3. The length of the lease on the John Deere tractor was questioned, which Vern verified that it was a 5-year lease.
 - 4. Laura inquired about any price difference between leasing and outright purchases, which was verified as typically only a slight finance charge.
- B. Angie stated that she had accidentally omitted the annual renewal to IPARKS for liability insurance from the Accounts Payable, in the amount of \$62,314.00.
 - 1. Angie requested the Board’s approval to pay the invoice.
 - 2. Dave Perring made the motion to approve payment of the IPARKS annual renewal dues in the amount of \$62,314.00. Laura Duffer moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:55 PM, Laura Duffer made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss employee matters, which was seconded by Dave Perring and then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote. At 9:03 PM, the Board exited Executive Session. Laura Duffer made the motion to keep the minutes of the previous Executive Sessions held during the previous 6 months sealed. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Dave Perring moved to adjourn the meeting, Gary Nodine moved to second the motion. The motion carried. Adjournment: 9:05 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 08, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.