

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2024**

**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, Dave Perring, Gary Nodine, Bob Thomas, and Laura Duffer. None 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 March 13, 2024, meeting were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Thomas moved to second 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:

<b>GENERAL</b>	-	\$	<b>1,693.13</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>	-	\$	<b>5,132.13</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMP.</b>	-	\$	<b>26,108.28</b>

Don asked if there were any questions about expenses listed in the report. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented, which was seconded by Gary Nodine, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

**CASH FLOW** –

Angie noted the receipt of the third PPRT payment the day before, and she had included a report in the Board Packet. She reminded the Board that the State had sent advanced notice that this year’s totals would be less due to a reconfiguration of the disbursement. The total is currently \$38,000 less than the same time last year, however, last year was a record year.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT**

- Becky informed the Board that the previous month had been busy planning, coordinating, and promoting the Park District and its many projects and programs.
  - Becky and Kyle’s new High FUNctional Fitness Course began in early April. Don inquired about the number of participants, which Becky verified that the program has 5 registered.
  - Becky was joined by Allison and Jennifer on the local radio station’s Cheap Seats and Viewpoint programs to discuss the Park District.
  - A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- City Parks / Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Lincoln:
- Becky informed the Board it was discussed at the City Council’s C.O.W. meeting, where they decided to draft a resolution of adoption for the next regular council meeting.
  - Dave questioned if there were any changes requested and Becky stated that it was hard to hear the conversation on the streamed video.

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 10, 2024**

- Becky also stated that they did request a complete list of parks and their addresses, along with which entity owned each.
- Becky stated that Wes Woodhall had sent an email providing a list of the addresses that would be the official record for each park/parcel.
- Becky reported that Walt Landers did state on record that the agreement was merely formalizing previous discussions and agreements.
- North Parking Lot Project:
  - Becky and Vern met with Farnsworth staff to discuss the results of the survey.
  - As expected, the drainage is the biggest concern for the design.
  - Vern shared his ideas of how to handle the water and which might be the best routes.
- Ballroom Remodel:
  - Becky stated that a meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> with Farnsworth and Givisco to discuss some of the details of the project.
  - An example would be the electrical outlet in the middle of the floor, which was not included in the original plan and needs to be discussed.
- Solar Installation:
  - Vern followed up with the installers and was told that a part or piece of equipment had a 6-week lead time, which pushes back the process until June.
  - Dave questioned if LPD would get any discounts or refunds for missed savings, which Becky stated that she doubted it would be offered.
  - Becky informed the Board that she had met with Adam Schmidt, of Homefield Energy, to discuss LPD energy contract.
    - Becky reminded the Board that Adam was the representative that John spoke with for the current energy contract.
    - Becky noted that, per Angie's Board meeting minutes, the Solar representative stated that the contract was beneficial for LPD.
    - The current contract ends in February, but Adam wanted to meet earlier to lock in rates, as they can be affected by election years.
    - There will be a slight adjustment for the solar, but the solar project does not affect LPD's eligibility for a new contract.
- Boundary Issues:
  - Becky informed the McFadden family about the Board's suggestion to take the issue up with the realtor/bank/previous homeowner, and they thanked them for that advice.
    - Dave asked Becky if the homeowners know that LPD is not pressuring them to complete the work within a set timetable.
    - Becky stated that she did relay that information, that the Board feels that they had been slighted and did not wish for them to feel penalized.
  - Becky did speak with Conner Foster, the surveyor, about the matter and he did not feel that it would be worth it for them to try and complain against the realtor/bank/previous owner.
    - The matter of the pins was discussed, and efforts will be made to clearly mark the pins for future reference.
    - The pins will not be moved from their current positions.
- Landscaping the Fit Zone Entrance/Parking Lot Islands:
  - Becky spoke with Jason Mauhar, of By Design Landscaping, and he will coordinate with Vern on obtaining the rock for the project and islands.
  - Jason did state that it was a busy season for them, but the project will hopefully be scheduled prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2024**

- Website:
  - Prynt Digital is in the process of developing a draft for review.
  - A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss the staff's review of the draft.
- Park Improvements:
  - Becky has a meeting with NuToys to discuss the upcoming installation at Exchange Club Park and second phase of Lehn & Fink Park.
  - Memorial Park Road Project:
    - Becky and Vern have been brainstorming other options to contract with on the design besides Farnsworth.
    - There is no ill will towards Farnsworth, but the purpose would be to make sure that LPD is taking steps to make projects available for companies to submit bids, allow LPD to seek competitive bids, and possibly open the project to more design options.
- Sports Center Equipment Replacement:
  - Becky met with the Executive Director from Pontiac, who had expressed interest in possibly purchasing some of LPD's equipment that is scheduled to be replaced.
  - Unfortunately, he was looking for items more like what is in the weight room side of the facility, not the cardio/circuit equipment.
- Youth programs:
  - Becky informed the Board that there was quite an uptick in youth age attendance during spring break and the following bad weather; some days have been extremely busy and there have been a few complaints from those that come to walk.
  - Becky has been working on protocol to handle behavior that does not comply with the posted code of conduct for the facility.
    - She has even had a conversation with the Chief of Police on the matter, who recommended a longer period for the proposed banishment.
    - Dave inquired about signage stating the code of conduct, which Becky verified that it is posted at both entrances.
    - Becky did cite the fact that some staff are relatively new, and it would not hurt the others to have a refresher on the policies and procedures related to behavior issues.
  - Becky has spoken with staff and the idea of keeping them at the tables with drinks and food is a problem, as the patrons of the Cardio and Weight area complain of their noise level.
  - Laura stated that she is happy that kids have a place to go and not be running around town with no supervision at all.
    - Becky agreed and added that there are kids looking for a safe place to go to be constructive and spend time with friends.
    - Becky explained that she had recently visited the Vault in Clinton and discussed their programs and facility operation, which is very successful for that community.
    - Pat Hake has been included in the discussion on the matter, as he is working on the matter related to students attending high school.
    - It may be possible to offer a program, with the high school students volunteering, to extend the age range to include jr. high school students.
    - Gary pointed out that the Vault is designated as a student "hang out", but the Sports Complex is an athletic facility, and a different location might be a better fit.

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2024**

**OPERATIONS REPORT – VERN HASELEY**

- Mowing has begun.
- John Andrews is volunteering his time to help get the ball fields ready until the summer crew starts in May.
- The top dresser has been delivered.
- The grassy area in the pool had noticeably sunk around 3 inches next to the sidewalk, which is a trip hazard. They added dirt last fall for a quick fix, but they dug the area up a few weeks ago to repair the water line and reseeded the area. Unfortunately, people lay down on the grass and it kills it in places. Laura asked if turf would be an option, but Vern stated that it would be too hot and require shade. Angie mentioned that it would need to be dug up should the waterline need future repairs. Becky did state that the day care centers tend to congregate their kids in the grassy area every year. Also, Becky said that when discussing design options last year, Tod Stanton mentioned a turf product that was designed to dissipate heat better than the usual turf.

**PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER**

- The flashlight Easter Egg hunt had a good turn out for its first year. Next year, she may delay the start by about 30 minutes as it was still a little lighter out than anticipated.
- The Easter Egg hunt even in the parks resulted in some broken eggs. The public feedback was mainly positive other than the mention of broken eggs. Families went out early, even in the rain, to search for eggs. Exchange Club Park was the first to have all the eggs turned in. Laura suggested expanding the event next year.
- Dance Lessons started in April, with 4 couples and 1 individual.
- The Land of Lincoln Swing Group meets every Tuesday and has 6-8 couples weekly.
- Registration for summer programs is now open. Allison was able to find an Art Teacher for Art Camp since Jody is unavailable this summer. Chrissy Hoffert is an experienced art teacher and will be teaching the camps the first full week of June.
- Registration for Baseball, Softball, and Tee ball has closed. We have 170 kids registered to play this summer; enough to have 5 Tee ball teams, 2 each 8U, 10U & 12U Boys and a team of 8U & 10U girls' teams. The teams are full! The coaches had their meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>, for all ages, and Allison will be attending the scheduling meeting this Sunday.
- The Concession staff have been hired and some will be helping Val with special events. Bella will not be working as much at the stands as she will oversee scheduling and ordering stock. She will be in next week to help clean the stands and learn the process of stocking them with inventory. The goal is to open the stands in early May.

**FITNESS MANAGER'S REPORT – JENNIFER PRATHER**

- Group Fitness class attendance in March was 1,005, with the first week free (237) and there were at least 7 new faces in classes.
- The Health & Wellness event had 5 in attendance, and next month will feature Physical Therapy from LMH.
- Allison and Jennifer met with 9 people at the most recent Meet and Mingle, and water fitness was a popular topic of discussion, as the Aquatic Center brochures were made available.
- Spring into Action was taught by both Amanda and Jennifer last month.

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2024**

- The annual 5K race is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> and some sponsor donations have already been received.
- Spring into Action started in March with Amanda and Jennifer as the instructors.
- Jennifer has blocked out the Group Fitness Schedule for the last week of May to allow the instructors to have time to recoup before the summer schedule begins.
- The Open House was successful! Most of the weekend pool parties have been booked. The public registered for 21 swim lessons, 10 private lessons and 13 pool parties just that morning, and the registration was made available online that afternoon.
- Parent/Child swim lessons were popular last year, and so Jennifer decided to split the program into 2 sessions, 1 session per month, in June and July.
- The lifeguards and pool attendants have all been hired. The first round of guard training has been completed, with the second round scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Jennifer explained to the Board that she had relayed the decision to uphold the original terms of the deck chairs' refurbishment and added that she expects the chairs to be delivered in early May.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Becky notified the Board of an email complaint, which she forwarded to the City, regarding public urination at Ray White Park. This is another reason why Becky had asked Angie about seeing if the budget would allow port-a-pots at the other parks or working it into next year's.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Capital Improvements:

1. Club Exchange Park Improvement Project / OSLAD Grant: In progress.
2. Ballroom Remodel/Cold Storage Project: In progress.
3. Solar Project: See Executive Director's Report.

B. Aquatic Center: See Operation Supervisor's Report.

C. City Parks: See Executive Director's Report.

D. Boundary Issues: See Executive Director's Report.

E. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: None currently.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Memorial Park Road: See Executive Director's Report.

B. Youth Programming: See Executive Director's Report.

**Continued Executive Session: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Seeing no further business, Laura Duffer moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Perring moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 6:36 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.