

REGULAR MEETING
BERKELEY PARK DISTRICT
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the commissioners of the Berkeley Park District was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at Berkeley Park District's Lind Park building. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll call Commissioners present: J.Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe and T. Larem
Others present: Attorney Stephanie Posey, Park District Director P. Graham, Treasurer A. Schenone, Secretary, A. Hord, and four Berkeley residents.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Budget and Appropriation Hearing of March 2, 2022 by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Larem.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 2, 2022 by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Larem.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 9, 2022 by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Larem.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts for the month of March were \$84,232.48

A motion was made to approve payroll for March in the amount of \$440.63 by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.

Disbursements for the month of March were \$33,350.86. A motion was made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Larem to approve the disbursements.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, T. Larem, and K. Lowe. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Council Report:

Report of Commissioners: reminded the Commissioners they need to file their Statement of Economic Interest, by May 1, 2022. She also reported that the Budget and Appropriation was file with the county.

Report of Commissioners:

- A.) Commissioner Traina : No Report
- B.) Commissioner Larem: asked if the fitness class started and that the attendance needs to be watched to see if well attended. The children's music classes have 4 total registered, and a brief discussion took place about combining the classes. For the summer session, the class will be held outdoors weather permitting, and possibly be free to Berkeley residents.
- C.) Commissioner Smith: met with Mayor Lee Sports Services regarding the tennis courts and reassessed the blue court. The cost of repairs would be \$19,900.00 for both courts. To reset the

posts would be \$4950.00 for cement work. Commissioner Ditchfield is concerned the village is pushing for progress to be made and will be bidding on the concrete work.

- D.) Commissioner Ditchfield: discussed that he had spoken with Mark Flores from Memorial Park District of job description for hiring new employees, and regarding the possibility of recruiting some of their part time employees to help with some programs at Berkeley Park District. They have 12 full time and 63 part time employees. They will be meeting on Friday, and discuss their maintenance program and possibility of partnering the two park districts.
- E.) Commissioner Lowe: No report.

Directors Report: no report

IT Report: Commissioner Ditchfield reported for IT Specialist Michelle Meyer: Registration online in February had 124 visits, and March had 234 visits. There are 13 programs offered for Spring. Michelle spoke with Go Daddy regarding obtaining new email addresses for each commissioner, the director, attorney and secretary. The cost of the new name, berkeleyparkdistrict.com would be \$9.99 and ,each new email would be \$1.99 per month for the first year, then increase to 5.99 per month.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- A.) Progress of Berkeley Park Renovations: The only Plat of Survey was submitted with the application for the grant. A new Plat of Survey is needed. Getting the courts ready for summer will be first priority.
- B.) Banners along Prairie Path: Possibility of having banners made to advertise programs and events. Park Playdates dates could be posted on them. Fast Signs in Oakbrook or Special T's in Hillside are some sign companies to check out pricing. If any signs are placed in the Memorial Corner area, care must be taken not to damage the sprinkler system.
- C.) Residents Questionnaire: to be tabled to next meeting

New Business:

- A.) Repairs on Tennis and Blue Courts: Commissioner Smith reported that Concrete First was contacted, but gave no time line. More bids need to be obtained.
- B.) Locations for Tennis and Blue Courts: The courts will remain in the current location .
- C.) Land Survey for Berkeley Park: A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Smith to have a new Plat of Survey done for Berkeley Park by W.T. Group ; a total of \$9650.00.
- D.) New email addresses for Berkeley Park District: A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Larem to approve to update the website with new name of Berkeleyparkdistrict.org and new email addresses for each Commissioner, the Director, the Attorney and Secretary of Berkeley Park District.
Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, T. Larem, and K. Lowe. Motion carried.
- E.) Hiring Structural Engineer: The Village of Berkeley's acting building commissioner inspected the shed and picnic pavilion at Berkeley Park, took photos and deemed them uninhabitable and unsafe. The areas are roped off with caution tape, . The park district hired John Williams Adams structural engineer, who determined the buildings do need repairs, but the buildings are structurally sound and will not fall down. He wrote his findings and stated to give the report and action plan to the Village of Berkeley. There were no deadlines given, but plan for repairs with priority list will be given. The cost of the repairs will not be from the applied grant, but the

repairs must be completed in order to use the areas, even though the buildings will be torn down for the renovation plans.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the cost of a structural engineer to inspect the shed and picnic pavilion at Berkeley Park for the cost of \$1000.00.

Commissioners voting "aye": J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, T. Larem, and K. Lowe. Motion carried.

- F.) Proposal to Establish Intergovernmental Agreement to take over Park Districts Parks and Recreation Department: The proposal from the Village of Berkeley was reviewed by Attorney Posey. She explained that the Village proposes that the Berkeley Park District would not be dissolved and the Board would remain operating as a "paper district". A question of how this would work into the Berkeley Park District Strategic Plan, that has been worked on for 2 to 3 years. It would need to be investigated in how these plans fit into the village master plan, and what is the timeline. Many questions were raised such as: what is the operation expansion? Why now? Who is driving this proposal, the residents or Village Board? What is the ultimate Plan? What are the short term and long term goals? What alternatives that haven't been explored? What is the goal, to partner with the village for maintenance? A clear vision is needed.

A discussion took place about the proposal that the money would go to the village, and the board would still approve the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance, but could not make any decisions. Commissioners agree they want what's best for the residents, but frustrated that they had no say in the lamp posts along the Prairie Path. The village is has added a tee ball field with money from the tollway for ballfields, and repairs to existing ball field, but not one resident said they were interested in having a ballfield when the public came for Public Engagement Open House to view plans, and tell what they want in their park district. The commissioners need to review and discuss the situation prior to responding to the Village, and they do not want to hand over everything to the Village. A Special Meeting will be called to further discuss the situation. Commissioner Ditchfield suggested the possibility of the board meeting twice a month, and all commissioners agree that all decisions regarding Berkeley Park District needs to go through the Berkeley Park District.

- G.) Code Citations regarding field house and picnic structure: covered during E.
- H.) Partnership with Memorial Park District: Commissioner Ditchfield will meet with the director at Memorial Park District on Friday, April 8. To be tabled.
- I.) Lind Park and Berkeley Park Clean Up and Improvements: maintenance of the timbers and sidewalk area, dirt and grass will be addressed. Commissioner Larem asked about landscaping along the fence.
- J.) Agenda procedure: Commissioner Larem requested to see the agenda on the Friday prior to a board meeting, so commissioners can add to it before it is posted. Secretary Hord will send it earlier for all commissioners.
- K.) Job description and hiring: Commissioner Ditchfield will speak with the director of Memorial Park District on how they handle hiring new employees

Public Comment:

Four Berkeley resident were in attendance: Connie Pikes- stated they want more information on the park district project. They are not in favor of a merge with the village. When asked what they want from their park district, they replied soccer, martial arts, more children's programs, and programs held on weekends and evenings. More families are home schooling since Covid and they are looking for more

programs for their kids to do. Resident Nicole DeFord- stated she is interested in art, music and STEM programs for the kids. She stated she lives on Burr Oak and is very upset the tee ball field at Victoria is not safe. She is worried about an older child hitting balls towards the homes and worried about the safety. Angela Sevak- is not in favor of the village taking over the park district. She stated the park district having two different Facebook groups is confusing, and she is having a difficult time finding reminders when the board meetings are held.

Next Meeting:

Ad-Hoc Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Village Hall

Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lind Park building

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield seconded by Commissioner Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Commissioner voting "aye" were: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.

Ann Hord
Secretary