

MINUTES OF THE  
BERKELEY PARK DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the commissioners of the Berkeley Park District was held on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at Berkeley Park District's Lind Park building. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Roll call: Commissioners present: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem

Others present: Attorney S. Posey, Park Director P. Graham, Treasurer A. Schenone, Secretary A. Hord , resident L. Graham

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the special meeting held on October 2, 2021 by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Ditchfield.

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on November 3, 2021 by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Larem.

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the special meeting held on November 16, 2021 by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts for the month of November were \$1,965.99

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Lowe to approve the November payroll in the amount \$1,638.85

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

Disbursements for the month of November were \$24,342.99. A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Lowe to approve the disbursements.

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

Art gave out papers for each commissioner to sign excluding them from workman's compensation policy.

Council Report: No report

Correspondence: None

Report of Commissioners:

- A.) Commissioner Traina: No Report
- B.) Commissioner Larem stated she had spoke with the group Language in Action which is a 1 hour program for 0-5 year old that is taught in Spanish. A Music Together class which can also be taught bilingual. The cost would be \$3600.00 per session, of 45 minutes per week for 10 weeks total (\$210.00 per student.) The possibly of shorter sessions was discussed. The need for posting early education classes was discussed. The Winter brochure will be delivered to residents in a day or two.
- C.) Commissioner Smith: No Report
- D.) Commissioner Ditchfield: spoke with Williams Architect regarding commissioner being involved in the design of the Berkeley Park renovation. There will be a special meeting with Williams to discuss a rough design for the project, to be presented at the Open House on January 8, 2021. A discussion took place regarding how much money the park district can input towards the grant that is being applied for. The Plat of Survey will be needed and if a building should be added to the renovation yet. Phase I would include and exercise trail, tennis courts/blue court, playground, restrooms, and open shelter. Endorsement letters from the library, village, Chris Welch, Lori Underwood and the garden club would help with the grant. Commissioner Ditchfield will send a zoom link for the commissioners to view the 57 minutes video regarding the grant. The Village of Berkeley wants to partner on the grant, and this video presents this situation. Part of the grant is showing the need of specific repairs and that programs have suffered from the Covid outbreak. Commissioner Larem asked if the village was

willing to match funds. The fact that Berkeley is not a high income area is in our favor, and demographics do make a difference. Attorney Posey suggested that the park district should consider joining the IL Association of Parks, which will be holding a conference at the end of January and is a great networking opportunity. The website will need to be checked on the cost of joining. Frank Parisi had suggested thinking of the outdoor shelter idea that Woodridge had built that can be enclosed at a later date.

E.) Commissioner Lowe: No Report

Director's Report: No Report

IT Report: The website is live for registration

Old/Unfinished Business:

- A.) Cell Towers: Commissioner Ditchfield reported that they now have contracts and are ready to meet with the village to discuss that the water tower is located on park property, and the village has an easement to access the tower. The cell towers located on top of the water tower would be an income generator, and the park district should have been included. Mayor Lee requested the AdHoc meetings to improve the park district.
- B.) Public Engagement Process: an Open House will be held at the Lind Park building on Saturday, January 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Williams Artitect will present a rough draft of Berkeley Park for the public to give their preferences of areas of importance.

New Business:

- A.) A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Lowe to approve the 2021 Levy Ordinance 21-05.  
Commissioners voting "aye" were: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.
- B.) 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance – to be tabled to next meeting
- C.) A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Larem to approve the policy of ex commissioners fee for rental of park district building for the discounted cost of \$150.00 for an 8 hour time frame, once a year. Frequency of years for the discounted fee would be determined by the years the commissioner served.  
Commissioners voting "aye" were: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried.
- D.) Questionnaire to residents of Program selection: to be tabled to next meeting
- E.) Director Accountability: Commissioner Larem commented on how she is not seeing enough changes being made in the programing. It was discussed to have a minimum on programs, and to cancel if not enough interest. A discussion took place that Berkeley is served by 3 different park districts, and with online registration hopefully numbers will increase. The possibility of hiring and employee to help Pete was made, and Commissioner Lowe spoke of past programs that ran well.
- F.) Water tower: discussed during Old/Unfinished Business

Public Comment:

Resident Lori Graham stated that the programs should be based on needs of the community, and demographic have so much to do with the programs that are needed. A survey will be going out to the residents as to what they are interested in having in their park district. Commissioner Larem stated that there is no children's programs offered, and the exercise classes are losing money for the park district. She would like to have exercise classes on Saturdays, but then all Saturday rentals can not be held. Sunday rentals may be a possibility.

Next Meetings: Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m  
Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at Lind Park building  
Open House on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Lind Park building

Adjournment;

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

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

Ann Hord  
Secretary