



**WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, March 11, 2024*  
*7:30 p.m. – Village Hall Council Chambers*

**PRESENT**

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Commissioners: President Kara Kosloskus, Vice President Duffy, Patrick Lahey, Julia Goebel, Mike Murdock and Cecilia Clarke

Absent: Commissioner Allison Frazier

Staff: Executive Director/Secretary Steve Wilson

Visitors: Dustin Burke, Alan Golden

**1.0 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CALLED TO ORDER**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

**2.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

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Commissioner Clarke moves to approve the Consent Agenda, Vice President Duffy seconds the motion.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Lahey, Goebel, Clarke, Murdock, Duffy and Kosloskus. Voting No, none. Absent: Commissioner Frazier; **Motion Carried.**

**3.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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President Kosloskus confirms Director Wilson replied to the correspondence in the packet. Director Wilson confirms he has.

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

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Dustin Burke – Mr. Burke states he applied for a community garden plot this year and is on the waitlist. He has been in touch with our staff, who he says were very helpful. He had one question staff could not answer, but they recommended he address the board. There is no preference currently for residents versus non-residents. Typically, the plots at Centennial are over-subscribed and the plots at West Park are all or most are usually able to be accommodated, including any overflow of people who have a preference for Centennial. He knows from doing research on our neighboring towns that is different. It's different in neighboring suburbs such as Evanston, where it is not a matter of getting preference, you have to be a resident to get a garden plot in Evanston, for example. So, he is curious as to whether there is a business or policy reason why we don't give precedence to residents to fulfill their location request for a garden plot before we go to non-residents. We are happy to have non-residents near us in the garden plots, but given the plots are Wilmette Park District assets, he would rather see those plots go to residents, when possible.

## **5.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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Director Wilson walks the board through his report.

Director Wilson starts by announcing the promotion of Megan White from Assistant Manager to General Lakefront Manager.

### **PROJECT PARKS AND PLAY**

There is a Town Hall meeting this week on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Community Recreation Center. They kicked off another public survey on Friday and we already have 97 responses.

Commissioner Goebel asks if there is a target number of survey responses we are looking for. Director Wilson answers that he doesn't believe we set targets in this sort of thing, we just want as many responses as possible.

### **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION**

On February 24<sup>th</sup> we implemented new technology, moved the software out-of-house and put in a virtual lobby. The virtual lobby did exactly what it was intended to do by slowing connections to the server and prevent any system from being overwhelmed. In the first 13 minutes, over 1,400 users passed through the Lobby and entered the registration software. After the 13 minute mark, there was no need for the Lobby and it was discontinued. The Lobby will be used at the start of all major registrations and is monitored by District IT staff along with the registration software company as the software is now hosted externally with them. We will be holding focus groups on April 18<sup>th</sup> regarding registration, which will then be followed up by a community-wide survey on the topic so we can get as much input as possible from the residents.

### **BID CONSIDERATION – APPAREL**

Under New Business is the consideration of the approval of bids for district apparel. The bid is an assortment of various vendors totaling \$75,751.10 across 76 different items of apparel. For comparison purposes, the bid results in 2023 totaled \$82,212.06 across 80 different items of apparel.

Vice President Duffy asks if we could address Mr. Burke's question about waitlists and the garden plots. Director Wilson states it is similar to other things we do – sailing beach, for instance. We haven't created a priority list for residents versus non-residents, but it is a topic that comes up periodically. As a park district, we have to hold all parks and facilities available to all people in the state of Illinois, per park code, but that doesn't mean we can't create some sort of priority system; that's why people register a week later for our programs if they are non-resident, why the fees are higher for non-residents. These are things that are within our power. We can explore it. Over the last couple of years our waitlists have been shrinking and we are working actively as a park staff to make sure people who are not using their plots, we move it on to someone who is going to use it. Hopefully the demand and the waiting lists have shrunk because of that.

Commissioner Murdock states he believes Evanston has a recreation department, as opposed to a separate taxing body, so he suspects they are not held to the park code. He also states that a few years ago we did look at potentially expanding our garden plots and we found for a variety of reasons it wasn't practical to do. We could potentially prioritize one differently than the other. President Kosloskus notes that the comment about prioritizing residents on the garden plot waitlist has come to the board before and she asks Director Wilson to put this on the committee agenda to be discussed next week.

Commissioner Murdock asks about the summer apparel bid and whether we are buying less or if costs are down. Director Wilson states there are fewer items, but other than that, he does not have that answer at this time.

Commissioner Lahey asks about the summer hiring job fairs. Director Wilson states we have had a couple of job fairs in recent weeks. One was on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the CRC and another at Lakeview Center on a day New Trier had early dismissal. Commissioner Lahey states this will contribute to filling some waitlist spots down the line, which we can talk about that at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Commissioner Kosloskus also asks for stats on summer hiring. Superintendent Thomas to provide an update at the Committee of the Whole meeting next week.

## **6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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## **7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

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### **7.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUMMER APPAREL BID**

Vice President Duffy moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to approve the summer apparel bid. President Kosloskus asks if there is any more discussion on the topic.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Lahey, Goebel, Clarke, Murdock, Duffy and Kosloskus. Voting *No*, none. Absent: Commissioner Frazier; **Motion Carried.**

## **8.0 ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

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There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Lahey moves and Vice President Duffy seconds a motion to adjourn the Regular Board meeting.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Lahey, Goebel, Clarke, Murdock, Duffy and Kosloskus. Voting *No*, none. Absent: Commissioner Frazier; **Motion Carried.**

Minutes Approved on: **April 8, 2024**