

**DIXON PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1312 WASHINGTON AVENUE DIXON, ILLINOIS
April 12, 2023, 6:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Ron Pritchard called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Roll Call: President Ron Pritchard-Present
 Vice President Rodney Frey-Present
 Board Secretary, Keith Aurand-Present
 Commissioner Jerry Pauser-Present
 Commissioner Anthony Venier-Present

Staff Present: Duane Long, Executive Director
 Michelle Lawson, Office Administrator
 Lucas Pauley, Marketing Director
 Tyler Hodapp, Maintenance Director
 Seth Nicklaus, Recreation Director
 Cindy Jankiewicz, Nature Center Director-7:15PM

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

After Visitors move up New Business A

III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Seth Nicklaus-Sponsors Report-Seth read aloud the list of 21 sponsors that have signed a \$750, 3 year contract. Each sponsor will have a sign displayed at the Facility for the length of the contract. The money from the sponsorships will help the Park District keep the daily drop in fee of \$3.00. Seth also announced the addition of one more sponsor from a meeting he had at the Facility. Lucas Pauley, marketing director, has worked with all sponsors to get the logos ready for the signs. Ron Pritchard commended Seth on going above and beyond for all he does for the Park District.

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IV. VISITORS- Tim Lee-WIXN, Ray Jasper-Speaking on the Camping topic Clyde Seeley, Damian Considine, Andrew Glasscock, Samantha Miller. Ray Jasper read aloud a letter speaking on behalf of the Natural Wildlife Area Within Dixon. Ray is advocating for the existing Natural Wildlife Park (The Meadows). Ray was made aware the Park District was planning Campsites at the Meadows. This topic was brought up 10 years ago Because the previous administration was looking for income. It did not pass. Ray mentioned there are currently other campsite options in the Dixon area. According to Ray the Park District has other options as well like Lowell Park. His concerns are that wildlife will be influenced. Vehicles would be used to check sites which would be a hazard to walkers. Littering, waste, and people getting lost are other concerns. Anthony Venier responded that the Park District is appreciative of him bringing his concerns to the table. The Park District wants all of the community to utilize the Meadows. Duane Long said there are over 600 acres to offer our community. Mr. Long thanked Ray for his interest in the Meadows and for bringing his questions and concerns to the board.

V. CORRESPONDENCE- Ron Pritchard read a Thank you card from Dixon Community Gardens Members. The card thanks the Park District for the Recent donation of straw bales. Mr. Pritchard read a letter from St. Anne's School thanked the Park District for their donation of a free weeknight stay at Woodcote, a 2 hour party room rental during business hours along with 10 daily drop in passes.

VI. BOARD MINUTES-Review/Amend/Accept

A. Motion to Approve March Regular Board Minutes by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Rodney Frey. Vote by Roll Call: Ron Pritchard-Yes, Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Jerry Pauser-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

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VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS-Review/Amend/Accept

- A. Profit & Loss vs. Actual, Balance Sheet, and Disbursements for March, 2023- Duane Long read the last financial Report for FY 22. Corp fund is \$104,000 to the positive. Rec fund is balanced. Museum is over due to grants billed paid, but not all money has been received from the state. SRA is balanced. Police fund is over. Insurance is over due to changing policy and new staff. FICA/Med is over due to the new part time employees at the facility. IMRF had an \$8,000 planned deficit. Cap. Improv. Was over \$11,000.

Motion by Keith Aurand to approve March Financial Reports seconded by Jerry Pauser. Vote by Roll Call: Ron Pritchard-Yes; Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Jerry Pauser-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

VIII. REPORTS

- A. Commissioners
1. Ron Pritchard-Some community members are asking why the Facility is not open until 9:00pm. Duane reported that we have changed to summer hours and the Facility was slow during the late evening hours.
 2. Jerry Pauser-None
 3. Rodney Frey-Rodney complimented the new signs and viewing deck at the Meadows. It is very beautiful and could use a bench. Tyler Hodapp will get a bench moved to the new viewing deck.
 4. Keith Aurand-A band member is asking for the possibility of concrete in front of the bandshell to help with the goose poop issue.
 5. Anthony Venier-A gentleman asked him about donating to the bike club. Is there a way for us to add a donation tab on our website? Lucas Pauley will look into this.

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B. Executive Director-Duane Long reported he has been spending time on the bidding process for the Canoe Launch grant. It could be running by the middle of June. He has been preparing for the Vaile Playground. He attended a grant writing conference and found we can save \$90,000 if we win the grant. It could be installed and dedicated in mid to late September. Aquatics is waiting for numbers. Three grants have been written to get funds for aquatics. Lowell Park bathrooms will be open April 17th. The cost of remodel was \$37,000. Reynolds Field bathrooms will be remodeled next. The Solar Project is on track.

Cindy Jankiewicz reported Mr. Yowl has passed away. She will look at replacing him. She showed the board a flier on a grate works system to help keep the rivers clean.

Tyler Hodapp reported all water will be turned on by Monday.

Lucas Pauley reported marketing is working with all the departments to get information out. He is working with Seth on the sponsor signs.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approve Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #631 for Public Review

Duane Long read over the budget presented. The board will vote on putting the budget on a 30 day public review. Motion by Rodney Frey to approve Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #631 for Public Review and seconded by Jerry Pauser. Vote by Roll Call: Ron Pritchard-Yes; Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Jerry Pauser-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

B. Review/Approve Primitive camping in the Meadows

The Board of Commissioners were informed that a permit was applied for with IDPH. It will take 6-8 weeks for that to be approved. The rules and regulations are in progress, but not set in stone. Anthony Venier suggested we continue to research more into sharing the property with all groups.

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Duane Long reported no construction can start until the permit is finalized. Duane told the Board we manage the property. own. We could take more time to look into the questions the community has. The Board decided by consensus 5-0 to table the approval to the May Board meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Pride Festival in Page Park-Samantha Miller, powerpoint

Commissioners were presented a powerpoint by Sauk Valley Pride president, Andrew Glasscock. The festival is estimated to bring in 5,000 people. The event is scheduled for June 17, 2023. Motion by Anthony Venier to Approve Pride Festival in Page Park, seconded by Jerry Pauser. Vote by Roll Call: Ron Pritchard-No; Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Jerry Pauser-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

B. Recognition for Board President Ron Pritchard

Lucas Pauley put on a video highlighting Ron's 26 years of service to the Park District. Duane Long read a letter to Ron. Duane said Ron has attended 311 out of 312 park board meetings. Ron has headed up several volunteer projects and always treats the staff top notch. Ron has a love for Dixon Park District and it shows in all he does. The staff will show appreciation to Ron on April 17th with a luncheon.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

XII. ADJOURN

Motion by Anthony Venier to Adjourn, seconded by Rodney Frey to Adjourn.

Vote by Roll Call: Ron Pritchard-Yes; Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Jerry Pauser-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
Ron Pritchard

_____ Date: _____
Rodney Frey

_____ Date: _____
Anthony Venier

_____ Date: _____
Jerry Pauser

_____ Date: _____
Keith Aurand

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