

**DIXON PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1312 WASHINGTON AVENUE DIXON, ILLINOIS
November 15, 2023, 6:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, Rodney Frey called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Roll Call: President, Rodney Frey-Present
 Vice President, Keith Aurand-Present
 Secretary, Anthony Venier-Present

Staff Present: Duane Long, Executive Director
 Michelle Lawson, Office Administrator
 Seth Nicklaus, Recreation Director
 Tyler Hodapp, Maintenance Director

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

A. After Visitors move to IX. New Business

III. VISITORS- Tim Lee-WIXN, Clyde Seeley-Bow Hunt Coordinator, Damian Considine-Bow Hunt Coordinator-Rick Batt-Tim Jacobsen-Evan Thorpe-Ward Hey-Micah Hey-Linda Powell-Rick Davis-Charlie Clinker-Allan Near-David Potter-Joshua Dravis-Ray Jasper-Tim Williams-Bob Thompson-Mike Hubbell

The following visitors spoke on behalf of the hunting program in the Meadows: Evan Thorpe, Charlie Clinker, Clyde Seeley, Damian Considine, Ray Jasper, David Potter, Joshua Dravis and Allan Near. The following visitors spoke on behalf of opening the Meadows to the public during the hunting season: Mike Hubbell and Rick Batt

IV. CORRESPONDENCE- Rodney Frey shared a program from DHS that included an ad The Park District sponsored for the high school play. Mr. Frey read a letter sent in by Sue German, she could not attend the meeting and ask he read her letter aloud regarding opening the Meadows to the public during hunting season.

V. BOARD MINUTES-Review/Amend/Accept

A. Motion to Approve October 18, 2023 Regular Board Minutes by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Keith Aurand. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

November 15, 2023

- B. Motion to Approve October 18, 2023 Executive Board Minutes by Keith Aurand; Seconded by Anthony Venier. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS-Review/Amend/Accept

A. Profit & Loss vs. Actual, Balance Sheet, and Disbursements for October, 2023

Duane Long reported shelter reservations, Woodcote reservations, the golf range and birthday parties have increased their income from last fiscal year. Credit card fees are over budget. Meetings are in progress on how to move forward with the credit card fees we pay for the customers cards being processed. The park district is not spending the \$10,000 on Christmas lights for the city this season. Duane mentioned that Tyler Hodapp manages his maintenance account very well. The maintenance budget will get \$10,00 next season for tree removal due to acts of nature. Michelle Lawson has managed the office account well. Seth Nicklaus reported birthday parties have been a huge success and a need for our community. Autumn Brady applauded the cost of our birthday parties. The cost is very reasonable for the community.

Motion to Approve October Financial Reports by Keith Aurand; Seconded by Anthony Venier. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

B. Review Income/Expenses on 2023A Promissory Note

Michelle Lawson informed the Board of commissioners that as of November 15th no funds have been used from the note. We have paid back half the principal and one interest payment. We will continue to update the board each month. No Action Taken.

VII. REPORTS

A. Commissioners-

1. Autumn Brady-None
2. Rodney Frey-Rodney reported he had a discussion with a woman on keeping the Meadows open.
3. Keith Aurand-Keith asked again about the progress on the bike trail edges being repaired and noted a hole on the path that needs to be filled. Tyler Hodapp reported the hole was repaired on 11/15/2023. Duane Long reported the quote to repair the edges on the whole bike path was \$1.75 million. Keith had a community member ask about the removal of the porta potty at Haymarket

November 15, 2023

Square. Michelle Lawson noted the portables are seasonal and were removed on November 1st.

4. Anthony Venier-Anthony discussed his meeting with Michelle Lawson. She answered his questions on the promissory note and how we run the rentals for the Woodcote property. Michelle set up a meeting with Anthony and Carol Lubbs, our volunteer at Woodcote. They will discuss ways to continue to improve the inside of the property. Anthony suggests we look into ways to market the pinetum more as a wedding space.

- B. **Executive Director**-Duane Long reported the use of the facility for community rentals is going well. The Police Department is using the Facility for their family day. The canoe launch railing is in. Our contractor has family medical issue and We will push the completion of the railing to the Spring. We will hold the Grand Opening in the Spring as well. The process for the Lowell Park Roads Grant is a Long process. Greg Gates continues to work on these grants for us. The federal grant is a 50/50 grant. We are applying for another grant that will work together with the federal grant to help us have no cost on our end.

Tyler Hodapp, Maintenance Director reported the gaga ball court is complete. This was an Eagle Scout's project at Vaile Park. The Christmas lights have been installed for the City of Dixon's light display. The lights will be turned on on November 22nd. Tyler recognized his seasonal staff. Reporting they are the best group he has had along with his full-time staff. Tyler is looking at the bathhouse in Lowell Park as a possible project. He will getting quotes on a steel roof and will look into repainting the bathhouse.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Oath of New Officer-Autumn Brady**

Autumn Brady was sworn in and read the Oath of Office to be seated as an appointed Board Commissioner.

- B. **Seat Newly Appointed Board Member-Autumn Brady**

Roll Call: President, Rodney Frey-Present
Vice President, Keith Aurand-Present
Secretary, Anthony Venier-Present
Commissioner, Autumn Brady-Present

November 15, 2023

- C. **Review/Amend/Approve-Ordinance #627** “an ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$95,010 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2023B, and approximately \$99,960 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2023C, for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain alternate bonds of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the Sauk Valley Bank and Trust Company.”

Aaron Gold, Speer Financial, read Ordinance #627. The recommendation is to Award Sauk Valley Bank & Trust the bond 2023B for \$95,260 with an interest rate of 4.35% and bond 2023C for \$100,360 with an interest rate of 5.35%. Proceeds to fund the park district maintenance department. Duane Long praised SVB on their partnership with our bond process.

Motion to Approve Ordinance #627 by Keith Aurand; Seconded by Anthony Venier. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

- D. **3 Year Review of Bow Hunting Policy & Procedures in The Meadows**

Clyde Seeley, Hunt Coordinator created a video of the meadows and read a letter on the volunteer work the hunters have done in the Meadows. Clyde told the board the program is willing to compromise to open the Meadows to the public. They are willing to open the gravel road to the river although liability is a concern with allowing hunters and walkers in the Meadows at the same time. Board President, Rodney Frey read a letter aloud by Sue German asking the board to open the Meadows to the public during hunting season and stating concerns about trail cameras in the park. Board Secretary, Anthony Venier said he understood the trail camera concerns. Signage was suggested to compromise on the use of trail cameras.

1. Bob Thompson-Public Comment on The Meadows Closure

Bob Thompson is asking the board for a compromise on opening the Meadows during the hunting season. Bob told the board he trains 5 days a week in the Meadows and he is a stakeholder in the park district. Bob said he is a hunter as well and is willing to compromise to get the Meadows open.

Hunter, Josh Dravis told the board he been hunting for 20 years and suggested the Meadows stay closed on the weekends through november.

November 15, 2023

He told the board some hunters only hunt weekends and October through November is the best time of the season to hunt.

Hunter, Ray Jasper spoke and asked if the Park District can get back on board with Damian Considine's vision to create more prairie? Ray asked if the compromise can be an extension of the hunting season to January.

Hunter, Charlie Clinker read a letter he wrote supporting the hunting Program. Hunter, David Potter told the board that the hunters and the public can use the park at the same time.

Clyde Seeley commented the bike path to the river could be opened for everyone

Walker, Mike Hubbell asked the board to give weekends to the walkers.

Hunter, Allen Near told the board that Franklin Creek State Park is open for all hunters and walkers to work together.

Hunter, Evan Thorpe read a letter he wrote to the board. He stated his whole family has enjoyed the hunting program. He said Lowell Park and the bike path are used by Dixon High school Cross Country teams to practice year round. He is asking for support of the hunting program and asked the board to not change any days. Walker, Rick Batt asked the board to come to a fair compromise and open anything possible to the public.

Hunting Coordinator, Damian Considine told the board that former Executive Director, Deb Carey said he could not make the Meadows look like Nachusa Grasslands. Damian told the board he took initiative to spend his own money to clean up the Meadows. Damian is asking the Park District to help keep the hunting program viable.

Board Secretary, Anthony Venier told the public we are not looking to shut down any programs. The goal is to try to find a compromise.

E. Review/Approve Auditor Contract

Duane Long recommended to the board that they accept the contract with Sikich, Inc. The contract is a one year contract with an increase of \$750.00 for the one Year.

Motion to Approve Auditor Contract by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Keith Aurand. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried

F. Review/Amend/Approve Schedule of 2024 Board Meetings

Michelle Lawson reviewed the proposed schedule.

Motion to Approve Schedule of 2024 Board Meetings by Keith Aurand;

November 15, 2023

Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried

G. Review Deposits and Investments Policies and Procedures

Michelle Lawson reported there are no changes to the current deposits and investments policies and procedures.

No Action Taken.

H. Review/Amend/Approve Insurance Contract with IPARKS

Duane Long told the board the new contract with IPARKS costs less than the previous contract. Duane recommended that the board accept the new contract for insurance.

Motion to Approve Insurance Contract with IPARKS by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Keith Aurand. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried

I. Approve December Meeting Date Change from December 20th to December 13, 2023.

Michelle Lawson told the board that due to timeline of the truth in taxation hearing in December the board meeting needs to be moved to December 13th.

Motion to Approve December Meeting Date Change from December 20th to December 13th by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Keith Aurand. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

XI. ADJOURN

Motion by Keith Aurnad to Adjourn, seconded by Autumn Brady to Adjourn.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 PM

November 15, 2023

Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
Rodney Frey

_____ Date: _____
Anthony Venier

_____ Date: _____
Autumn Brady

_____ Date: _____
Keith Aurand

November 15, 2023