

**DIXON PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
1312 WASHINGTON AVENUE DIXON, ILLINOIS  
January 17, 2024, 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  
Commissioner, Autumn Brady-Present

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

**II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Move New Business A before Correspondence  
Move Old Business A after New Business A  
Move New Business B after Old Business A

**III. VISITORS-** Tim Lee-WIXN, Clyde Seeley-Bow Hunt Coordinator, Damian  
Considine-Bow Hunt Coordinator-Scott Fenwick, Ryan Elmendorf, Colin Bond,  
Nora Reuter-Rock River Disc Golf, Brent Reuter-Rock River Disc Golf, Rick Batt

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE-** Rodney Frey read a thank you card from Laura Carbaugh  
Thanking the Park District for hosting the Sauk Valley Leadership Cohort.

**V. BOARD MINUTES-Review/Amend/Accept**

- A. Motion to Approve December 13, 2023 Regular Board Minutes by  
Keith Aurand; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney  
Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.
- B. Motion to Approve December 13, 2023 Executive Board Minutes by  
Anthony Venier; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes;  
Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.
- C. Motion to Approve December Truth In Taxation Minutes by  
Keith Aurand; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney  
Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

January 17, 2024

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS-Review/Amend/Accept**

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

Duane Long reported we are waiting on our final big income amounts to come in for this fiscal year. This income is from boathouse leases, farm lease, and property replacement tax.

Motion to Approve December Financial Reports by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Autumn Brady. 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 January 17th no funds have been used from the note.

No Action Taken.

**VII. REPORTS**

**A. Commissioners-**

1. Autumn Brady-Autumn reported her family had an incredible time at a birthday party at our Facility. Autumn has spoken with our Nature Center Staff and has some ideas to present at the February Board Meeting.
2. Rodney Frey-Rodney thanked the staff for hosting the Christmas party. He commented he liked the games this year.
3. Keith Aurand-Keith has had a community request for cross country ski trails at the Meadows. He commented that the Christmas party was a good time.
4. Anthony Venier-Anthony reported he enjoyed the holiday party. He thanked Michelle Lawson and Duane Long for putting the event together.

**B. Executive Director-Duane Long reported we had a great staff Christmas party. KSB catered the food. 3rd St Citgo sponsored the gift cards for the staff. Kudos to Michelle Lawson, Jana Halfacre, and Stacy Long for planning the Event.**

Duane is looking into healthcare options for the staff. He is working with the City of Dixon on the plan they use for group insurance.

The Ice Rink will open Saturday.

There was a cash flow analysis meeting. It was very positive and finances look better than anticipated.

The Facility had some HVAC problems on the roof. Ringland Johnson will be donating a \$20,000 ladder to install to alleviate the cost of renting a lift each time work needs done on the roof. Relationships create positive partnerships.

The Pride Festival has requested a meeting to renew the lease to use Page Park. The consensus of the Board is a yes for Duane Long to meet and approve the lease.

January 17, 2024

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Bow Hunting Policy & Procedures in The Meadows**-Duane Long again thanked the Board for their numerous meetings they held to make a decision. Many hours and time spent on this touchy subject. We have never wanted to end the hunting program. Rodney Frey told the public we want to open The Meadows for everyone. Keith Aurand agreed to open the park to everyone. Anthony Venier told the public we will try for a year and see how it goes. Venier called Park Districts in the area to see what they do and no other district in our area has a hunting program. The park will be open for the Bike Club to maintain their trails, walkers to enjoy the outdoors, and hunters to get a quality hunt. Venier said we want to trust our community to make this work. We will have the proper signage approved by our legal team. Autumn Brady told the public she is excited to see what we can do for our community. Ryan Elmendorf, bike club representative said the club will send out communication to let the community know to be mindful of the hunting program. Dixon Park District maintenance staff will maintain The Meadows trails that are open to the public. The hunt coordinators will be notified of any events that will affect the hunt season. Damian Considine asked how anti-hunters will be handled. Duane Long said IDNR will be called to assist if that situation arises. Motion to Approve a Policy to Open The Meadows to All Public From October 1-End of Hunt Season in January and to be Reviewed in One Year 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.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Review Hunting Season by Clyde Seeley and Damian Considine**-Clyde Seeley reported the season totals for bow hunting. There were 47 hunts. 27 deer were taken and all deer taken were doe. No expenses were used for food plots this season. Next season food plots will need added. No Motion.

January 17, 2024

**B. Presentation from Brent and Nora Reuter on 2023 Disc Golf and Plans for 2024**

Brent Reuter presented the board with a wrap up of the 2023 season. Rock River Disc Golf uses an app on a phone called U Disc. This app, if used by the disc golfer, will track check ins at our disc golf courses. This app lets people rate their experience. Page park received a 3.9 out of 5 and Lowell Park received a 4.0 out of 5. Brent reported the need for a few items to increase the ratings at Page. The course could use more benches and garbage cans. New t-pads would be helpful and he is looking at adding 9 more t-pads in 2024. Page Park averages around 220 rounds by players per month according to the app. Our courses are getting utilized. In 2024 Rock River Disc Golf is looking to add new baskets at Lowell Park. They will be updating all hole signs using JJM printing for the signs. This is no cost to the Park District. The goal for the future is to have a championship disc golf course in Dixon. No Motion.

**C. Review Risk Management Procedures and Policies-**

Michelle Lawson reported no changes to the current procedures or policies.  
No Motion.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

Motion to go into Executive Session by Keith Aurand, seconded by Anthony Venier To consider information regarding the appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer at 7:21PM

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

**XI. Take action to come out of closed session**

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:48 PM by Anthony Venier, seconded by Autumn Brady.

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

**XII. ADJOURN**

Motion by Keith Aurand to Adjourn, seconded by Anthony Venier to Adjourn.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes.  
Meeting Adjourned at 7:57PM

January 17, 2024

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney Frey

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Venier

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Autumn Brady

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Aurand

January 17, 2024