



Mission: To create community

Vision: The “place to be” for exceptional experiences

Core Values: Innovation, Sustainability, Inclusion, and Exceptional Services

**Minutes of the Warrenville Park District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held on July 20, 2023**

Call to Order:

President Thornbury called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: **Commissioner Machowski – Present**
 Commissioner Coons – Present
 Commissioner Wilkie – Present
 Commissioner DiCianni – Present
 President Thornbury – Present

Others Present:

Tim Reinbold, Executive Director/Board Secretary
Penny Thrawl, Executive Assistant/HR Manager/Assistant Board Secretary
Gregg Ireland, Superintendent of Parks & Facilities
Michelle Savage, Office Manager
Sheri Potter, Marketing & Community Engagement Manager

Approval of July 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda:

**MOTION: Commissioner Wilkie Moved to Approve the July 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda.
Seconded by Commissioner DiCianni.**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Coons - Aye Commissioner Machowski - Aye
Commissioner Wilkie - Aye Commissioner DiCianni - Aye
President Thornbury -Aye

5-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent
MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment: Ted Coons, a Warrenville resident addressed the Board to share his perspective regarding comments made by some Board Members regarding the discussion of sponsorships at the June 15th, 2023 Board Meeting. He stated that under the Freedom of Information Act, he requested and received a copy of the June 15th, 2023 District Board Meeting voice minutes.

Sponsorship is a monetary donation or a donation of goods and/or services. The District has established guidelines to offer sponsors a promotional package based on the level of participation. Sponsorship of all sizes helps to defray the expense of any program being supported. Community members and small businesses owners unselfishly give their hard-earned dollars to help the District instead of utilizing the money themselves or for another purpose. Even with the good fortune of writing off a donation, sponsors still end up with less in their own pocket after giving resources to any organization. With that said, he asked if Commissioners thought it was a good idea to make comments about sponsorships that could be construed as offensive, inconsiderate, or disrespectful? Would you have shared those same thoughts to sponsors present at a Board Meeting? He asked Commissioners how they would feel from a sponsor's perspective as multiple Board Members mock or marginalize your level of charity?

Regarding privacy, why is it any of your business during a meeting open to the public to ask for a specific dollar amount given by a sponsor? Did you ask the sponsor for their thoughts on being referenced, directly or indirectly, prior to the meeting? Have you considered how an individual or business could be impacted by sharing confidential information? Could this information have been gathered in another manner without the potential of damaging relationships cultivated by the Board and the District? Does it matter to you as a Board Member, if your actions cause the sponsor to discontinue their commitment and financial support to the District because of the decorum? Decorum is proper and polite behavior; we all share an obligation to represent the District in the most favorable light possible whenever we are engaged in the business of the District. Bullying should never be tolerated; nobody is asking you to use this platform or your position as a Board Member to share derogatory or unsubstantiated thoughts. These observations are outside the scope of the District, where they should remain. We are all guilty of knowing what we know, it means that to grow, we must be willing to expand our knowledge, and improve upon what is not good. The work being performed by staff makes him proud to be one of many supporters of the District.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for June 15, 2023:

Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for June 15, 2023 – Semi-Annual Release of Closed Session Minutes:

MOTION: Commissioner Wilkie Moved to Approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for June 15, 2023 and Closed Session Meeting Minutes – Semi Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes of June 15, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner DiCianni.

Commissioner Coons stated that the minutes do not accurately reflect the verbiage of what was said during the discussion of the Sponsorship Program and requested that the minutes be rewritten to include all that was discussed. President Thornbury asked Commissioner Coons if she had verbiage of how they should read. Commissioner Coons did not give an example of what is to be written but would like this section to be rewritten accurately in verbatim. Commissioner Coons explained that after the required time, the voice minutes for this meeting will be destroyed, and the only record of this meeting that would be available is the written minutes, which she feels does not reflect all that was stated at this meeting.

The Executive Assistant suggested keeping the June 15, 2023 Board Meeting voice minutes indefinitely until otherwise noted. President Thornbury stated that the June 15, 2023 voice meeting minutes are to be flagged, so as when they come before the Board for destruction, a motion stating that those specific voice minutes, not to be destroyed and held indefinitely.

Roll Call Vote:

**Commissioner Coons - Nay
Commissioner Wilkie - Nay
President Thornbury - Aye**

**Commissioner DiCianni - Aye
Commissioner Machowski - Aye**

**3-Ayes, 2-Nays (Coons, Wilkie), 0-Absent
MOTION CARRIED.**

Financial Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2023:

MOTION: Commissioner Wilkie moved to approve the Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner DiCianni.

Roll Call Vote:

**Commissioner DiCianni - Aye
Commissioner Machowski - Aye
President Thornbury - Aye**

**Commissioner Wilkie - Aye
Commissioner Coons - Aye**

**5-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent
MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Expenditure Report through June 30, 2023, in the Amount of \$155,211.65:

MOTION: Commissioner Wilkie moved to approve the Expenditure Report through June 30, 2023 in the Amount of \$155,211.65. Seconded by Commissioner DiCianni.

Roll Call Vote:

**Commissioner Machowski - Aye
Commissioner DiCianni - Aye
President Thornbury - Aye**

**Commissioner Coons - Aye
Commissioner Wilkie - Aye**

**5-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent
MOTION CARRIED.**

Correspondence:

Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2022 the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA): Congratulations were given.

Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Illinois Prairie Path Trailhead Invitation: The Executive Director stated that the City of Warrenville will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Prairie Path Trailhead on Thursday, July 27th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 2:30 pm with light refreshments being served. If Commissioners are interested in attending, please inform him of their attendance as the City has asked for RSVP's.

Unfinished Business:

Summer Daze Event Discussion: The Executive Director stated that the last Summer Daze Committee Meeting, logistically all is good, everything has been ordered, the beer selection is being finalized, although he is still waiting for the pricing.

In terms of parking, a fence will be temporarily installed in the parking lot to have the Wine Shop parking separate from the rest and is to be installed on Friday, August 4th. The Executive Director explained that there may be a minor impact to the Car Show, as previously we were able to utilize the whole parking lot. The lower-level parking lot behind the Community Building may be used for the Car Show, if needed.

The District will be selling Rosati's pizza slices from the Information Booth; Rosati's will bring their display along with the Districts warming oven. There are eight (8) food vendors this year, which the whole round-about (both sides) will be incorporated this year, bands are ready to go and the beer truck will be delivered on Wednesday. President Thornbury requested that Guest Services Supervisor Carol Bartus and her husband Greg be present when the beer truck is delivered on Wednesday as they will be taking over the Beer Tent going forward.

The Executive Director explained that the District has an internal emergency plan which was distributed to the Summer Daze Committee Members with procedures, areas of evacuation, etc. The City of Warrenville, Fire and Police Department have their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and emergency plan. A "Master" Emergency Plan is then developed by incorporating all the emergency plans (Park District, City, Fire and Police Department). The Executive Director noted that this document has not been developed as of date, but will be distributed once developed.

New Business:

Review and Approval of Ordinance 2023-09; An Ordinance Declaring it Necessary or Convenient for the Warrenville Park District to Use, Occupy or Improve Certain Real Estate Located on Mignin Drive in Warrenville, Illinois, for Park and Recreation Purposes (Known as Harding Field, Warrenville, Illinois):

MOTION: Commissioner DiCianni Moved to Approve Ordinance 2023-09; An Ordinance Declaring it Necessary or Convenient for the Warrenville Park District to Use, Occupy or Improve Certain Real Estate Located on Mignin Drive in Warrenville, Illinois, for Park and Recreation Purposes (known as Harding Field, Warrenville, Illinois). Seconded by Commissioner Wilkie.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Machowski - Aye

Commissioner Wilkie - Aye

Commissioner DiCianni - Aye

Commissioner Coons - Aye

President Thornbury - Aye

5-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

MOTION CARRIED.

Officials & Staff Reports

President: **President Thornbury** stated that the Firecracker 5K event went well, and had a great turnout.

It was explained in the Executive Director's report that the Friends of Warrenville Parks met last week where several topics were discussed including the future accessibility enhancements to both Lions and Cerny Parks. At that meeting Friends of Warrenville Parks made a generous donation to the District in the amount of \$14,174 to be used at Lions and Cerny Parks. President Thornbury explained that Friends of Warrenville Parks have not met for the past several years. Funds that were to be donated to the District, eight (8) to nine (9) years ago, were never allocated. An emergency meeting was requested and an email was sent to all members of the Committee with what she thought was appropriate use of the funds. The Board President explained that once a meeting was scheduled, she requested that the Executive Director be present at this meeting.

President Thornbury explained the history of the Friends of Warrenville Parks, their establishment, and the background of the funds.

Commissioners: **Commissioner Wilkie** stated that "Picnic in the Park" was held to celebrate "Unplug IL Day" and National Park & Recreation Month on Saturday, July 15th at Sesqui Park from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. It was a great turnout with hotdogs, drinks, games, and crafts. Commissioner Wilkie also commended the Parks Department and the Marketing & Community Engagement Manager Sheri Potter for their hard work on the morning of as

there was extensive amount of tree branches that had fallen due to the tornado the night prior.

Commissioner Coons explained that she wants to make it clear, that this is her opinion.

We as Board Members take an oath, and have a code of ethics and will address the whole Board. The Board consists of five (5) members, with each being equal. No Commissioner, no matter what chair they hold, has more power than the other. This is not a platform for Commissioners to use for a personal agenda, being mean-spirited and bullied must stop today and no longer will be tolerated. No matter of race, gender, religion, or personality is, each of us has a voice and every one's voice should be heard. What happened at the June 15th Board Meeting regarding the Districts Sponsorship Program, was disgraceful. As Commissioners, we are a fiduciary of the District, and should be thankful and grateful for all the donations and their sponsorships because they have chosen to support our District. Instead, the conversation was disrespectful and shameful. The Board talks about inclusion, diversity, discrimination, belonging, harassment, equality. These qualities are not just for staff, Commissioners are also accountable for their words and actions, there are consequences for both. It appears as if the Board has lost its way, have we forgotten why we are here, what responsibilities we have, what our duties are, and more importantly how we work together as a Board. Commissioner Coons feels that each Board Member brings a different skill set, ideas, talents and make a difference in the community. She stated that Commissioners are not always going to agree on issues but need to be respectful of others.

A meeting should be set with IAPD President, Peter Murphy as soon as possible, as Commissioners should want to make communication a priority. Peter Murphy will provide answers to all our questions and give a clear understanding of the role and duties of a Commissioner. The likely outcome of the Board meeting with Peter Murphy is he will provide higher standards for the Board, instead of making the same mistakes.

Commissioner Machowski stated that for the second year in a row that the Park District had the most amazing float for the 4th of July Parade, bar none. Kudos to staff for their talents, time, and work that goes into this, it was great.

Executive Director: The **Executive Director** stated that tonight, after the Board Meeting at 7:30 pm there will be a public input meeting at Cerny Park prior to the movie in the park to solicit community feedback on the proposed grant application for Cerny Park. Hitchcock Design out of Naperville is the lead contractor in terms of landscape architecture. The District has sent out email blasts, posted messages on our website, along with signage down at Cerny Park. The City of Warrenville has also promoted this meeting on their digital sign board, web site and other notices. Hitchcock Design representative will also be in attendance at the park to discuss potential design options and bring display options with them for the public to provide input. It was also noted that if three (3) or more Commissioners attend, a meeting will be called, along with roll call.

The Executive Director noted that a meeting has been scheduled for August 2nd at 3:45 pm at the Park District with himself, President Thornbury, and Craig Kruckenburg.

The Executive Director will contact IAPD Peter Murphy for his availability on the first available Thursday and then contact Commissioners with the options for a Special Meeting.

The Executive Director explained that the morning of the Picnic in the Park event, Sesqui Park was a disaster due to the tornado coming through Warrenville the

previous night. Without any direction from the Executive Director, the Superintendent of Parks & Facilities and the Marketing & Community Engagement Manager being the first at Sesqui Park, started the clean-up. The Parks Department was called in to assist with the cleanup of limbs and branches. It was also noted that Recreation Supervisor Ruth Brackmann was driving by and stopped to help. He is incredibly proud of the staff for their work ethic and coming in when needed. Along with staff, the Executive Director explained that those living in the Sesqui neighborhood all came over and assisted in the clean-up at Sesqui; and reiterated that this speaks volumes about what we do, and validates the Districts new mission; "to create community."

Department Heads: The ***Office Manager*** explained that Guest Services staff have been busy with camp and are getting ready for the Summer Daze event.

The ***Superintendent of Parks & Facilities*** thanked everyone who came out to help that morning. He also reported that the frame of the sway bench has been installed at Plum Path Park, the bench will be installed tomorrow and paver blocks will be put underneath.

The ***Marketing & Special Events Supervisor*** thanked everyone for their help with the clean-up of Sesqui Park for the "Picnic at the Park" event.


Any Other Business That May Properly Come before the Board for Discussion Only:

Adjournment: Commissioner Wilkie moved to Adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner DiCianni.
Voice Vote: 5-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 6:50 PM

Approval



Barbara Thornbury, President Date 8/24/23
Seal



Tim Reinbold, Board Secretary Date 8/24/23