

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BLUE ISLAND PARK
DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS HELD MAY 3, 2022, AT 7:00PM

Call to order: 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Franchetti

Roll call of Commissioners: Michael Powers, Vincent Franchetti, Michael Sinde, and William Ochoa

Commissioners Absent: Brandon Richardella

Staff / Others Present: Executive Director Theodore Ruthenberg, Director of Operations Octavio Carbajal, Maintenance Supervisor Ken Bereta and Minutes Secretary Karen Zielinski

Public Comments: None

** Public comments are welcome. All comments should be kept to 2 minutes to assume time for all to speak.*

Additions or Revisions to the Agenda: None

AGENDA:

1. DISCUSSION – Department Updates.

a. Maintenance:

Landscaping. The flower beds in front of Memorial field house needs to be replaced as well as repairs to the Upper Pavilion roof. Bids to be gathered and design and material options to be investigated. Director Ruthenberg stated he was working on the new budget, and these would help in forecasting Capital Projects. Outsourcing of lawn maintenance was discussed, a few scenarios where discussed. Quotes for outsourcing the two large parks vs smaller parks. Ken Bereta stated that outsourcing would cost more, would be cheaper to hire seasonal help.

b. Recreation. Youth Baseball. Joshua Edwards updated the board on enrollment, between practices and word of mouth, enrollment climbing. Flag football programs was discussed and will be working with Eisenhower to run program. Question about Untouchables equipment that is still stored at park district. It was suggested that they remove their equipment or charge them a storage fee. Director Ruthenberg reached out to a company regarding outsourcing park districts concession facilities.

c. Joshua Edwards is working with the Blue Island Library on some shared programs. Registration will go through the library.

2. DISCUSSION – Hart Park Completion. Final pour should be completed tomorrow, weather permitting.

Play area will open to the public prior to ribbon cutting. Discussion on having several non-for profits and city officials from Blue Island attending. Ribbon cutting date to be determined.

3. DISCUSSION – Marketing. Browntown Communication has submitted an updated proposal to the board.

Discission to be made prior to the end of May. Commissioners would like to see proof of work that is being completed to justify increase of pricing. Grant writing will not be included in new agreement. Director Ruthenberg reached out to other park districts and local library. Most have their own in-house marketing or a community outreach specialist. Director Ruthenberg is asking for this item to be tabled.

4. DISCUSSION – Master Plan. An example of the Master Plan was provided to the Commissioners from the Campground Concepts. Other companies contacted was Hitchcock Designs Group, Plan Resource and Design Perspective. Meetings are being set up with Director of Recreation Joshua Edwards.

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DIRECTORS REPORT


1. St. Walter / St. Benedicts schools are planning their annual end of school picnic on May 20th and are requesting fees to be waived for the use of the Upper Pavilion. Suggestion as made to have someone address the group regarding summer programs and sports while they are here.
2. BBQ Festival. Commissioners have decided to go in a different direction with this event and not to have the BBQ competition. Food vendors will serve an assortment of foods with possible carnival rides. Dates must be decided on soon to guarantee a vendor. Question of having parking off site with a shuttle to and from the park.
3. Budget. Rough draft is being worked on with the Director and Accountant. Should have something for the commissioners soon.
4. Open House. Despite weather conditions, open house went well. Summer camp enrollment is average to past years. Flyers were sent to schools. More advertising and banners are to be placed around town.
5. Security Plan is being put in place with will work with the city.
6. Park District tree canopy. Several trees from multiple parks in the district needed to be removed. Maintenance department has removed most, unable to continue due to size of trees. A professional company will be brought in. New trees will be planted with the help of the Blue Island Forestry board.
7. Grants. The Park District is still waiting on money from grants were applied for two years ago. The Historic Preservation board needs to approve the release of funds.

5. Executive Session.

Executive session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1).

Motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole was made by Commissioner Ochoa and seconded by Commissioner Franchetti. All ayes, meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Approved



Vincent Franchetti, Secretary
Blue Island Park District

5-17-22

Date