

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT HELD ON DECEMBER 5, 2023, AT 7:30PM

Call to Order: 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Espinoza

Roll Call of Commissioners: William Ochoa, Tonya Howard, Cynthia Bartczak and Bianca Espinoza

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff / Others Present: Executive Director Theodore Ruthenberg, Director of Operations Octavio Carbajal, Park District Attorney Ann Williams, Minutes Secretary Karen Zielinski and Maintenance Supervisor Ken Bereta and Recreation Coordinator Luiz Montoya

Public Comments: None

*Public comments are welcome. *As a courtesy to other visitors with comments, each visitor shall be permitted up to two (2) minutes for his or her comment.*

Additions or Revisions to the Agenda: None

AGENDA:

1. **ACTION** – Appointment of Karen Zielinski as board secretary and Theodore Ruthenberg and assistant secretary to the board. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Barczak and second by Commissioner Espinoza. Discussion, none. Roll Call: Commissioners Howards Barczak, Espinoza and Ochoa, all ayes, motion passes.
2. **ACTION** – Approval of Ordinance No. 2023-11-21 an Ordinance providing for the levying, assessment, and collection of taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2023, and ending April 30, 2024. Motion to approve Ordinance #2023-11-21 was made by Commissioner Barczak and seconded by Commissioner Howard. Discussion. Final review of the tax levy. Levy is straight forward at 4 percent annual increase. Roll Call: Commissioners Howards, Barczak, Espinoza and Ochoa. All aye, motion passes.
3. **ACTION** – Approval of the 2024 SWSRA Agreement. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Howard and seconded by Commissioner Bartczak. Director Ruthenberg recapped the Resolution the request of an increase from 2 percent to 2.5 percent. Supported Park districts include Alsip, Blue Island, Hickory Hills, Midlothian, Palos Heights, Posen and Worth park districts. Roll Call: Commissioners Howard, Bartczak, Espinoza, and Ochoa. All aye, motion passes.
4. **ACTION** - Approval of the 2024 Board Schedule. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Bartczak, seconded by Commissioner Howard. The first Tuesday of each month will be the Regular meeting of the board. Committee meetings will be as needed. Roll Call: Commissioner Howard, Bartczak, Espinoza and Ochoa. All aye, motion passes.
5. **DIRCTOR'S REPORT:**
 - a. Commissioner Howard rode in the sleigh on top of the Park District truck. Youth sports participants walked in the parade in back of Park District vehicles. Light Parade hot chocolate sales went well and sold by the recreation department. Beverages were donated by D'Masti's Catering, who also provide hot chocolate for the Santa Train.
 - b. Open registration starts December 10 for youth sports programs. Girls Softball will have two age divisions, winter workout starts in two weeks. Basketball, Baseball and Soccer are huge in our community. Adult Soccer has 25 participants and has been going for more than 6 years. They play all year round. A Men's Basketball program that started in Posen and will be switching to Blue Island soon.

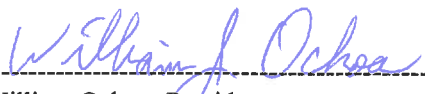
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Directors Report Continued:

- c. Gingerbread Build off will be this week. Will be pushing upcoming programs for winter. Our Santa train trip will be on December 16th and is sold out. Joe Murphy, and Lori Campione are confirmed for this program and the library will help provide volunteers. Metra will start from Chicago and participants boarding in Blue Island. Mrs. "C" and "Santa Joe" were asked to go to D.C. for the honor of lighting the White House Christmas tree.
- d. Santa and his Reindeer will be at York and Western on December 16, 2023, from 12:00pm to 2:00pm.
- e. Senior Lunch & Bingo will be hosted on December 12, 2023, and will be a sold-out event.
- f. Stocking Delivery will be December 23, 2023, this program started with Easter basket deliveries during Covid.
- g. Light contest has 15 to 25 houses enrolled. Judges are needed. Commissioners were invited to participate.
- h. The last day of ballet class is December 7th. Adult Yoga and Zumba will be starting in January.
- i. Spring and summer programs are currently being worked on. Would like to have a booklet as well as a digital copy. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.
- j. Commissioner Bartczak asked where the park was on the web site. Quotes have been received, more coming in. Hoping to go on next year's budget. Director Ruthenberg and Luiz Montya are working to keep site current. Met with the city who are also looking to update web site, looking to use same company and have sites linked together.
- k. Santa Train. Park is looking to have two train cars for next year's event. This will mostly be based on Mrs. Campione and Joe Murphys availability.
- l. Youth Baseball program. Alvaro Rojas from Blue Island Men's Baseball league will be taking more control over youth baseball. Anthony Olivio from the White Sox Aces program will use Hart field and help run our baseball camps. He also donates jerseys for the baseball and softball programs, and the possibility of receiving help with Hart Park turf.
- m. Working with accountant to get ready for the next audit.
- n. Maintenance: Ken Bereta and his crew did a wonderful job decorating the vehicles and park district. The city would like to have an Independence Day parade and the park district would like to have a float. The maintenance department saves the park district a lot of money with in-house equipment, vehicles and building repairs. Commissioner Espinoza asked if other parks are still open to the public? Security makes rounds and maintenance tends to grounds and snow removal at all parks.
- o. Sled Library. The maintenance team is working on a sled library. Director Ruthenberg has received around 40 sleds and they have been donated to the park district. Signs for sledding at "own" risk will be posted.
- p. Hart Park ice rink – need staff to man this area. Ice rink is pending weather conditions.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ochoa and seconded by Commissioner Bartczak. Roll Call: Commissioners Ochoa, Bartczak, Espinoza and Howard, all Aye. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

Approved



William Ochoa, President
Blue Island Park District



Date