

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 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

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. **CONSENT AGENDA:** It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda A through C. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Howard and seconded by Commissioner Bartczak. Roll Call: Commissioner Ochoa, Commissioner Bartczak, Commissioner Espinoza and Commissioner Howard. All aye, motion passes.
 - a. **CONSENT** – Approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 17, 2023.
 - b. **CONSENT** – Approval of Payroll ending October 21, 2023, in the amount of \$24,099.06 and Payroll ending November 4, 2023, in the amount of \$21,748.83.
 - c. **CONSENT** – Approval of Accounts Payables from October 12, 2023, through November 11, 2023, in the amount of \$72,706.33.
2. **DISCUSSION** – Tax Levy for May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. This is a standard tax levy with a 4.5% increase which is the legal limit by law. This is a levy and not a guarantee of what the Park District may receive. Recreation portion of the levy on the second page will be discussed later in this meeting. Commissioner will have time to review and contact Director Ruthenberg with any questions. Approval for the Levy will be on December 5, 2023, Special Meeting.
3. **DISCUSSION – 2024 Board Meeting Schedule.** A discussion to remove the Committee of the Whole meetings in 2024 and only Regular board meetings, unless needed. Discussion was held regarding the most convenient days and times to hold the 2024 board meetings. It was settled on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

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4. DIRECTORS REPORT:

- a. Flyers for Holiday events were provided for the commissioners. December 16th will be Santa with live reindeer at York and Western. The park will provide Santa Claus and the city is sponsoring the reindeer. This will be the same day as the Park Districts Santa train ride. This event has already sold out. Boarding will be at the Rock Island station on Vermont Street. Mrs. Claus will escort the group on the train for treats and songs to meet Santa at the Joliet station and return with Santa to Blue Island. This year we only have one train car, prior to Covid we normally provided two separate trips. Staff and volunteers will board the train two stops prior to Blue Island to place decorations prior to arriving at Rock Island Station.
- b. This year's Light Parade is scheduled for December 2nd at 5:30pm, Commissioner Ochoa will drive in one of the Park District trucks. Will have youth soccer, baseball, and basketball players. Will walk in the parade. Supervisors needed. Two trucks and the trailer will be decorated.
- c. The Gingerbread house decorating contest will be on Tuesday December 8th, Director Ruthenberg is asking for everyone to share on their Facebook pages.
- d. Senior Lunch & Bingo will be held on Tuesday December 12 and catered by D'Masti's catering, who also provides hot chocolate for the light parade and train ride.
- e. Stocking Delivery house visit will be on December 23 for Blue Island residence only. Santa Claus visiting each house with stockings and photos.
- f. The annual House Decorating contest is now open for enrollment for residents and winners will be announced on Facebook. Judges are needed, if anyone would like to volunteer to be a judge, please contact Director Ruthenberg.
- g. Santa House visit dates are listed on the flyer provided in your folders; one will be a pet friendly event to be announced later. The Santa house used to be transported to each park in the district, this proved to be confusing to the public.
- h. Maintenance report is in the binders, also Ken Bereta and his staff are the backbone of the Park District and sometimes taken for granted. They can complete projects in-house, so we do not have to outsource. This is a big savings for the district.
- i. SWSRA Special Recreation. To levy and receive special recreation taxes, the Park District needs to be part of a special rec program. SWSRA originated in the Blue Island Park district. Commissioners received a schedule that shows all the park districts that provide funding to them. SWSRA is asking for an increase from the 2 percent they are currently receiving to 2.5 percent tax funding from each park district. This will come to a \$5,000 addition for Blue Island Park district. Addition promotion is needed for more public awareness. They handle special needs for all ages. If 75 percent of park district members agree, the increase will be approved. If under that there is an opt out option. This item will be placed on the next agenda.
- j. January will have a new adult fitness program called Pound fitness.
- k. Cameras and masterplan on hold. These items will cost in the ballpark of up to \$90,000.

Motion to adjourn Regular Session was made by Commissioner Espinoza 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