



Kankakee Valley

PARK DISTRICT

Kankakee Valley Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting July 22, 2019

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5pm by President Spriggs. Those present for roll call were Commissioners D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. Staff present: Executive Director, Dayna Heitz; Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, Rick Collins; Attorney John Coghlan; Superintendent of Recreation, Melissa Woodard.

Public Present: Bob Schneider, Neil Piggush, Scott Snavely, Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kankakee RiverFront: Scott Snavely: Wanted to meet the new commissioners who may not have been here the last time we presented. This is a partnership.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong: Want to make sure we are in regular communication with the board. Wanted to update you on the progress being made with the RiverFront project. Use the river to create economic and recreation growth. We had community wide input. Partnered with KVPD for a grant that we were awarded. Adopted the RiverFront plan. Applied for an OSLAD grant. Taken down 5 additional houses from the FEMA grant. Adopted the RiverFront TIF. We have a riverfront implementation team that meets often. Planning an event in October to bring some activity and awareness about the project. Know the park district was concerned about the maintenance. We are looking at funding to help with a 501c3. The KCCVB knows the project is big and looking to get some support from them. There is another round of OSLAD grants that we will apply for. We have a potential investor for Fisherman's Park. We are very serious about the project and there is movement. Director Heitz has expressed interest in keeping the Alpiner2 baseball field a baseball field. It has historic value and the park district has put funding for it in their capital.

Neil Piggush: Still waiting to hear back on some other grants. We will begin work on the OSLAD grant that we were awarded. We understand there are some maintenance concerns. Maybe the district and city could enter in a MOU to set the table for discussions to happen. There would be separate agreements on a case by case basis. Each project is different so that's why it would warrant different agreements.

Scott Snavely: There will be a high degree of standards and want your input in everything. It's a 10 year plan so there will be a lot of dialogue. Just want to continue a great partnership to attract more visitors to Kankakee County.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong: There is some money for legacy projects and the river project qualifies. Will continue to work for that through community lobbyist to access those funds.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is some written communication in the packet from the KCCVB.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda for Monday, July 22, 2019 consists of board, committee minutes, bills payable, financial statements, Resolution for Assistant Secretary & Treasurer, and Resolution for banking services.

A motion to receive consent agenda was made by Commissioner Hollis, seconded by Commissioner Spriggs. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion to approve Committee Meeting Minutes (June 10, 2019), Board Meeting Minutes (June 24, 2019), bills payable, & financial statement was made by Commissioner Hollis, seconded by Commissioner Mullady. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion to approve the Resolution to approve the appointment of Dayna J. Heitz as Assistant Secretary and Treasurer was made by Commissioner Hollis, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Discussion: Commissioner Skelly asked if we changed the wording? Yes. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion to approve the resolution approving new banking services with Midland States Bank was made by Commissioner Hollis, seconded by Commissioner Spriggs. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NA

NEW BUSINESS

NA

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director

D. Heitz: On the financials, the Illinois Funds is the account we would be switching to Midland. Money will go into Midland investment account. Set up identical as the Illinois Funds account was.

Bears Camp starts the 27th-August 10th. Maintenance has done a lot of work from the storm damage. Touch a Truck event was Saturday.

Spoke with several historians on historical dates to assist in the Alpiner Park national historical registry application.

Would like to make sure the Board wants to move forward on the OSLAD grant. If we wait much longer, we will not be able to submit. Need to work with Farnsworth. This would be for the Splash Pad at Splash Valley. Commissioner Hollis asked about the Splash Pad here, are we working with someone? Yes. Working with Precision Piping and he will give some ideas. He needs to look at the piping to see if they can be repaired or if all pipes needs to be torn up and removed for replacement. Commissioner Hollis: Was he one that worked on it prior? Yes. Long time ago.

Commissioner Spriggs said for Touch a Truck maintenance put sprinklers on the poles down there. It worked! Great job maintenance.

Commissioner Palmer said that Splash Valley is so far removed from where people can get to. Director Heitz explained that the piping at the pool is ready to add on. We wouldn't be able to get enough money to raise it from the ground up. Commissioner Palmer said maybe we should look more long term and forego the OSLAD now. Commissioner Mullady said didn't the bus used to drop off there? Commissioner Hollis said the bus used to let the kids ride for free. The path also allows kids to ride there on their bikes. River Valley Metro has been good to work with. Director Heitz said she can't apply for the OSLAD for the splash pad here. Commissioner Hollis said there are a lot of grants coming back. Where would we get the money for our portion? A bond. If we can make Splash Valley the best we can, let's apply for the OSLAD. Then actively look for something to fix the Splash Pad here. Maybe we can collaborate with the City for something. Don't see why we wouldn't go forward with the OSLAD. Commissioner Palmer asked for clarification on what a splash pad is. Director Heitz said it will be 3 times the size of the one at Bird Park. There would be areas for 3 different age groups. Commissioner Mullady said you could have someone turn the water on and sell slushies or something to help offset some costs. Director Heitz asked for a general consensus from the board on moving

forward with the OSLAD. Hollis said yes, and Spriggs wants it as well. Commissioner Palmer said if we move forward with this one, would we apply for something for this one next year? Director Heitz said it depends on what we find out and how much it will cost. Do want to apply for an OSLAD grant. Commissioner Palmer asked if it would take away attendance from Splash Valley? Commissioner Hollis said historically it hasn't.

Old Ball Diamond road has been completed and is reopened. Will look at fixing additional parts of the road next year from capital. We will be closed on Friday for our all staff picnic.

Commissioner Skelly asked about the union contract. With our current board attorney, was it an extra expense for him to negotiate? No. Director Heitz would like a separate attorney, an unbiased party. Commissioner Skelly said why are we paying the money to have an attorney and then spend extra money for someone else? Director Heitz has asked for a separate attorney for union negotiations. Commissioner Hollis thinks that we should ask for someone else from the union side, since they are making it difficult. The other person is the issue, not our attorney. Director Heitz said there are lots of things that need to be removed from the contract. Director Heitz has asked to work with someone else from the Union and was told no. Commissioner Hollis said please ask again.

Commissioner Skelly asked about the storm damage. There was tree damage at Bird, River Road, Railroad, and Potawatomi.

Commissioner Mullady asked how many union employees we have? 3. Are the meetings very combative? Yes, lots of friction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

KCCVB Report

Director Heitz: There are some new board members. No resolution on the Bradley issue.

Historical Society Report

Commissioner Spriggs: Not a lot to report on.

SRA

Commissioner Hollis: Roof is fixed. Talked about the upcoming Mouse Race event. Been a great fundraiser. Talked about programming for the younger kids.

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioner Palmer is asking for consideration for a transparency portal for every agreement that KVPD has. He saw it on another District's website. Did do some research on the lawsuits being on the books. It's good general practice to have it on the books. This gets into garnishments. Director Heitz said it would come from the state treasury because they manage everything. Attorney Coghlan said there is a list of places that they owe money. Then the federal government and probation department handles all the money. He asked about cell towers? Director Heitz is still researching it. We have a cell tower in Aroma Park. The District took a 10-year advanced payment on it. Looking for a signed agreement. Then we have 2 other cell towers on our property. Those agreements were up in 2012. Don't know more on them yet. Commissioner Palmer stated it would be nice once we have these agreements tracked down, let's put them online so we can access them. Director Heitz said we have created a list of our agreements and tracking their expiration dates. We are still locating agreements.

Commissioner Skelly asked about mowing at Butterfield. Are we going to continue mowing property that isn't ours? Why would we mow someone else's property? Commissioner Spriggs asked which radio station owns it? Director Heitz said there isn't a standard agreement with KGSSL. We use those fields for tournaments. Attorney Coghlan said all the property that is west of the evergreens, makes up 75% of the parking for the tournaments. If you are talking about not doing work over there, then you have a wide area that isn't available for parking. Commissioner Skelly asked how we get separate agreements? It almost appears as KGSSL has the whole park. Why go into another agreement? What benefits them? Attorney Coghlan said the original lease was done in 2000. The agreement self-renews. Commissioner Skelly said possibly we could enter an agreement with the radio station, KGSSL and the park district. That way we aren't mowing someone else's property for free.

Commissioner Skelly said we make more money at River Road than we do at Butterfield. We pay KGSSL to run a tournament at Butterfield.

Commissioner Hollis thinks we should bring it up at Committee to talk about mowing Butterfield and the comparison for both fields.

Commissioner Skelly asked for the utilizes for the rec center? Yes. Will get you a p/l.

Commissioner Skelly asked if we have had the meeting with the police department? Not yet.

Commissioner Skelly asked about executive session minutes. Are we ready to review them for public view? When we review in 6 months, we can vote.

Commissioner Skelly was under the impression we were talking about contracts and expired contracts. KCC, our attorney, and housing authority to name a few. Thought we were going to talk about sending RFP's for our attorney. Then received something from our president saying everything is good now. If we want to send out for proposals, do it. If we like our attorney lets get a contract and sign it and move on. We do RFP's for other things, so why wouldn't we for this. This is a board and we are transparent. We as a board need to talk about it. We have the opportunity to send out for proposals and think we should do that. Commissioner Spriggs said initially he was going to call and let them know. The timing is bad and we can do this at a later date. Attorney Coghlan was on board for hiring another attorney for other things. It was my mistake. At some point we might need to do this. We have so much going on that the timing is bad. We mentioned to John that we would be sure to get lawyers that are familiar with the things we need. We can do something about this in the fall. Commissioner Skelly appreciates the communication. The issue is we are continuing with an expired contract and adding additional expense for another attorney. It wouldn't be for a few months until we signed a new agreement. Commissioner Skelly wanted us to have conversation with all board members. Commissioner Spriggs said you talked to Hollice Clark. Why would you do that? In this situation, it's not pertinent. Commissioner Hollis said we need to realize we are talking numbers. People have forgiven us for the past. We raised the attorney rate around 2013 to \$1100 per month from \$1000. As a District, I think we need to use our attorney. To get rid of a firm who has supported this district for years, would be a mistake. Our attorney is well versed in lots of things. We need to use him for everything. Would be different if he said he needed help. Commissioner Spriggs asked if you would entertain if Director Heitz and Attorney Coghlan get together and decide it was a better idea to hire someone else. Commissioner Hollis said if we need to do a contract, that's fine. If someone has a problem with our attorney, we bring it up for a vote to renew his contract. If he gets the votes, we do the contract and move on. This has nothing to do with going out for proposals, it has everything to do with him. He didn't run when things were bad. Commissioner Hollis said he's being judged. Commissioner Spriggs said he's not. Commissioner Hollis said we need to show him the same loyalty that he did to us. Let's vote on his contract and move forward either way. Let's show his firm the same loyalty. Commissioner Palmer thinks that a board should document things. We get reports from staff. But don't know what the issues are. It's not apparent to the board what the attorney is doing. Who else do we pay that it's not broken down by services? Director Heitz said we are paying for a retainer. Commissioner Palmer said there is no standard of performance. Retainers are too open ended. Commissioner Mullady said you get what you pay for. Not sure how much an attorney is needed because he's too new. Still learning and too new to vote someone out. Commissioner Skelly said we need a contract. Have asked how many hours Attorney Coghlan works. He said he doesn't know. Commissioner Spriggs asked if the issue is just money with

Commissioner Skelly? Commissioner Skelly said it's an expired contract that we are not responsible and dealing with. Upset with how we are going out for RFP's and then we aren't. Commissioner Mullady asked if we are still going forward with the Housing Authority and KCC? Director Heitz said we aren't working at it right this minute but yes, we will. Commissioner Skelly said we have these things that should be under old business. That would remind us to talk about them. Director Heitz said that stuff can be moved from her report and put under new business or old business. Attorney Coghlan said one of the reasons that we as a firm signed a retainer was that it is a firm expense for the district. Then you don't have to bill it and take the time to do that. In a standard month just from meetings it's about 6 hours. Then all week long we are in contact. If there is an issue with an employee, assist on that. There are a wide range of things that we do for the board. It's a set amount and don't have to spend a lot of time recording and billing for each item. Our firm has a history where try to provide public service for the community. The last time we did a contract we put in there that it would roll over. If you want to change something, that's fine. We talked about it and we are good with continuing on for \$1100. We knew the financial history of the district. But if your intention is to go out for quotes, we will still come in with a competitive bid but it will be more than \$1100. We believe in the District but you can do whatever you want. If you want a new contract that is signed, we are willing to keep contract and move on. Commissioner Spriggs asked if the board wants it on the agenda and vote? Commissioner Palmer said there is nothing to compare it to. Need to know what another firm offers. Ok with putting it on the agenda. Commissioner Mullady is ok with the vote. Commissioner Skelly asked what we are voting on? Like Commissioner Palmer said, would be nice to have something to compare it to. Certainly, think Attorney Coghlan should put a proposal in and that he should be compensated for his loyalty. Commissioner Palmer said if we have to pay more, willing to pay more. Commissioner Hollis asked if it's in the budget to pay more? Director Heitz said the budget is already done. Commissioner Hollis wants it on the agenda to vote on his contract. We could discuss other firms in the committee meeting. Commissioner Spriggs agrees. Commissioner Skelly wants it to be on for RFP. Commissioner Palmer, too. Commissioner Palmer wants RFP but now he can up his price. Director Heitz asked what should be included in the RFP? Commissioner Hollis said we have a list of what he does, that's what we want in the RFP. How long for contract? 2 years. Director Heitz said you are giving a directive for RFP for legal services - 2 year term. Bring RFP to committee meeting for the board to review before sending out.

Executive Session

A motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of pending or imminent litigation 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) was made at 7:01pm by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Mullady.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion to reopen the meeting was made at 7:20pm by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Spriggs. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve the life insurance claim was made by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Mullady. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: D. Mullady, D. Palmer, A. Hollis, D. Skelly, and B. Spriggs. With 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:22pm by Commissioner Hollis, seconded by Commissioner Mullady. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Committee Meeting Minutes (June 10, 2019)
2. Board Meeting Minutes (June 24, 2019)
3. Bills Payable
4. Financial Statements
5. Resolution to appoint Dayna J. Heitz as Assistant Secretary & Treasurer
6. Resolution approving new banking services with Midland States Bank

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Woodard