

FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2019

The following are Minutes of a special meeting of the Frankfort Square Park District Board of Commissioners held at the Park District Administration Building, 7540 W. Braemar Lane, Frankfort, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Present were: Ken Blackburn, Dave Macek, Craig Maksymiak, Denis Moore, Brian Mulheran, and Joe Vlosak.

IV. Public Input

Jeanine Roselle, FSPD resident, stated the Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 community is wondering if the intergovernmental agreement by and between D210 and the Park District was renewed for a new season.

Mr. Randall responded that the agreement is structured to automatically renew unless either party should bring an objection.

Ms. Roselle asked if the parties are locked into a certain term.

Mr. Randall responded that it is a one year renewal and can be voided if needed.

Kim Coughlin, FSPD resident stated that she thinks the Park District does a fantastic job. She was present to speak on behalf of a friend regarding a league of people coming from Orland Park to use the new pickleball courts at Champions Park early in the morning.

Mr. Randall responded by stating the pickleball courts are a public facility and is open in the morning and is enjoyed by senior citizens, not all of which are from Orland Park. It is hard to limit use of a popular public facility. Mr. Randall further stated that the Board could discuss whether limits should be placed, but when closing a facility, there are costs incurred.

Ms. Coughlin also expressed concerns about the fence at the Dog Park. She noted there is a gap where dogs can get out and could run into traffic. She previously expressed concerns about this matter.

Mr. Randall responded that Ed Reidy, Superintendent of Parks inspected the Dog Park facility today, July 23, and the issue will be addressed.

V. Legal Report

Secretary, Jim Randall, requested consideration to appoint Pam Kohlbacher to the Board of Park Commissioners following the resignation of Anthony Granata, and offered the following summary based on the requested Board action.

I previously reviewed the appointment of Board Members in the event of resignation with Park Attorney Jim Rock of Ancel Glink, Diamond and Bush.

Ken Blackburn, Board President, received notice that the appointment of Pam Kohlbacher was to be considered at the May 16, 2019 regular meeting of the Park Board. However, the appointment was not expressly listed on the agenda for that meeting.

The special meeting, called this evening, is done to correct the appointment to fill the position made available by Commissioner, Anthony Granata's resignation.

The special meeting has been posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Local publications of record received notice of the special meeting, and the special meeting notice was also posted at the Park District's Administration Building and the District's website as required by the Open Meetings Act.

The agenda includes the notice of appointment on the agenda.

I would also provide the online website address for all Board Members for the Open Meetings Act (OMA) training to be completed prior to the September Board Meeting. All full-time department heads will also complete OMA training prior to the August Board meeting.

I do my best to ensure the Board Members are well-informed about required actions relative to the administrative requirements of the District.

Following notification of non-compliance, Attorney Rock advised the steps completed this evening to rectify the deficiency.

Attorney Rock, upon receiving necessary documents relative to this issue, will respond to the State's Attorney on the Park District's behalf.

Moving forward, individuals interested in filling potential vacancies on the Park Board will be encouraged to notify the Park District of this intent as adopted in Ordinance No. 19-07-321, at the July 28, 2019 regular meeting of the Park Board.

It would be useful that if residents have similar concerns, they would contact the Park District office. We are better able to respond directly and more affordably to Park District residents, providing all requested information through direct communication.

It is our intent, as supported by the detail of information immediately available, to be fully transparent on all Park District issues.

In this instance, when correction is needed, the action necessary is made expeditiously and with needed direction from Park District Counsel.

Mr. Randall further noted that today, July 23, 2019, he received a request for the current intergovernmental agreement with Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210. This request was immediately responded to, and documents were forwarded to the requestors without the need for a FOIA request. He commented that all District documents are posted on the District's website. The Park District is placed in a difficult position when a matter rises to the level of becoming a legal issue.

Mr. Randall is disappointed when residents choose to communicate at this level when the Park District is open to input and responsive to requests. He further stated that when a resident called about a fence that required repair, Park staff responded the same day. Another resident stopped in to notify the District a branch was blocking his gate, and again, Park staff responded on the same day.

Commissioner, Craig Maksymiak asked how much was incurred in legal fees due to the issue regarding the recent Park Board appointment.

Mr. Randall stated that hourly costs are billed per time provided, and the potential cost could exceed \$1,000 on this issue in legal fees alone, notwithstanding staff costs.

Mr. Randall further noted that the issue was raised due to a Board appointment that was not included on the May agenda. Per public input at the June meeting, all agreed the candidate, Pam Kohlbacher, was highly qualified and has served the community well for many years. The objection was to the form.

Jim Arvia stated that an email was sent by Julie Arvia, but went unanswered.

These minutes are amended as follows per request by Commissioner, Joe Vlosak: Mr. Vlosak replied by stating that Julie Arvia stood before the Park Board at the regular meeting of the Park Board of Commissioner on June 20, 2019, following her email to Mr. Vlosak that was received on June 12, 2019. Ms. Arvia stated her issues, and Board Members responded to her questions and concerns in a public forum, therefore, Ms. Arvia's statement that the email went unanswered is inaccurate.

Mr. Randall responded that the Board was acting under the advice from legal counsel and the appointment was approved under new business as the vacancy needed to be filled expeditiously. The only issue was that the item did not appear as an item on the May agenda.

Jim Arvia was concerned about the manner in which the vacancy was filled.

Mr. Randall responded that Pam Kohlbacher previously notified the Park District that she would be willing to fill a Board position should a need ever arise. The District had a qualified candidate that expressed prior interest and had prior experience. The misstep was that the motion was not noted on the May agenda. Mr. Randall further noted the issue was not discussed by the Board outside a Board Meeting. Anthony Granata notified Ken Blackburn Board President about his resignation, and Mr. Blackburn then proposed consideration of Pam Kohlbacher to fill the vacancy.

Per Ms. Arvia's request, a policy is now in place allowing the public to express interest in future candidacy on the Park Board, as adopted per Ordinance No. 19-07-321 at the July 18, 2019 Board Meeting and in compliance with the Park Code regarding the filling of Board vacancies.

Ken Blackburn noted all received the email sent by Julie Arvia and it did not include a request for a response, however, the Board delivered a response per the policy that was adopted at the July meeting, as previously noted.

Board Members also commented on the lack of candidates in past elections.

President Ken Blackburn requested a motion and a second to appoint Pam Kohlbacher to the Board of Park Commissioners to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Anthony Granata.

Dave Macek made Motion 19-1480 to appoint Pam Kohlbacher to the Board of Park Commissioners to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Anthony Granata as presented. Brian Mulheran seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Denis Moore, Craig Maksymiak, Brian Mulheran, Joe Vlosak, Dave Macek and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Jim Randall requested consideration to purchase a 2019 Chevrolet Bolt at a cost of \$34,809.95 and a 2019 Ford F-450 chassis with Utility Body at a cost of \$41,057 through a State of Illinois Municipal contract, and a Ford F-150 4x4 at a cost not to exceed \$32,000 after bids are received. The listed vehicle purchases include a vehicle trade of a Park District-owned Ford Transit for \$7,500.

Mr. Randall noted the above vehicles will be paid out of budget, no debt will be incurred for the purchases. The District also recently retired over \$300,000 in debt and also paid off golf and utility cars. The only remaining debt is through General Obligation Bonds, which are currently being restructured to provide additional savings.

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Craig Maksymiak made Motion 19-1481 to purchase vehicles and trade in as presented. Joe Vlosak seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Denis Moore, Craig Maksymiak, Brian Mulheran, Joe Vlosak, Dave Macek and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

Dave Macek made Motion 19-1482 to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Craig Maksymiak seconded. Motion carried in a vote by voice.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Mitchell