

Calumet Memorial Park District

Board of Commissioners

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

March 15, 2023

President Velasquez called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Velasquez, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Figgs, Commissioner Pierce, Hollice Clark, Paul Nowakowski (**Zoom**), Treasurer John Kasperek (**Zoom**), Attorney Tiffany Nelson - Jaworski, Supt. of Parks & Maintenance Marlon Medina, Recording Secretary/Consultant, Charles L. Dockery

Absent (Excused): Stan Miller

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Commissioner Evans

Public Comments – There was one lady in attendance with her children who had comments addressed to the board/

Staff Reports

1. Executive Director

- a. Kudos and congratulations to staff for completing the move to Sandridge. Special thanks went out to Dereck Teets who was recognized as the MVP.
 - i. March 26 will be the grand opening.
 1. Gift bags
 2. Refreshments
 3. Jesse White Tumblers at noon
 4. Prior to opening we had 25 members, since the soft opening, we are now up to 94 members.
- b. Hollice inquired about what happened to members who did not want to go to South Holland when fire occurred? Hollice suggested that the district offer those members the remainder of their yearly subscription for free as a way of showing consistency.

- c. Hollice suggested to the board that Memorial only be opened when there are activities being held there.
- d. There have been an abundance of people looking to help and do classes, please refer them to Hollice, Background checks must be conducted.
- e. Hollice notified the Board that because of the new phone system, he's able to answer the office phone from his cell phone.
- f. Lawn contracts are coming up, he is not offering American Lawn Pulaski Park this year. The district will handle Pulaski Park internally.

2. Manager of Safety, Security, and Operations/Superintendent of Parks & Maintenance

- a. Paul Nowakowski gave a very brief report.
 - i. The process of hiring employees has changed. Every new employee will have a background check and every new employee will be on-boarded correctly.
 - ii. The IT in the building is top notch and state of the art.
 - iii. The maintenance team is doing a remarkable job of keeping the building clean.

3. Superintendent of Parks & Recreation –

- a. Dereck Teets gave a brief report on the building projects and repairs for the month. His focus was on getting Sandridge opened.
- b. Dereck received his CPO license.
- c. He gave an update on the pool and whirlpool at Sandridge.
- d. He gave a brief update on the condition and the repairs in the parks.

4. Treasurer's Report

John Kasperek gave the treasurer's report for the month of February via Zoom. He reported to the board of commissioners that the tax bills will be late, and most of the tax revenue will hit in the next fiscal year.

5. Attorney's Report – No legal matters to report. But she can answer any questions.

President Velasquez called for a motion to deviate from the scheduled agenda and at this time to go in Executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel, real estate, and litigation. Commissioner Evans made the motion and Commissioner Pierce seconded the

motion. The motion passed unanimously. (4-0) **Evans Yes Pierce Yes Figgs Yes Velasquez Yes**

The board exited the regular meeting at 6:53 p.m.

The regular board meeting reconvened at 7:30.

6. Consent Agenda

- a) Commissioner Pierce motioned to approve the consent agenda (**Items 6 A-D (Treasurer's Report, Regular Board Meeting Minutes from Feb.15, Bill Postings from Feb. 2023/March 2023 & Payroll for Feb. 2023/March 2023)**). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (4-0) **Figgs Yes Pierce Yes Evans Yes Velasquez Yes**

New Business

1. Commissioner Pierce motioned to approve **Resolution 22-R-14**, a Resolution mourning Euola Larven Wells, mother of Mayor Polk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Evans. The motion passed unanimously. (4-0) **Figgs Yes Pierce Yes Evans Yes Velasquez Yes**
2. Commissioner Pierce motioned to approve **Resolution 22-R-15**, an ordinance authorizing and approving the disposal of personal property (**13 spin bikes**) of the Calumet Memorial Park District, Cook County, Illinois. **The motion was amended to sell 15 spin bikes.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Evans, after a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. (4-0). **Pierce Yes Evans Yes Figgs Yes Velasquez Yes**
3. Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the Treasurer to open a new bank account and move some of our accounts to Amalgamated Bank. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Evans. The motions passed unanimously. (4-0) **The motion passed by unanimously. (4-0) Evans Yes Pierce Yes Figgs Yes Miller Yes**
4. There was a lengthy discussion held by the commissioners about contracting a political lobbyist for the Calumet Memorial Park District. The gentleman in question was busy and not able to attend this month's meeting. The attorney had some questions about the presented documents that were full of type-o's. The agreement was reviewed by the attorney. The attorney suggested that we contract a lobbyist/grant writer with the

district's best interest in mind. She will ask around with her other clients to see if she can come up with some other candidates.

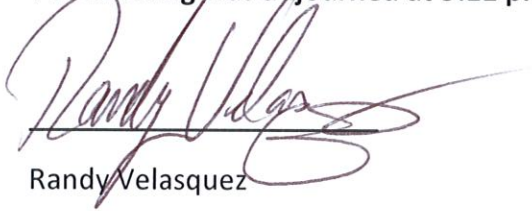
5. The discussion on a new policy for rentals and sponsorship for elected officials was tabled to be discussed at the next board meeting. Paul notified the board that all rentals will be brought before the board for board approval. Hollice recommended that the usage of Sandridge will require two employees to staff Sandridge for all rentals. There was a lengthy discussion that followed. This discussion will be revisited at next month's meeting.
6. Hollice presented the board with a policy/procedure package from the Broadview Park District that he received from Jim Cecil. Hollice revised the policy/procedure manual is recommending that we do away with floating holidays and give the employees MLK Day and the day after Thanksgiving. He is also suggesting that the district revise the insurance benefits that will be discussed at a later meeting. The goal is to prevent part time employees from working over 1000 hours per week making them eligible for IMRF benefits and 30 hours a week which would make them eligible for health insurance. There was a lengthy discussion that followed. These recommended policy and procedures need to be addressed soon in order to add to the collective bargaining agreement coming up soon.
7. The park district is subject by law to abide by the set rules of IDPH. We are in the process of updating our pool policy. The lifeguards will be trained to follow these updated policies. Commissioner Figgs is looking for a pool manual to supply to all employees working the pool. There was a brief discussion pertaining to pool rules, regulations, and usage policies. Atty. Jaworski suggested that we put up "pool usage plaques" around the facility.
8. Hollice would like to move New Star Special Recreation from Sandridge over to Memorial, but he wants to do it the correct way. The attorney suggested that we have them sign a facility usage agreement. Lincoln School received a grant for an afterschool program that they will partner with New Star to provide transportation over to Memorial.
9. There was a lengthy discussion on membership pricing at Sandridge Fitness Center. There was a debate over the \$50 enrollment fee; should it be a one-time fee (initial), an annual fee, or should we eliminate the \$50 fee altogether? The district will be giving out 300 bags at the grand opening. Inside those bags will be discounts on membership, programs, and in four of the bags there will be a 6-month free membership. Commissioner Figgs thought that the price was too high and should be lowered because she felt that it was too expensive for the citizens of this community and the prices do not reflect the demographics of this community. She also felt that the brochures should

be changed, and she expressed concerns because the brochure was not presented to the commissioners for approval.

- Hollice informed the board that he received forms from AIG that needs to be completed pertaining to the Rising alleged embezzlement of funds asking for chronological details of the incident. Hollice will get on the phone with Orbis next week to see how we can move on and proceed.
- Hollice expressed concern because he is the only one who can approve purchase orders. His Father is having major health challenges and he is looking for someone who can sign purchase orders when he is away.
- Commissioner Evans motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. The motion passed unanimously. **(4-0)** **Evans Yes**

Pierce Yes Figgs Yes Velasquez Yes

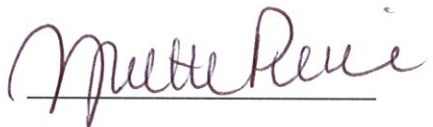
The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.



Randy Velasquez

Board President

Date



Yvette "Tekie" Pierce

Board Secretary

Date

