

**Belvidere Township Park District  
Board Meeting  
September 28, 2021  
Minutes**

The Belvidere Township Park District Board of Commissioners board meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. Roll call was taken. Those in attendance were Jean Twynning, Mary Marquardt, Amy Grafton, and Daniel Noble. Sam An arrived at 5:02 p.m. Those also in attendance were Kim Kirkpatrick, Melissa Merkel, Jonathan Cudzewicz, Aly Graham, Bill West, and Sean Cramer.

**Meeting Agenda**

Grafton made a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting agenda, seconded by Twynning. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes**

August 24, 2021- Twynning made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 24, 2021, seconded by Marquardt.

Twynning made a motion to amend the August 24, 2021 meeting minutes to have Third Base capitalized on all pages. Also, under Unfinished Business, letter A, Appointment to Parks & Conservation Foundation Board- Legal opinion, Twynning suggested it say Attorney McGirk provided a legal opinion stating that two members of the Park District board may serve on the Parks & Conservation Foundation board, seconded by Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on the amendment to the motion with all voting yes. Motion carried.

September 14, 2021- Twynning made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 14, 2021, seconded by Marquardt.

Twynning made a motion to amend the September 14, 2021 meeting minutes on page 1 under board correspondence, about Green Space fees to say, Twynning gave an update on Green Space fees and circulated an email from Greg Brown, which addressed the subject. Greg represents District 100 and is the lead spokesperson for the involved parties, seconded by Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on the amendment to the motion with all voting yes. Motion carried.

**Board Correspondence**

Marquardt shared the newspaper article about a shooting at General Mills Park.

Twynning made a comment congratulating Grafton on a very nice Hispanic luncheon held at the Chamber of Commerce.

Twynning told the board that she received an email from a park user named Kathy Eikedahl, who asked if Aberdeen could get one of the tennis courts converted into a pickleball court.

Twyning showed the photo in the Journal about Hickory Bills and a piece of mail she received about the Sosnowski photo contest, featuring the Indians in it.

Twyning distributed a legal opinion about political signs from Attorney Scheurich. It stated, you have inquired whether the district may ban political signs in the parks. I advise that if the district accepts paid advertising, it may not discriminate on the basis of content, under current US Supreme Court rulings. The district may remove signs placed by political advocates if the signs interfere with grass mowing, or otherwise interfere with the intended use of a particular part of a park, such as in the base path of a softball field, or inside a soccer field. The district may also prohibit nailing signs to a tree or a building surface, or any other kind of attachment which might mar or damage district structures or property.

The district would be able to prohibit obscene or slanderous signs or speech, or other signs or speech which would provoke a reasonable person to commit a breach of the peace. Beyond that, parks are deemed to be public forums (fora?) and available for the public to exercise first amendment rights.

Please let me know if you have further questions or desire more in-depth analysis of this matter.

Merkel had a conversation with the board on the property taxes for the Sundstrand property. The district has only received a partial exemption for the 2020 year and taxes are still owed on the property.

### **Public Input**

Bill West spoke to the board to let them know that there are grants available for the purchase of a bus.

### **Perkins & Will Aquatic Study Update**

Beachum had a report for the board to review with updates on the Aquatic Study. There was a discussion on whether the primary interest of the study was on Aquatics. There was discussion on a point person for the study and who could direct Perkins & Will in the direction the board wants for the study. Merkel told the board that October 12, 2021 Perkins & Will be joining the meeting via Zoom to update the board on the study.

### **Old Business**

Discussion on AGHL Law Bill/AGHL Law Bill for PDRMA- Kirkpatrick updated the board on which dates of service the AGHL Law bills will be sent to PDRMA.

Marquardt made a motion to approve payment of \$8,502.00 to AGHL Law firm, seconded by Twyning. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Marquardt made a motion to ask PDRMA to reimburse the district in the amount of \$2,106.00 from the AGHL Law bills, seconded by Twyning. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes.

### **New Business**

Funding to help with additional duties for Ray Ochromowicz- Kirkpatrick told the board Ochromowicz was currently working on our levy. The board suggested getting a monthly bill or bi-weekly bill from Ochromowicz.

Outreach to Keen Age Center- Cudzewicz updated the board that the Keen Age Center has no intent to sell or lease any vehicles. The Keen Age Center has offered to drive our participants only during their normal business hours. It was suggested to reach out to First Student bus company and North Boone School District about their busses.

Green Space Ordinances from the City and the County- the ordinances from the city and the County about Green Space fees were distributed for board members to review.

Decision of how to provide minutes of meetings- The board asked Merkel and Kirkpatrick to check into My Secretary Services program and check around with other places as to whom they use for taking minutes.

Discussion on intent to issue a 2021 1-year General Obligation Bond- there was a discussion on the bond amounts in prior years. The board asked Kirkpatrick and Merkel to talk with Ochromowicz to see if he would be willing to work with Attorney Scheurich on the bond.

Discussion and Action on Parks & Conservation Foundation audit invoice- Marquardt told the board the Parks & Conservation Foundation previously had a \$750.00 audit and now the increase on the audit was due to the Sundstrand donation.

Twyning made a motion to pay \$3,000.00 to Lucas Group for the Parks & Conservation Foundation audit bill, seconded by Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

### **Next meeting agenda items**

Twyning made a motion to table A, B, C, D under New Business to Old Business for the October 12, 2021 meeting, seconded by Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

IAPD – in Executive Session

Perkins & Will

Lucas Group presentation of audit on October 26, 2021

General Obligation Bond Issue

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by  
Melissa Merkel