

**Minutes**  
**Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**August 16, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**  
**Johnston Recreation Center and Via Zoom**

**COVID-19/Open Meetings Act Opening Statement**

President Burke recited the following statement:

*This meeting will be conducted by video conference and in-person possibly without a physically present quorum of the Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners because of a disaster declaration related to COVID-19 public health concerns affecting the jurisdiction of the Park District. The President of the Board of Commissioners has determined that an in-person meeting at the JRC with all participants may not be practical or prudent because of the disaster. Commissioners, the Executive Director, staff, and chief legal counsel may not all be physically present at the JRC, due to the disaster. Physical public attendance at the JRC may be limited or not feasible, so alternative arrangements for public access to hear the meeting are available. The meeting will also be audio and video recorded and made available to the public, as provided by law. All votes will be by roll call. The public was asked to submit questions and/or comments in advance to Jackie.*

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board, staff, and visitors recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Andre Burke. In attendance were Commissioners Buzz Puccio, Karen Johns, Mike Vogl, Jerry Marshall, and Andre Burke, and staff members Joe Potts, Jennifer Vale, Sandy Vangundy, Josh Hendricks, Mesha Hadzic, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

**Recognition of Visitors**

The Board welcomed to the meeting Tania Rodriguez, the Park District's newest recreation supervisor, and Bob Ijams and Lara Remitz, Wight & Co staff members in attendance to discuss the OSLAD grant application and project.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Puccio, to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of August 16, 2021, as presented. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Johns, Puccio, Vogl, Marshall, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

## Staff Reports

There were no comments on staff reports.

## New Business

### Review of Stratford Park Plan by Wight & Co. for OSLAD Grant Application

Lara Remitz and Bob Ijams of Wight & Company communicated to the Board an overview of the Stratford Park project that, if approved, will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for consideration of an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant. If awarded the OSLAD grant, the \$500,000 project will be funded by the Park District and OSLAD funds (\$250,000 each).

Two collaborative meetings were held to collect input from the community, develop a conceptualized plan, then present modifications to the community group. The updated concept plan presented to the Board included the addition of play equipment and an obstacle course, interpretive signage, native bioswale plantings, an outdoor classroom with a shade structure and seat wall, three fitness stations, an 8-foot-wide asphalt path, half-court basketball, and a one-mile start and finish line.

Following discussion on amenity details and potentially substituting certain amenities for others, the Board approved of the concept and agreed it showcased a good combination of diverse amenities targeting all age groups. Wight & Co. plans to submit the grant application by the September 1, 2021, deadline; grantees will be determined by spring of 2022. The Board thanked Wight & Co. for their work on the proposal and for handling the community meetings with professionalism.

### Approval of Resolution No. 2021-06: OSLAD Grant Application for Stratford Park Project

Commissioner Vogl moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to approve Resolution No. 2021-06: A Resolution of Authorization for OSLAD Grant Application – Matching Funds for Stratford Park Project. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Vogl, Marshall, Puccio, Johns, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

(Bob and Lara left the meeting at approximately 7:27 p.m.)

### Approval of Ordinance No. 2021-03: Surplus Property

Staff proposed disposing of three pieces of mowing equipment in need of expensive repairs and were no longer useful to the Park District.

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to approve Ordinance No. 2021-03: An Ordinance Declaring Certain Park District Personal Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposal. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Johns, Marshall, Puccio, Vogl, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

### Confirmation of Yearly Elected and Appointed Officers FY 2021-2022

The Board combined and confirmed the election and appointment of officers below from two different, previous meetings – June 14 and July 19, 2021.

President:	Andre Burke
Vice President:	Jerry Marshall
Legal Counsel:	Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer
Bank Depository:	Bloomington Bank & Trust, a Wintrust Community Bank
Auditor:	Seldon Fox
Executive Director:	Joe Potts
FOIA Officers:	Jackie Tithof Steere and Jennifer Vale
OMA Officers:	Joe Potts and Jackie Tithof Steere
Secretary:	Joe Potts
Assistant Secretary:	Jackie Tithof Steere
Treasurer:	Jennifer Vale
Assistant Treasurer:	Jerry Marshall

Commissioner Puccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Vogl, to confirm the approval of the yearly elected and appointed slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Puccio, Vogl, Marshall, Johns, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

### Approval of Landscape Equipment Purchase – Three (3) Items

Staff informed the Board of three pieces of John Deere landscape equipment it found for the price of one in (from an original quote) to replace the mowing equipment designated above as surplus property for disposal.

Commissioner Vogl moved, seconded by Commissioner Johns, to approve the purchase of three pieces of landscape equipment, total not to exceed \$20,257.75. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Vogl, Johns, Puccio, Marshall, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

### **Other Items to be Brought Before the Board**

#### Welcome to Tania Rodriguez, New Recreation Supervisor

Tania Rodriguez was welcomed by the Board to her new position as a recreation supervisor, a position she has held at another agency in the past. Tania currently serves as office assistant in the Parks Department, where it was agreed she has done great things, and will officially assume her new role August 2, 2021.

### Strategic Plan Update

Staff apprised the Board of the next steps in the strategic plan process, which include selecting a proposal from a firm and working with the admin staff and Board. President Burke and Commissioner Marshall expressed interest in working on various facets of the project – survey, focus group, etc.

### **Additional Items for the Board**

#### Character Counts!

Executive Director Potts thanked Sandy Vangundy for her work on the Character Counts! (CC!) Committee and making award winners feel special at the recent CC! awards breakfast/presentation held at the Bloomingdale Golf Club on Saturday, August 14. Rana-Reagan Pharmacy was honored to accept an award for its role in conducting COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the community.

#### Marketing Department Updates – Best of the Best Nominations and Brochure

Josh Hendricks is working on submitting nominations for the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Best of the Best awards gala. The brochure is set to come out September 1-3.

#### Parks Department Update – Ballfield Renovation

Mesha Hadzic reported on the sixth ballfield to undergo a renovation to Midlo mix.

#### Meeting with Village on COVID-19 Losses

Executive Director Potts met with the Village today regarding Park District losses of revenue and projects due to COVID-19.

#### Finance Department Update - Audit

Jennifer Vale continues to work on the audit; the auditors left last week in good spirits.

#### Circle Park Asphalt Project

The legal ad for Circle Park asphalt work appeared in the Daily Herald; bids for the project are due September 1, 2021, on time for the Special Board Meeting on September 8, 2021.

#### Westlake Pollinators Area

Staff discussed the Westlake pollinators area with the Village, emphasizing using the same style signage for interpretive signs. A hummingbird and monarch butterflies have been seen at that location recently.

#### Village Discussion

Commissioner Puccio relayed his discussion with a Village trustee about last year's last-minute change of the Festival of Lights lighting ceremony and public interaction on Facebook. It was emphasized to the Village that the Park District needs to be included in a decision of that nature as the event is a cooperative partnership.

### **Acceptance of Financial Reports**

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to accept the Financial Reports dated July 2021. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Johns, Marshall, Puccio, Vogl, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

### **Approval of Directive to Pay**

Commissioner Vogl moved, seconded by Commissioner Puccio, to approve the Directive to Pay dated August 16, 2021. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Vogl, Puccio, Marshall, Johns, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Vogl, not to enter into Executive Session. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Johns, Vogl, Puccio, Marshall, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Puccio, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Johns, Puccio, Marshall, Vogl, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Potts  
Board Secretary