

Minutes
Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
September 20, 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.

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 7:01 p.m. by President Andre Burke. In attendance were Commissioners Buzz Puccio, Jerry Marshall, Karen Johns, Mike Vogl, 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 James and Sarah Hommowum, Tammy LoCascio, and Rosie Reiter, Westlake area residents who were in attendance to listen to the Board's discussion on the asphalt path at Westlake Park. Ed Tracy and Mike Kram of Selden Fox, Ltd., were also present to discuss the current year's audit report results.

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Commissioner Vogl moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 8, 2021, as presented. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Staff Reports

The Board inquired about the Parks Foundation's interest in joining the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce. The Foundation is looking into joining to connect with people and to seek sponsorships.

Old Business

Continued Discussion of Westlake Asphalt Path

The Board revisited the decades long issue of whether to pave the unpaved portion of the Westlake path, which is currently crushed limestone, with asphalt. The District recently surveyed the neighborhood and analyzed approximately 125 responses. It was decided there was interest and support for the project. Seventy seven percent of respondents were in favor or slightly in favor of paving the unpaved portion of the path; twelve percent were opposed or slightly opposed.

A judge's ruling in 1984 called for the installation of a lockable gate to prevent vehicular traffic from using the path. Staff will explore alternatives such as a bollard that will allow path users to walk or ride around the obstacle. Staff will confirm with legal counsel if the ruling allows the District to install an 8-foot-wide paved path, which is the current Bloomingdale Park District standard, rather than a 6-foot-wide path in that section. Following Board consensus (5-0), the Board directed staff to include the pavement project in next year's budget.

(Rosie and Tammy left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.)

New Business

Approval Resolution 2021-07: Character Counts! Proclamation

Staff informed the Board that although the coalition had to skip involvement last year due to COVID-19, it plans to visit each school this year. The proclamation proclaims Tuesday, October 5, 2021, as Character Counts! Day in Bloomingdale, strongly encourages citizens to incorporate the six pillars of character into their everyday lives, and congratulates the winners of the 2021 American Youth Character Awards.

Commissioner Puccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Johns, to approve Resolution No. 2021-07: A Resolution in Support of Character Count! Day. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Acceptance of FY 2020-2021 Audit Report

Ed Tracy and Mike Kram of Selden Fox, Ltd., briefed the Board on highlights of the audit, which included the issue of a clean, unmodified opinion, notice of a fund balance increase of approximately \$86,000, the collection of 12 ½ months of budget in reserves, and a statement that the District is in a good financial position.

The auditors also noted that the Recreation Fund reported a loss for the year of \$224,431 due to COVID-19 temporary closures and programming restrictions; District expenditures decreased due to programming alternatives, limited pool operations, and a decrease in administrative salaries, supplies, and contracted services; and that they will aid in applying for the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

On behalf of all Commissioners, President Burke thanked the auditors and Director of Finance Jennifer Vale on handling the audit with great aplomb during some not so ideal circumstances.

Commissioner Marshall moved, seconded by Commissioner Johns, to accept the FY 2020-2021 Audit Report/Findings as presented by Selden Fox, Ltd. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Marshall, Johns, Puccio, Vogl, Burke

Nay: None

Absent: None

(The auditors left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.)

Other Items to be Brought Before the Board

Discussion of 2021 NRPA Conference

All staff and Board Members attending the 2021 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Conference have chosen to attend virtually rather than in person in Nashville. The conference begins Tuesday, September 22, 2021.

Additional Items for the Board

IAPD/IPRA Conference Update

Commissioner Vogl updated the Board on the status of this year's Soaring to New Heights Conference to be held in Chicago January 27-29, 2022. Thus far, the association plans to hold the conference in person.

Acceptance of Financial Reports

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

Aye: Vogl, Johns, Puccio, Marshall, Burke

Nay: None

Absent: None

Approval of Directive to Pay

Commissioner Puccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to approve the Directive to Pay dated September 20, 2021. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Executive Session

Commissioner Puccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Johns, to enter into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

(All meeting participants were then excused from the meeting, except those attending the Executive Session.)

Rise from Executive Session

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to rise from Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Regular Meeting, Resumed

The Regular Meeting of the Bloomingdale Park District Board of Commissioners was called back into session by President Burke at 7:49 p.m.

Roll Call

In attendance were Commissioners Buzz Puccio, Jerry Marshall, Karen Johns, Mike Vogl, and Andre Burke and Executive Director Joe Potts and staff member Jackie Tithof Steere.

(The Executive Session was conducted to discuss litigation.)

Adjournment

Commissioner Johns moved, seconded by Commissioner Vogl, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Potts
Board Secretary