

Belvidere Township Park District
Board Meeting
April 27, 2021

Minutes

The Belvidere Township Park District Board of Commissioners board meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. Roll call was taken. Those present were Mary Marquardt, Amy Grafton, Daniel Noble, Sam An and Jean Twyning. Also present were Mark Pentecost, Todd Bex, Rick Wulbecker, Kim Kirkpatrick, Debbie Kent, and Attorney Lori McGirk.

Meeting Agenda

Mary Marquardt made a motion to approve the April 27, 2021 meeting agenda, seconded by Amy Grafton. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Mary Marquardt made a motion to approve the April 13, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Amy Grafton. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes.

Board Correspondence

There was no board correspondence.

Public Input

Laura Pentecost was present to address the board regarding comments on Facebook made by Mark Muccianti and Paul McCaffrey. She provided commissioners with a copy of the Facebook feed she was referencing.

- One item was the comment made from Paul McCaffrey that the district had already done a feasibility study on the William Grady Pool. Mark Pentecost clarified that there has not been a feasibility study done, but there was a community outreach to help the board determine the future of William Grady Pool or a new aquatic facility. Paul McCaffrey stated the study was a waste of taxpayer's money even though he voted yes on the study.
- The second item was a Facebook post from Paul McCaffrey stating that Mary Marquardt wanted to use NASR funding on outside projects that were of no benefit to the participants. Laura Pentecost asked Mary Marquardt what she intended the money to be used for. Mary commented "I don't have any idea what you are talking about".
- Also, there was a post with name calling towards Mary Marquardt. Laura Pentecost stated she felt Mark Muccianti owed Mary Marquardt an apology.

- Mark Muccianti posted being a board member was a “thankless job and he didn’t even get paid”. Laura Pentecost stated this type of communication only desecrates the agency they represent.
- Mark Muccianti was present and asked to speak. He asked the board to only consider his comments and stated he does not see anything unethical that was posted and did not feel he owed Mary Marquardt an apology. He stated he left Paul McCaffrey’s comments up because Paul supported his campaign, and he is not responsible for what other people stated and posted to his account.
- Bruce Marquardt was present to address the board and asked Amy Grafton how after being sworn into office at the meeting on Monday, April 26th, 2021 special meeting, and 20 minutes later she voted to have Mark Pentecost, a 14-year employee, fired. She replied, “no comment”.

Approval of NuToys Lunar Blast Climber and Global Motion (Tabled)

Mary Marquardt made a motion to remove the approval of NuToys Lunar Blast Climber and Global Motion from the table, seconded by Amy Grafton. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Todd Bex explained that back in 1992 the district made NuToys the preferred playground equipment provider of choice. The Lunar Blast Climber and Global Motion are proprietary to NuToys. Another benefit is that replacement parts can be interchangeable between playground equipment and it also reduces the parts that the district needs to keep in stock.

Sam An asked that this item be tabled until the new commissioners can have a chance to review the documentation on this product.

Daniel Noble asked Todd Bex if he could get bids on a similar product by the May 11, 2021 board meeting.

Sam An made a motion to table the purchase of NuToys Lunar Blast Climber and Global Motion, seconded by Daniel Noble. A roll call vote was taken with Sam An, Daniel Noble, Amy Grafton, and Jean Twyning voting yes. Mary Marquardt voted no. Motion carried.

Approval of Hiring Policy (Tabled)

Sam An made a motion to remove the Hiring Policy from the table, seconded by Daniel Noble. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Kim Kirkpatrick provided the board with a Full-Time Hiring Policy. Staff will present all new full-time job descriptions, along with their recommendations as to why the position is needed, for board approval. Any significant changes to existing full-time job descriptions must be approved by the board.

The Board of Commissioners will fill the Executive Director position if an opening arises from attrition or separation.

Amy Grafton made a motion to accept the new hiring policy, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with Amy Grafton, Mary Marquardt, Daniel Noble and Jean Twyning voting yes. Sam An voted no. Motion carried.

Ice Rink Annual Report

Scott Meyers was present to discuss the Riverside Ice Arena Annual Report. The report provided a comparison for the last four years in the following areas: Days of Operation, Pass Visits, Daily Admission, Open Hockey Visits, Skate Rentals, Skate Shop Sales, Skate Sharpening, and Dasher Board Sponsorships.

Staff provided a recap of the revenue and expenses for the past 5 years. The 2020/2021 season showed a profit of \$28,984.92. This was primarily due to the increase of facility rentals. Due to the Covid restrictions, indoor ice arenas were closed. The district saw a significant increase in rentals.

Jean Twyning asked if staff was going to make recommendations for the 2021/2022 season. Scott will provide those recommendations at a later date.

Discussion of the Slate of Officers and Board Appointments

Typically, the nomination of officers has been done at the first regular board meeting of May. Amy Grafton stated she would be out of town from May 6 – 12, 2021 and asked if she could participate via Zoom for the May 11, 2021 board meeting. Attorney McGirk commented that she could listen via Zoom but could not vote.

Sam An made a motion to establish an appropriate date for a Special Meeting that is good for all, seconded by Amy Grafton.

Amy Grafton made a motion to amend the date to Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Sam An.

Mary Marquardt commented that she did not see the need for a special meeting and could not commit to a date. Mary Marquardt made a motion to amend the date to Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Dan Noble made a motion to amend the date for a special meeting to Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. seconded by Amy Grafton. A roll call vote was taken. Dan Noble, Amy Grafton, Sam An, and Jean Twyning voted yes. Mary Marquardt voted no. Motion carried.

May 11, 2021 Meeting Agenda Items

Purchase of NuToys Lunar Blast Climber and Global Motion will be on the agenda.

Executive Session

At 7:13 p.m. Amy Grafton made a motion to go into Executive Session for Section 2((1) of the Open Meetings Act for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or education setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, seconded Mary Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

At 8:52 p.m. regular session reconvened. Roll call was taken. Those present were Mary Marquardt, Daniel Noble, Amy Grafton, Sam An and Jean Twyning. Also present were Mark Pentecost, Debbie Kent, and Attorney McGirk.

There was no action taken as a result of Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Kent