

**Belvidere Township Park District
Board Meeting
June 8, 2021
Minutes**

The Belvidere Township Park District Board of Commissioners board meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Roll call was taken. Those present were Sam An, Jean Twyning, Mary Marquardt, Amy Grafton, and Daniel Noble. Also present were Kim Kirkpatrick, Rick Wulbecker, Mark Pentecost and Melissa Merkel, Mike Scheurich and Bruce Marquardt. Todd Bex was absent.

Meeting Agenda

Jean Twyning made a comment that she felt that under Unfinished Business a. Termination of ED of the Park District for convenience per employment contract section 5B should not be on this agenda because it has been discussed previously. Mary Marquardt said it previously failed for lack of a second.

Amy Grafton made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 meeting agenda, seconded by Sam An. A roll call vote was taken. Amy Grafton voting yes, Sam An voting yes, Jean Twyning voting no, Mary Marquardt voting no and Daniel Noble voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 meeting minutes. There was no second. Motion failed.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. There was no second. Motion failed.

Financial Report

Melissa Merkel provided a financial report showing Park District cash balances as of May 31, 2021.

There was a brief discussion on the financial report and Sam An asked if the financial report could show a year over year growth rate.

Bills for Payment

There was a question about the Martial Arts equipment purchase. Rick Wulbecker stated that equipment would be for the entire district to use.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the bills for payment from May 1,2021 through May 31,2021 seconded by Amy Grafton. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Board Correspondence

None at this time

Public Input

None at this time

Director's Report

Mark Pentecost gave an update on the HVAC at the Baltic Mill. He stated that due to the delays in professional services and mechanical delays it would not be until September or October, so Mark stopped the project. The district will fix the problem we currently have but it will probably only last a couple of years.

Mark Pentecost said he signed up 4 commissioners to attend the IAPD Boot Camp. He stated that the boot camp is the same day as Rick Wulbecker's retirement party.

Mark Pentecost stated that he has not received a drafted letter from Don Sattler yet. He will inform the board as soon as he receives the letter, and he will get the board involved when that time comes.

Mark Pentecost stated he had a conversation with Dan Kane, who is the Executive Director of the Boone County Conservation District about a possible joint acquisition of a park. He stated that the Conservation District is very interested in the Park District taking over management of the Dog Park.

Mark stated that he had another meeting with the County Administrator and County Planner to discuss Big Thunder Park. Mark stated that he expressed his concerns with the safety of users on the playground for years. After their approval Rick Wulbecker and Mark Pentecost went out to the playground and closed it off with snow fencing until they could establish a plan.

Mark Pentecost said the Aquatic Center Feasibility Study is up and running and asked if any commissioners wanted to participate in any portion of the study. Amy Grafton and Jean Twyning offered to participate.

Mark provided a copy of his formal response to Sam An on the answer to requested Park District registration participation. There was a brief discussion on the formal response. Sam An wanted it clear that he did not make any special time block or special rate requests.

Mark told the board that Jeff Ellis & Associates that was contracted to manage the William Grady Pool will not be meeting their obligations to provide lifeguards. They will not be giving the district their 30 day notice that they had in their contract. Mark Pentecost immediately called Cherie Dollinger at the Belvidere Family YMCA to see if they could help. Currently the William Grady pool is Jeff Ellis certified and the YMCA is Red Cross, but they are very similar in training. Mark is trying to get an Independent Contractual Agreement with the YMCA with the same information from the Jeff Ellis & Associates contract with some adjustments for the YMCA. Mark is looking to combine the current 14-16 Jeff Ellis & Associates lifeguards that were hired to work at William Grady Pool with the YMCA staff lifeguards to make about 30-32 lifeguards. Currently about 8-10 more lifeguards are needed. Mark Pentecost said there would be a public press release tomorrow June 9, 2021. Mark stated that swim lessons would continue with the YMCA running them. Mark also said he hopes to push the operations of the pool through August since the pool is opening late.

Superintendent of Parks

Todd Bex was absent, but Mark Pentecost said he will try to answer any questions on Todd's report. Mark stated that the splashpad was painted with paint that was recommended from Sherwin Williams. That paint was the wrong paint. The district closed the splashpad and made repairs. The splashpad is back up and running. The district signage does state that shoes must be worn and no running.

Jean Twyning stated that the Arts Council had their first concert in the park for this year and everything went great. She said Todd Bex and staff did a fabulous job getting everything ready.

Superintendent of Recreation

Rick Wulbecker told the board he would like to highlight Scott Meyer. He did a fabulous job trying to secure rentals at Rivers Edge and that the district had a wedding reception there which is something the district has not seen in a while at that facility.

Superintendent of Human Resources

Kim Kirkpatrick stated that they have been busy doing orientations for new staff. She also stated that they have been busy with all the paperwork and doing background checks for DCFS.

Unfinished Business

a. Tabled: Approve Abatement Ordinance abating Debt Services for 2020 Series A Bond issuance

Jean Twyning made a motion to remove from the table the Abatement Ordinance abating Debt Services for 2020 Series A Bond issuance, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Mark Pentecost said he is still talking with Mike Scheurich, and they still do not have an answer yet. Mark Pentecost asked that this goes off the agenda until December 2021.

Jean Twyning made a motion to table the Approve Abatement Ordinance abating Debt Services for 2020 Series A Bond Issuance until the December 7, 2021 meeting, seconded by Amy Grafton.

Jean Twyning withdrew her motion and Amy Grafton withdrew her second.

b. Termination of the ED of the Park District for convenience per employment contract section 5B

Sam An made a motion to terminate the ED of the Park District, Mr. Mark Pentecost for convenience per employment contract section 5B, seconded by Amy Grafton.

Jean Twyning said we have talked about this a lot and asked if there was some sort of new evidence. She stated that last meeting they approved his raise. Mark Pentecost asked why this is being brought up again. Jean Twyning asked again if there was new information. Sam An said this was discussed a lot at the previous meeting. Mark Pentecost asked Sam An is there a reason you are bringing this up again. Sam An stated he thought this was brought up enough. Jean Twyning brought up that on the agenda it is stated to have a performance improvement plan discussion and she wanted to know if that was still on the table. She stated she came prepared to discuss a performance improvement plan. Sam An said he made a motion, and it has been seconded. Jean Twyning asked for more discussion. Daniel Noble said if no one wants to speak we will call for a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was taken. Sam An voting yes, Amy Grafton voting yes, Jean Twyning voting no, Mary Marquardt voting no and Daniel Noble voting yes. Motion carried.

Jean Twyning stated they have a whole agenda of things to do and asked if there was some other reason we have not discussed. Mary Marquardt told the board you do realize we have no Executive Director running this district as of now. Mary Marquardt said who is going to run this district. Amy Grafton said we as commissioners will have to step up and make decisions. She stated that she will step up, Sam An will step up and Daniel Noble will step up. Mark Pentecost asked on what grounds do you have. He stated that you have dragged me and my family through the mud for months. Mark Pentecost asked Daniel Noble what about all the conversations we have had. Mark Pentecost stated that he is emotional right now that he has been lied to and disrespected. He stated that he deserves an answer. Mary Marquardt and Jean Twyning also stated that Mark Pentecost deserves an answer.

Page 5

June 8, 2021

Rick Wulbecker asked the board to give staff some sort of direction. Amy Grafton said there is a lot of things discussed that need improvement and do not need to be discussed today. Amy Grafton said we all have our own perception on how things should be running and some of us feel that is not the direction we are heading, and that this decision is in the best interest of the future of the park district.

Jean Twynning made a motion to go into Executive Session 2 (C) 1. There was no second. Motion failed.

Sam An made a motion to terminate ED immediately, he does not need to show up to work effective immediately and turn in all the keys that belong to the park district, seconded by Amy Grafton.

Mary Marquardt asked when they had discussion outside of this board room. Amy Grafton stated that they did not have any discussion outside of the board room.

Jean Twynning asked Attorney Scheurich if this was legal. Attorney Scheurich said yes. Mark Pentecost said you do realize you will be paying me for 6 months. Sam An stated whatever is written in the contract the district will pay Mark Pentecost. Jean Twynning stated that Attorney Scheurich went to the States Attorney, and they said there was nothing filed, and nothing found. Mary Marquardt stated that the States Attorney said there was no criminal activity. Mark Pentecost said the immediate termination written in the contract needs to be based on cause and there is no cause being presented here. Attorney Scheurich explained the contract to the board. Mark Pentecost stated that based on the contract the 60 days' notice if you're firing me for convenience, it gives me 60 days to work, if you are going to exercise removing me for those 60 days it should be based on concern or cause, and he is not hearing a concern or cause. Amy Grafton stated that her concern is when he gets terminated whether it is for convenience or whether it is for cause what will that do to your attitude and your perception of your job for those 60 days. There is no point on having you show up for those 60 days because obviously your upset and you are not going to do your job for 60 days. Mark Pentecost stated he has to close things up. Attorney Scheurich stated that if you sever the relationship with the Executive Director you may not call on him for any matters.

A roll call vote was taken. Sam An voting yes, Amy Grafton voting yes, Jean Twynning vote no, Mary Marquardt voting no and Daniel Noble voting yes.

Sam An made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amy Grafton.

Rick Wulbecker asked if the board will be sending communication to staff tonight. Amy Grafton said yes that would be appropriate. Kim Kirkpatrick asked who the official spokesperson of the Park District will be. Amy Grafton said the Board President Daniel Noble.

A roll call vote was taken. Sam An voting yes, Amy Grafton voting yes, Jean Twynning voting no, Mary Marquardt voting no and Daniel Noble voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Submitted by Melissa Merkel