

Belvidere Township Park District
Board Meeting
October 22, 2019

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 and Mary Marquardt. Paul McCaffrey arrived at 5:28 p.m. Also present were Mark Pentecost, Rick Wulbecker, Todd Bex, Kim Kirkpatrick and Debbie Kent.

Public Hearing

Commissioner Marquardt opened the public hearing concerning the Belvidere Township Park District's intent to sell, not to exceed, \$1,100,000.00 General Obligation Park Bonds.

Bill Pysen was present and asked how the district was going to solicit the market for the bond sale. The bond issued in 2018 was sold to the Belvidere Community School District. Since then that bond was sold to Blackhawk Bank. Since the park district is not rated, the school district will not bid on future bond sales. Mark Pentecost explained that the fee for the park district to get rated is \$7,000.00 annually for bond issuances over \$1,000,000.00. He is evaluating this to determine if there would be a chance of a savings.

Meeting Agenda

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the October 22, 2019 meeting agenda, seconded by Sam An. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the September 24, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Sam An. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the October 8, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Sam An. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Jean Twyning framed a photo of the Belvidere Park District Centennial Mural for the district.

Ray DeWane sent a thank you card for the staff helping with their family bench dedication.

Approximately 10 minutes before the board meeting convened, Daniel Madden dropped off a letter regarding usage of Rivers Edge Recreation Center by the Rockford Table Tennis Club. Rick Wulbecker commented that he had been talking with representative Andy Johnson and advised them that if representation changed, he would be willing to talk with them. Commissioner Marquardt commented that this should be handled by staff and not by the board.

Director's Report

Mark Pentecost included a copy of the third quarter operating statement with his report.

On Monday, October 14, 2019 Board President Marquardt, Parks Superintendent Todd Bex and Mark met with the Village of Poplar Grove President Owen Costanza and Trustee Ron Quimby to discuss Park and Recreational services in Poplar Grove. The major area of concern is the northeast portion of Belvidere Township. The residents have expressed that they are being taxed too much by the Park District and not being adequately served. The Village is willing to contribute money towards land acquisition but would like the park district to construct and maintain the park. Mark will keep an open dialogue with them.

At 5:22 p.m. President Marquardt closed the Public Hearing.

Swearing in of Appointed Commissioner

Mark Muccianti took the Oath of Office.

Tree Inventory Presentation

Phil Graf of Urban Forestry Professionals was present to discuss the tree inventory data that was captured May 29-31, 2019 in Belvidere Park.

In Belvidere Park there were 1477 trees put into the Geographic Information System (GIS). Each tree was identified by species, size (diameter and height), and condition.

The cost of the Phase I was \$6200.00. Staff would like to budget for Phase 2 in 2020 and do a tree inventory at Prairie Fields and Aberdeen Park.

Phil suggested that the district consider applying for an Arboretum Status. This helps if applying for grants for reforestation and is good for public relations.

Based on the tree inventory data, a pamphlet could be printed that would identify each tree and could be used as a self-guided tour for the trees in Belvidere Park. Using the GIS tool, if you click on a specific tree, it provides information about that tree species and can be a great educational tool.

Jeff Ellis Platinum International Aquatic Safety Award

Rick Wulbecker shared with the board that Belvidere Park District and lifeguard staff was awarded the Platinum International Aquatic Safety Award for consistently "exceeding" the criteria for aquatic safety certification for the 2019 season.

JEO Contract

Mark Pentecost has been talking with JEO Consulting Group to assist the district in establishing a question for an advisory referendum for the Spring 2020 ballot. At this time Mark does not feel there is enough time to get a question on the Spring ballot and feels using a consulting group to facilitate public meetings will provide the most beneficial outcome regardless of the direction of aquatics in our community.

Mark has consulted with Attorney Scheurich and if we use JEO as the consulting group, it does not disqualify them from submitting an RFP for the actual project.

Jean Twyning made a motion to table the pending contract with JEO Consulting Group, seconded by Sam An. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Executive Session

At 6:29 p.m. Jean Twyning made a motion to go into Executive Session under Section 2(C)(21) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of review, approval or release of such minutes, seconded by Sam An. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

At 6:36 p.m. regular session reconvened. Roll call was taken. Those present were Mark Muccianti, San An, Paul McCaffrey, Jean Twyning and Mary Marquardt. Also present were Mark Pentecost, Rick Wulbecker, Todd Bex, Kim Kirkpatrick and Debbie Kent.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve and release Executive Session minutes for April 9, 2019; approve and not release Executive Session minutes for 7/23/19, 8/13/19, 9/10/19, 9/24/19 and 10/8/19; approve direction to staff to destroy executive session recordings for executive sessions beginning 6/27/17 up to and including the recording for 2/27/18, seconded by Paul McCaffrey. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

There being further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Kent