
NILES PARK DISTRICT
Minutes of Virtual Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
6:00 pm

Board Members present: Julie Genualdi, President
Dennis O'Donovan, Vice President
Joe LoVerde, Treasurer
Jim Hynes, Commissioner
Scott O'Brien, Commissioner

Attorney present: Dan Shapiro, Attorney

Staff Members present: Tom Elenz, Executive Director
Scot Neukirch, Director of Finance
Heather Petrie, Executive Admin. Coordinator

1. Call to order

The regular board meeting was called to order by President Genualdi at 6:03pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Genualdi led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

4. Changes to the agenda

Executive Director Elenz asked to move agenda item 9.A. to the next item on the agenda.

9. New Business

A. MNASR Presentation

Trisha Breitlow, MNASR Executive Director, was invited to give an overview of their 2020 and to discuss the programming they offered and give a video presentation.

January through March, MNASR was offering their usual roster of programs in the usual way. When quarantine began in March, they didn't think there would be much interest in online programs, and their initial thought was to wait until quarantine was lifted. However, as that did not happen, the recreation staff reassessed their situation and was able to have online programming up and running within a two-week period. They went from offering in April about 11 online weekly programs to 44 by the end of summer. They were also able to provide some special events and one on one chats. They changed their format from 8 week sessions to 6 week sessions which has allowed them to make any changes they needed to as mitigations

changed. They conducted a survey in August and many families responded that they are hesitant to come back for in person programming at that time. Consequently, they have seen their enrollment numbers drop slightly, but are confident they can return back to normal when able.

MNASR was able to obtain a grant and subsequently reduce the park district’s donation.

5. Consent Agenda Approval

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, November 17, 2020

B. Voucher List as Presented, November 30, 2020 - summary by fund:

General Fund	\$91,108.31
Recreation	\$83,624.20
Ice Rink	\$20,725.21
Swimming Pool	\$1,162.72
Golf Course	\$16,774.38
IMRF	-
Debt Service Fund	\$514.58
General Liability	-
Paving & Lighting	\$3,434.25
Police Protection	\$108.00
Handicapped	\$12,676.25
Capital	\$102,418.00
Audit	-
Grand Total	\$332,545.90

C. Voucher List as Presented, December 31, 2020 – summary by fund:

General Fund	\$84,959.95
Recreation	\$75,852.17
Ice Rink	\$15,175.78
Swimming Pool	\$1,534.96
Golf Course	\$18,643.07
IMRF	-
Debt Service Fund	-
General Liability	-
Paving & Lighting	\$1,240.56
Police Protection	\$108.00
Handicapped	\$120.02
Capital	\$70,047.87
Audit	-
Grand Total	\$267,682.38

A motion was made by Treasurer LoVerde and seconded by Vice President O'Donovan to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting of Tuesday, November 17, 2020, and the Voucher lists as presented, November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer LoVerde reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

A motion was made by Vice President O' Donovan and seconded by Commissioner Hynes to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The Motion passed 5-0

7. Reports of Park Officials

President Genualdi wished everyone a happy new year and looks forward to the ideas that are underway and working with staff to come up with more ideas.

There was no attorney's report.

8. Board Reports

Bob Kreiling, Park Patrol

- The programing of the New Mobile tracking system has been completed
- Tracking tags have been placed at the facilities
- Training on the new Mobile Tracking System has started. COVID has prevented training the entire staff at once. We are training each patrol officer individually and this is almost complete.

- As noted in the last report, the facilities will be able to directly contact the patrol officer on duty. A notice with information and phone numbers will be going out to all the department managers shortly so that they can notify their staff as to how to contact the park patrol officer.

We had no new park incidences.

Robin Brey, Office Manager/Recreation Program Supervisor

- Preschool classes resumed the 2021 winter semester. 24 new students registered for various classes which brings the enrollment to 102.
- New 3's Preschool began early January with 9 students.
- Virtual classes are going strong with 36 piano students and 15 in-person drum lessons that began in January.
- Virtual dance and tumbling classes have held steady averaging 40 participants.
- Virtual Santa visits were a HUGE hit and all available time slots were sold out. Santa did a great job, and we received many compliments.

Julie Jentel, Marketing

- Santa Mailbox was a big success this year. The mailbox was at Howard. The addition of kids emailing their letters worked out well and I received many that way.
- Lindsay and I have been working on developing a plan for a mascot for the Park District.
- Promoting everything we are currently running on our site and through emails and social media- Fitness, Virtual Dance, Outdoor Rink time, Preschool and Drums.

Marty Stankowicz, IceLand

- The outdoor rink opened up on December 9th. It is being used for hockey practices and hockey classes that were suspended when tier 3 mitigation closed the indoor rink on November 20. The fall hockey classes that were suspended were completed this week. A winter 6-week session of hockey will start January 18 and use the outdoor rink until restrictions are lifted.
- Skating classes were suspended on November 20th also but did not continue on the outdoor rink as there was a safety concern and less interest to skate outside. The classes were cancelled this week and credits will be issued to household accounts to be used once restrictions are lifted and classes reschedule.
- There have been many inquiries about renting the outdoor rink from other organizations and private parties. At this time, we are not renting to anyone except for Maine Hockey. All the open ice is being used for our programs due to the limit of two groups of 10 on the ice at any time.
- Any ice that is not being used by our programs is being used for public skate session. We are taking registrations in advance and limiting the number of skaters to 20 per 45-minute session. There is 15 minutes between sessions to clear one group before the other is allowed in the rink. No groups pass each other as entrances and exits are assigned.

- The indoor rink is being used for one-on-one private lessons for skaters. It is booked from 600-930 am and then 200-500 pm every day.

Lindsay Kmetty, Pioneer Park

- **Pioneer Park:**
 - Pioneer is scheduled to open for the season Saturday, April 10th.
 - Staff has been contacted to see what their plans are for this summer.
 - The majority of staff is looking to work A LOT of hours.
 - We will be in a hiring freeze until we know for sure the pool is opening.
 - Last year too many staff and not enough hours to go around.
- **Mascot Update:**
 - Julie and I have been working together on providing mascot options for the board to choose from. Options include a bear, a bee, and a superhero. Character storylines were added to emphasize what each character is all about.
 - We have also considered how the mascot would be incorporated into special events, birthdays, sporting events, etc. and in giveaway options to help promote the mascot.
- **Tournaments Scheduled for 2021:**
 - We will be hosting a series of tournaments this summer. Dates have been posted on all the tournament websites and coaches are currently being notified.
 - 4/30-5/2- 10U/12U Spring Fling- boys & girls
 - 6/21-6/27- Niles Crosstown League Playoffs & Championships
 - TBA- Crosstown All-Star games
 - July 9th-11th- 8U/9U/10U Dog Days Classic- boys baseball
 - July 16th-18th- 14U/16U/18U Summer Classic- girls travel teams
 - July 20th-25th- 10U/12U House Classic- local house and all-star teams, boys & girls
 - July 30th-August 1st- 10U/12U/14U/16U Last Hurrah- girls travel teams
 - We were unable to run any tournaments last year due to COVID. We are taking extra precautions and have made considerations to incorporate a COVID safety plan into tournament planning similar to what we used in fall ball.

Paul Nielsen, Athletics Department

- The athletic department has been using recent couple months to do various tasks that we don't normally get to in normal times.
- Files and other items that are used on the computer are being re-organized and created that will allow us to be more productive post pandemic. Equipment is being cleaned and organized. We are preparing and taking steps to be as ready and creative as possible in the coming years as a department.
- Friday January 15th, we expect will be hearing from the Governor about possibly moving back to Phase 2 of state restrictions. If that happens, we will be quickly getting all the POD league up and running along with various academies. Finally, we are currently about to market and open up registration for all the spring and summer programs all will be occurring in the outdoor.

Chris Zalinski, Grounds

- Installed holiday decorations in the parks and Howard Leisure Center
- Removed holiday decorations from the parks and Howard Leisure Center
- Inspect and repair all parks as needed
- A piece of playground equipment was ordered for Oak Park
- Placed no dog signs at Nico Park
- Re do signs at Pioneer Park
- Pruned and removed dead limbs from several trees at Jonquil Park
- Snow and ice removal as needed

Peter Dubs, Tam Golf Course

- We are in the process of updating our website and golf guide for the 2021 season.
- League and permanent tee time contracts will be sent out to group representatives by the end of the month.
- Our annual summer internship info will be posted to the IPRA job board and on the online *Handshake* portal of approximately 2 dozen Midwest colleges in the coming weeks.
- Private instruction is available, but group classes are currently on hold over at the Learning Center. We are planning to resume programming in March.

Laura Newton, Tam Tennis

From a budget standpoint due to Covid restrictions and participation:

- We missed court fee budget by \$5,261(bookings)
- We missed junior budget by \$28,700 (programming)
- We missed adults by \$108,194 (programming and greater suburban matches)
- We missed private lessons by \$50,265 (reduced to 1 on 1)
- We missed fitness by \$50,744
- We **exceeded** the tennis membership budget by \$46,107

So, from tennis program budget we missed our \$1,031,044 by \$205,679. This is a reflection from Covid-19 starting in March and carrying through December.

As we move forward, we continue to keep our tennis program safe and thriving with singles play, and 1 on 1 lessons. Our courts remain busy and with a little bit of help from the state reducing the mitigations (hopefully in January), we would be able to go back to doubles, matches and depending on play restrictions, classes.

Jim Stoneberg, Tam Golf Course Maintenance

- Gathering prices for materials and supplies for the soon to be here season.
- Tree trimming and some removals scheduled for the winter as the ground freezes.

- Will begin purchasing process for budgeted utility vehicle.
- Water Reclamation District (MWRD) working in the river from Howard street north clearing log jams, dead tree falls and debris that block river flow.

Jim Majewski, Park Services

- The heat exchanger on one of the boilers at IceLand failed. The part was warrantied but not labor, so Jim and Marty changed it out.
- Getting prices on dog bag stations and signage for the appropriate parks
- The lobby HVAC unit at Grennan died and staff along with a service technician installed a new rooftop unit
- Getting pricing for the east tennis court at Kirklane for more pickleball courts

9. New Business

B. Discussion/Approval of Smithco Sandstar field groomer

The park district is beginning to invest a significant amount of money in fields. Last year the park district invested \$60,000 at Pioneer Park. There were two pieces of field equipment that were tested: a John Deere and a Smithco. Park Services prefers the Smithco Sandstar as it can do everything they need it to do on the fields without the need for any other equipment. This machine will help improve the drainage, and staff also prefers it to the John Deere.

A motion was made by Treasurer LoVerde and seconded by Vice President O'Donovan to approve the purchase of the Smithco Sandstar field groomer for \$18,645. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The Motion passed 5-0

C. Approval of the Annual Post Issuance Compliance Report

With this post issuance tax compliance report, the finance director is certifying a number of things as the keeper of the record of our tax advantage debt service. The finance director is certifying with this report that he has in his possession all the records required under the policy and that at this time the district does not have any rebate liability to the U.S. Treasury. At this time each issue of tax advantage bonds complies with the federal tax requirements applicable to such issue and the IRS has not commenced an examination of any of the issues of the park district's bonds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by Vice President O'Donovan to approve the annual post issuance compliance report. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The Motion passed 5-0

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by Commissioner O'Brien to approve Ordinance 20-O-107. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The Motion passed 5-0

10. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

11. Miscellaneous

The park district moved up to tier 2 yesterday. This allows us to have groups of 10 people and have fitness classes in person. Pickle ball also started today, tennis doubles can start again, rentals will resume, Athletics is working on getting the pods and clinics up and running, and in person dance can also start again.

The golf course dog, Seamus, is in poor health and will be retiring soon.

The director of the teen center reached out to Scott O'Brien to discuss the potential of partnering with the park district. It sounds like he may be looking for space to offer athletic based programming.

12. Public Comments

A public comment was submitted by Jason Trunco which stated:

Back in December I asked that my suspension to be lifted effective January 1st. Through a vote that was not made public or discussed publicly it was denied. Per request I was told there was not information on this vote available to me. I write today to again ask that my suspension be lifted immediately for the reasons that I mentioned in my email to the board back in December. I'm asking that this topic be brought to the public part of the meeting where discussion by the board and a vote be publicly made. On June 26, 2020 there was a special public meeting where every Commissioner was present, my name blasted throughout the meeting and the

newspapers. So I'm asking the park Commissioners to please take this up under new business this evening where not only the public will hear but I will have the ability to hear what the Commissioners are saying and voting for. Commissioner Hynes at the time of the suspension said maybe a year is too long and maybe it should be 6 months. I'd like to ask that my email from December also be read into the discussion.

Attorney Shapiro advised that the board cannot take any action on this item because it was not on the agenda.

The board decided to put this item on the February agenda.

13. Executive Session

The Board will not convene into executive session.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice President O'Donovan and seconded by Treasurer LoVerde to adjourn the regular meeting. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Treasurer LoVerde	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

APPROVED:

President Genualdi
Board of Commissioners
Date: January 19, 2021

Board Secretary