
NILES PARK DISTRICT
Minutes of Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
6:00 pm

Board Members present: Julie Genualdi, President
Dennis O'Donovan, Vice President
Jim Hynes, Treasurer
Ronnie Strzelecki, Commissioner

Staff Members present: Tom Elenz, Executive Director
Heather Petrie, Executive Admin. Coordinator
Scot Neukirch, Finance Director
Robin Brey, Recreation Programs
Jim Majewski, Facilities Superintendent
Chris Czajka, Grounds Superintendent
Marty Stankowicz, IceLand Manager
Kenny Krueger, Athletic Director
Julie Jentel, Marketing
Peter Dubs, Tam Golf Course Manager
Jim Stoneberg, Golf Course Superintendent

Dan Shapiro, Attorney

1. **Call to order**
President Genualdi called the regular board meeting to order on Tuesday, September 19, at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
President Genuadli led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Roll Call**
Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll. Commissioner O'Brien was absent.
4. **Changes to the Agenda**
There were no changes to the agenda.
5. **Consent Agenda Approval**
Minutes of the Public Hearing of Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Voucher List as presented August 31, 2023 – summary by fund:

General Fund	\$94,261.95
Recreation	\$179,786.97
Ice Rink	\$29,939.99
Swimming Pool	\$39,908.78
Golf Course	\$21,738.53
IMRF	-
Debt Service Fund	-
General Liability	\$6,547.00
Paving & Lighting	\$41.79

Police Protection	\$108.00
Handicapped	\$2,609.19
Capital	\$9,256.25
Audit	-
Grand Total	\$384,198.45

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by Vice President O'Donovan to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing of Tuesday, August 15, 2023, and the Voucher lists as presented, August 31, 2023. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer Hynes	Yes
Commissioner Strzelecki	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hynes read the treasurer's report for the month ending August, 2023.

A motion was made by Vice President O'Donovan and seconded by Commissioner Strzelecki to accept the treasurer's report. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Treasurer Hynes	Yes
Commissioner Strzelecki	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

7. Reports of Park Officials

A. President's Report

There was no President's report.

B. Attorney's Report

There was no Attorney's report.

8. Board Reports

Robin Brey, Programs Supervisor

- The fall programs for dance, music lessons, art classes and early childhood classes are all up and running.
- Preschool began their school year. Enrollment is 110 children which is 4 less students from last year. Registration stays open and generally we pick a few more students along the way. The afterschool program at both Howard and Oakton Manor has been well received.
- Planning for the upcoming Halloween special events.....Monster Bash, Trunk & Treat, Halloween Parade and Party all taking place in October.

Jim Majewski, Park Services

- New exterior doors were installed at the golf course clubhouse.
- The pool is drained and fall maintenance has begun.

- Getting prices for new exterior doors at the ice rink
- The south zone of the Thor Guard system has been upgraded.
- Walls at Howard Leisure have been repainted in the common areas.
- Howard Leisure parking lot has been seal coated and stripped.

Marty Stankowicz, IceLand

- Fresh ice was put in and painted on the indoor rink, and we opened Tuesday after Labor Day.
- We are in the 3rd week of our fall session hockey classes. Skating classes start next week.
- We currently have 139 players registered for Rangers hockey, which is the same as last year. Registration is still open and we hope add players at a the younger levels.
- The outdoor rink is being used for hockey dry land practices and is rented for lacrosse three days a week.
- We are planning our annual Thanksgiving hockey tournament. Teams have already shown an interest and applications are being taken.
- Maintenance work continues in preparing for the winter season. Hockey nets have been stripped, painted and new netting installed. The outdoor rink floor has been cleaned and rink boards both indoor and out have been cleaned. Shielding gaskets will be inspected and replaced in the next week.

Chris Czajka, Superintendent of Grounds

- Edging, weeding, and mulching all beds.
- Ballfield and soccer field maintenance for games
- Added / Planted a new butterfly garden at Jonquil terrace park.
- Playground inspections and repairs as needed.
- Mowing and trimming turf – Parkwide.
- Bush trimming and tree pruning.

Scot Neukirch, Finance Director

The 2024 budget preparation is underway. Staff from each department has met with administration to discuss each department's requests. This information will be used to develop the staff's proposed budgets. Budgets will be given to the Board for review and discussed at the Budget workshop scheduled for October 19th.

Laura Newton, Tam Tennis

Permanent court time has begun, tennis classes will begin first week of October and run for 11 weeks, and Harvest Hustle registration continues (email blasts are on going).

Budget

- Revenue increase to date, compared to 2022 is up \$20,021, with the total Profit to date of \$710425 (up \$13,349)
- We are \$129,544 away from making budget.
- Revenue Increase from 2022
 - Junior Tennis Programs: \$8,699
 - Adult Tennis Programs: \$14,862
 - Senior Tennis: -\$2,888
 - Private Lessons: \$3,967
 - Fitness: \$10,490
 - Non-Resident Memberships -\$9,462
 - Court Fees -\$5,907 (did not have a rainy summer)

- **Junior Programs**
Registration for classes open on September 16
- **Adults Programs**
Registration for classes open on September 16
- **Memberships**
Memberships will start to come in these next few months.

Julie Jentel, Marketing

- I have notified all the cars that participated in last year's Trunk or Treat event, as well as emailing some new vendors.
- I have begun to work on the Winter Spring Guide. Staff has been given their sections to update for this new season.
- I mentioned a couple meetings ago about the butterfly garden. On our website is a page that includes a chart with the flowers and grasses that are there. Soon a sign with a QR code will be at the garden, which will lead to this web page.

Kenny Krueger, Athletic Director

- **This past month we've started many fall programs and leagues.**
 - Soccer started with two grade levels (Pre-K and Kindergarten) playing at Iceland and two others ranging from 1st-3rd grades playing at Washington and our oldest grades (5th-8th) playing at Golf Mill Park. For the first time ever, we were able to split our biggest league into separate boys and girls divisions for the 1st/3rd grade level and we hope to continue to offer more leagues this way. Our adult soccer league is also taking place Wednesday nights at LoVerde Center.
 - Fall baseball and softball began with weekend games at all our ball fields. Weather has been great, and we've gotten through 4 weekends without any rainouts.
 - Our 4 specialized camps (Vince Thomas Basketball, Spike City Volleyball, Soccer Academy and Small Shots Basketball) have begun weeknight classes at both Golf View and LoVerde.
- **Here is what's coming up these next few weeks**
 - Fall Basketball registration closed, and we once again saw an increase in enrollment. Practices start this week and games begin on weekends at the end of the month through mid-November. Our three adult leagues will once again play Wednesday nights as well.
 - Indoor Soccer and Flag Football registration deadline was set for Friday, September 22 but seven of the nine leagues already hit max enrollment last week.
 - Open pickleball started but so far, we've only had a few rainy days when guests came to play. As weather turns, we expect to have huge crowds during the day just like last season.
 - We're going to offer our first ever Battle of Paddles Pickleball Tourney on Monday, October 9th. We have 4 divisions planned: Men's 50+, Women's 50+, Mixed Doubles 50+ and Mixed Doubles Open. Depending on the turnout, we will look to add more tourneys and divisions throughout the winter.

Peter Dubs, Golf Course Manager

- To date we have surpassed 31,000 rounds at the golf course and are still running approximately 2500 ahead of last season's pace.
- We have over 20 outings remaining on our schedule for various groups between now and mid-october.

- We have another busy month or so of outings and course play, then once the weather begins cooling off later in the fall we'll begin scaling back a little on staffing to save on expenses.
- Barring an unbelievably catastrophic stretch of bad weather, we should easily pass 1 million in total revenues for the season, with over 100,000 of that coming from our instructional programming, which continues through the end of November.

Jim Stoneberg, Golf Course Superintendent

- As league play slowing down greens, tees and fairways will be aerated, top dressed and over seeded as weather and time permits.
- Weed control on berms and native grass areas around the course as time allows.
- All native grass will be mowed down in late fall.
- Rough area being overseeded.
- Tree trimming and removals are being scheduled for the fall as play slows.
- Work continues with 2024 budget.

9. New Business

A. Discussion/Approval of MNASR employee benefits

This item was postponed by the Board last month pending more information. Staff obtained more information regarding what benefits other park districts offer their employees. The MNASR employees can potentially choose the benefits of one of the participating park districts to use, they cannot pick various benefits from multiple park districts. MNASR has asked the park district if we can extend any of our benefits to their full time employees.

A motion was made by Vice President O'Donovan and seconded by President Genualdi to offer full time MNASR employees, limited to only the employee, the same benefits the Niles Park District offers its part time employees. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes
Commissioner Strzelecki	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

B. Update on Pioneer Park project

Work on Pioneer Park began two weeks earlier. The turf was installed, the playground has been received. The shelter, dugouts and roofs are expected to be delivered in the next few weeks. The demo permit has been approved by the Village of Niles with demolition scheduled to start next week. The majority of the field work will be completed this fall and completed entirely by the end of May. We are also pricing new scoreboards.

C. Update on Golf Mill Park project

Staff has been in communication with North Ridge Prep regarding the new layout of the soccer field at Golf Mill Park. The original agreement was to expand the soccer field. North Ridge Prep has since asked to have a sand profile on the field to help drain the field faster. If the sand profile is added, the cost would be \$1.3 million. North Ridge Prep then asked for artificial turf to be installed. The cost for preparing the field for installation of artificial turf and the turf itself would be \$1.9 million. North Ridge Prep would like to split the cost of the artificial turf with the Park District, which would be approximately \$950,000 each.

10. **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

11. **Miscellaneous**

Staff was contacted by the organizers of the Italian Fest to ask if they could be permitted to use fireworks. He has done it in the past and must get approval from the Fire Department. It was the consensus of the Board to approve his request.

North Ridge Prep is asking for an artificial turf at Golf Mill Park. Staff is getting an estimate on getting artificial turf in that area. In preliminary conversations, North Ridge Prep as indicated a willingness to make a substantial contribution to this effort.

12. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

13. **Executive Session**

There was no need for executive session.

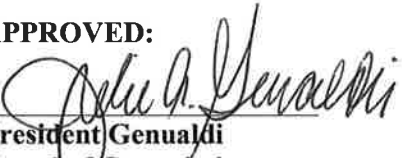
14. **Adjournment**

A Motion was made by Vice President O'Donovan and seconded by Commissioner O'Brien to adjourn the regular board meeting. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes
Commissioner Strzelecki	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

APPROVED:



 President Genualdi
 Board of Commissioners
 Date: September 19, 2023



 Board Secretary