

**OAK FOREST PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

James Emmett, President  
Charles Wolf, Vice-President  
Roy Pruitt, Commissioner  
Joseph Pilch, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Joseph Cainkar, Attorney  
Cindy Grannan, Director

**ABSENT**

James Katula, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Emmett called the regular meeting to order at the Oak Forest Park District Community Center, 15601 S. Central, Oak Forest, IL at 7:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon a roll call Commissioners Emmett, Wolf, Pruitt and Pilch were present.

**BINA HEARING: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL TO SELL NON-REFERENDUM BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,337,565 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF LAND FOR PARKS, FOR THE BUILDING, MAINTAINING, IMPROVING AND PROTECTING OF THE SAME AND THE EXISTING LAND AND FACILITIES OF THE OAK FOREST PARK DISTRICT AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES INCIDENT THERETO**

Commissioner Emmett opened the Public Hearing on the proposal to sell non-referendum bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,337,565 for the purpose of payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the Oak Forest Park District and for the payment of the expense's incident thereto.

Attorney Cainkar requested the record reflect the notice of the BINA Hearing was posted in the Southtown Newspaper on January 12, 2022. Attorney Cainkar then asked if the Board of Commissioners had any comments, at which there were none, and with none from the public, the public hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Commissioner Emmett opened Public Session.

At this time Jerry Mueller came forward to state his dismay over the Boards decision to remove Steve Volger from coaching in the Flag Football program. Further asking why the Board had not heard or questioned Steve Volger and why then was he allowed to remain coaching for wrestling. The Board deferred to the Director who informed that the decision was made based on material brought forth from the text message conversations and other communications that were presented by Flag Committee Members, the content of and the relentlessness of them to the point of harassment. The Board informed that the decision to allow him to continue to coach wrestling was made due to there being no conflicts or

incidents with wrestling. Mr. Mueller further informed that Steve Volger brought forth the incorrect seeding and the committee refused to correct it and wanted to know why they would not correct it. The Director brought up the meeting of October 20, and Mr. Mueller informed only four coaches were at that meeting and they all knew it was wrong, but voted to keep it the way it was anyways. It was explained that Steve Volger spoke up and got passionate about them not correcting a wrong and the Board made a decision without hearing his side of the story. The Board informed that texts, emails and phone calls were brought to their attention and that they listened to this Committee's concerns and they back this Committee's decision based on what was brought forward. Steve Volger spoke and stated the relentless text message are not true, they told him no, he respected that, they went to a meeting and he pulled a bluff card to forfeit the games, he took it to the parents and the parents wanted to play game, the forfeit was just a bluff. He asked where is this Code of Conduct the coaches, parents are supposed to abide by. The Director informed that it does exist, when you register it is the second signature on the registration form and it states a copy is available to you. Mr. Mueller stated that this Board is now hearing the other side of the story and expressed his upset that it wasn't listened to in the first place. Valerie Booth came forward to read her letter to the Board asking that they reconsider the decision of not allowing Steve Volger to Coach. Her family first started in the Flag program in 2014. This year they signed up their youngest and stated that Steve Volger is an amazing Coach, always makes sure all the kids play and that her son enjoyed the program so much because of Steve Volger. Ms. Booth stated that it is a slap to the parents and kids, the Committee members are also coaches and kept the seeding to benefit themselves. She informed that Steve Volger brought the information to all the parents and while some stated they should forfeit they did not, they played. Ms. Booth stated that Steve Volger is being mis-understood and this Board she reconsider the decision to remove such a volunteer. Matt Booth came forward with a letter written from Gavin's Grandparents, the Andersons supporting that Steve Volger remain as a Coach in the program, he has always been fair, loves the game and children learn from him. Mr. Booth also stated his support and urged the Board to reconsider for the program will suffer without him. Chris Kalinsky came forward to state that his family and Steve Volger's family have been in this program for generations and how it would be shame to lose him and he also hopes that the Board will reconsider this decision. Steve Sears came forward in support of Steve Volger and hopes as well the Board will reconsider this decision, his son has played for three years

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **CONSENT CALENDAR – APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS AND OFPD LACROSSE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2021**

Commissioner Wolf made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pilch.

All ayes: Emmett, Wolf, Pruitt and Pilch

Nays: None. Motion Approved

**CONSIDERATION OF BILLS – VOUCHERS DATED JANUARY 20, 2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,430.52**

Commissioner Pruitt made a motion to approve the bills-vouchers dated January 20, 2022 in the amount of \$35,430.52, seconded by Commissioner Pilch.

All ayes: Emmett, Wolf, Pruitt and Pilch

Nays: None. Motion Approved.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING REPORT**

**A. Directors Report**

Director Grannan informed the Board that the 2022 Budget is being finalized with staff and at the February 10 meeting it will appear on the agenda for approval to place on display for thirty (30) days. At the Board meeting of March 24, the approval of the 2022 budget will be an item on the agenda. In regards to Cook County and the water main at Fieldcrest Park; they have requested approval for the removal of two (2) trees along the fence line to make way for the new line. Sup't. Baldwin informed that those trees grew along the fence line and removal of them is good, therefore Director Grannan has sent a letter approving the removal. Daddy Daughter Date Night per the CCPDH may take place as long as no food or drink will be served. This event will take place on February 11 in the Central Park gymnasium and we will limit the amount to two hundred fifty (250) people. Spring Sport registration held last Saturday went extremely well. The Director informed that the Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 28 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom, if interested let her know in order to be sent the zoom link. With the new Mitigation Order all has been running smoothly, Kids in Kitchen due to food has been postponed for four weeks and at that time either run or be canceled depending on any changes or no changes. IAPD/IPRA Conference is Thursday and Friday, January 27 and 28.

**Treasurer Report**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMER 2022 PROGRAM PRICING**

Commissioner Emmett made a motion to approve the Summer 2022 Program Pricing, seconded by Commissioner Pilch. Director Grannan brought to the Board's attention the increase to the security deposit for picnic rentals to the amount of \$200.00 due to the extent of clean up that is left behind from renters. Discussion of surrounding area security deposits and that we may consider lowering it to \$100 took place. The Director informed it is not our intent to keep the deposit, we simply want renters to clean up after their event. The Board stated that the deposit of \$200 should be applied.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**2(c)(2) COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES.**

Commissioner Pruitt made a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. for purposes of 2(c)(2) Collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one of more classes of employees; seconded by Commissioner Wolf.

All ayes: Emmett, Wolf, Pruitt and Pilch

Nays: None. Motion Approved.

**RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon return from Executive Session at 8:40 p.m., no decisions were made.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

None

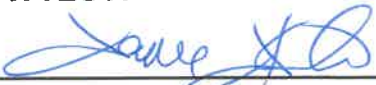
**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Pruitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wolf. On a voice vote, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
James R. Emmett, President

**ATTEST:**

  
James Katula, Secretary