

**HANOVER PARK DISTRICT
1919 WALNUT AVENUE
HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS 60133**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER BOARDROOM & ZOOM CONFERENCING
APP MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023**

**MINUTES
6:59 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Workshop Board Meeting of Park Commissioners was called to order on Monday, March 13, 2023 by President Fuentez at 6:59pm.

Upon the roll being called, the following answered:

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:	4	Commissioners Vences, Mustafa, Elkins, and President Fuentez
Commissioners Absent:	0	None
Staff Present:	7	Executive Director O'Brien, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Bessette, Marketing and Communications Manager Gomez, CCAC Manager Snodgrass, Recreation Superintendent Cox, Business Services Manager Santucci and Executive Assistant Quigley
Staff Absent:	0	None
Guests Present:	11	Nauman Azeemi, Belinda Mustafa, Laura Reilly, Ruben Aguilar, Yocelina Aguilar, CPA Howard Ron Majumdar, Masoud Chik, Nazir Kahn, Yasmeen Bankole, Ashishell Ashondada

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve the agenda, as presented.

Upon the Roll being called, the following answered.

Ayes	4	Commissioners Vences, Mustafa, Elkins, and President Fuentez
Nays:	0	None

Abstain: 0 None

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF LAURA REILLY

New Athletic Supervisor Laura Reilly was introduced to the board by Superintendent Cox. Athletic Supervisor Reilly had volunteered for several years as a Soccer Coach at the Park District and assisted the former Athletic Supervisor, as well as having served on the Board of Commissioners, the PTA at Anne Fox, and the Special Events Committee at the Village. The Board was notified that there were already new leagues seeking rentals in the Gym, thanks to Athletic Supervisor Reilly.

STAFF REPORTS

Administration, Business Services, and Marketing

Business Manager Santucci stated that the delay in tax collection for the District finally caught up. The bills went out a bit later this year than usual, and the disbursements are expected in April. She also informed the board that the Cook County SEI filing period began on March 13th and would continue until May 15th. He advised the board that all current commissioners as well as full time Staff members are expected to file on time, and if that requirement is not met, the Ethics Office would be fining those who did not complete the forms. Marketing and Communications Manager Gomez went over his report regarding the recent IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights conference, stating that he came back with some new ideas to test out regarding the Park District's Marketing strategy. He attempted to return with at minimum 5 take aways from each of the sessions he attended and was looking into potential future usage of AI chat programs to increase communications between the Park District and the Public.

Parks and Planning

Superintendent of Parks and Planning Bessette informed the board that Salvador retired on February 24th, completing 20 years of service to the Hanover Park Park District. The recent hire of Sam Ramero for property maintenance and Mechanical maintenance. He reiterated that he is very excited to see what Mr. Ramero brings to the table.

Recreation

Superintendent of Recreation Cox notified the Board that there were now Park Pop-Up events scheduled the coming Spring Season (April 4), as well as 2 planned for Autumn. The idea behind the Park Pop-Up events is to alert the Public to other services available to the community, as well as expand communications between the Recreation Department and the Public. EPLE as well as several U-46 groups had already signed on to assist. The Clover Hunt for St Patrick's Day went well and saw a rise in attending families over previous years of the event. The Diversity Cases in the Gym Hallway will be changing for the next quarter as well. Superintendent Cox also stated that the process of beginning Youth Cricket Leagues with Streamwood and Bloomingdale, as well as other members of the community here in Hanover Park had begun.

CCAC

CCAC Manager Snodgrass stated that the club had recently extended hours until 8 pm both Fridays and Saturdays, as the Club had been 100% booked from 7:30 am to 5 pm for quite some

time. 4 pickleball tournaments and 4 college tournaments are also looking to host here at the Park District. Commissioner Mustafa asks if “Rich is allowed to kick someone from the building”.

Manager Snodgrass responds that he’s allowed to ask people to leave if they’re breaking the rules, he can ask them to leave the building. Commissioner Mustafa stated he was referencing an incident when he was speaking with someone on the phone and was reported using foul language, he was asked to step back. Commissioner Mustafa begins to demand answers of Manager Snodgrass, and Commissioner Vences stepped in to ask that we continue moving forward and “Actually get the work done for once”. An argument between Commissioner Vences and Commissioner Mustafa ensued, surrounding the topic of Commissioner Mustafa’s displeasure at having been asked to leave the premises, which he stated was unwarranted. During the argument, Commissioner Mustafa alleged that Commissioner Vences was simply a “yes man” for the park district.

President Fuentez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Elkins, for a 10 minute recess so that the Commissioners could recollect themselves.

Upon the Roll being called, the following answered.

Ayes	3	Commissioners Vences, Elkins, and President Fuentez
Nays:	0	None
Abstain:	1	Commissioner Mustafa

Motion carried.

The Recess was called off by Commissioner Vences, stating that he was fine and just wanted to get the work of the Park District Board done.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Secretary O’Brien presented the IAPD #7 Newsletter, wherein the Governor had Awarded OSLAD Grants for this coming year. Discovery Park was awarded one of the Grants. He also stated that there is Legislation coming soon out of the Senate and the House for the State of Illinois, in regards to the minimum wages for Lifeguards. The current proposal states that it should be raised to \$22.50 per hour. The Staff will be watching as the bill moves through the House and Senate and update the Board as soon as there is something to update.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Review the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the month ending February 28, 2023

Business Services Manager Santucci presented the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. She stated that 10 months of the 22-23 Fiscal year are represented, putting us 80% of the way through the year, with very few items over budget. The overages are not, however, unexpected. They will help us plan more accurately for the next year. CPA Howard was not present to bring forth the charts and graphs for this meeting, but Business Services Manager Santucci presented them for the board, highlighting the increases in revenue over the several charted programs and offerings. She reiterated that the Needs Assessment was nearing completion for compilation, and asked that the Board return their rankings so they may be added to the final listing.

RECREATION

Superintendent Cox presented three renewing contracts to the board for their consideration. The First Student renewal for buses for camp field trips, stating that the fee has not changed, remaining the same as it was the previous year. The Young Grasshopper Code Ninjas, giving access to STEM instructors for summer courses. And finally the Hot Shot Sports LLC Renewal for Athletic Instructors for our summer Sports programs.

PARKS AND PLANNING

Superintendent Bessette notified the Board that he had received a request regarding a Swing at East Harbor Park, and that the part had been ordered. The District could expect to see it in approximately 16 weeks. Commissioner Vences relayed that he had recently seen a photograph from a resident near East Harbor Park, where beavers were visible in the image. Superintendent Bessette stated that he was aware of the photograph, and that the District has access to a contractor that has traps to capture the animals, but the contractor is in the process of renewing their license. He went on to state that there is no real, feasible way to rehome the animals, but they will be working on it, but at Ranger Park and East Harbor Park.

CCAC

Superintendent Cox stated that the GARBA dates have been confirmed, save for October 20, 2023 as the already planned and scheduled Trunk-Or-Treat event utilizes the Gym as a back up location incase of in climate weather during the event. Mr Nauman Azeemi had a meeting with Secretary O'Brien and Superintendent Cox to reach an understanding and agreement. Commissioner Mustafa took exception to the agreement, stating that the Commissioners agreed to have 9 days, the entire weekend in the CCAC Dome and the weekdays in the Gym. Mr Azeemi states that the price for the GARBA event is high, and the 20th is the key night and they do not wish to miss that night of prayer. Superintendent Cox stated that the Community TrunkOr-Treat events begins at 6 pm and continues to 8 pm, including the time for set up and clean up. Commissioner Mustafa loudly stated that the GARBA event needed to proceed as directed by the board, and there had never been issues with prayer events in the past. Ms. Amy Aiello spoke out during these events, stating that she is a resident near the Community Center, and she had an issue during the last event, where she was attempting to get into her driveway, and a gentleman from the prayer service got out of his car to begin yelling at her. Commissioner Mustafa claimed she was paid to come to the board meeting and make up the story, that it had never happened.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Ron Majumdar was recognized by the board. He stated he works with Academia and Research together to find ways to unite them. He has played Cricket all his life from Calcutta to Chicago, promotes his sports everywhere he can. He would like to help set up a Youth Cricket club here at the park district. ICC 12 full members can perform at all levels of the sport. He also offers Major League cricket, however it's been delayed. Minor League cricket plays in the US, Mr. Majumdar's son even plays here in the US as well. They ask for a chance to do this here at the park district.

Mrs. Mary Morrison was recognized by the board. She states that she is a former board member and a former resident, only recently having moved house. She asked to come back to the Foundation 7-8 months ago. Mr. Gabe Villar was asked to return as well. They will be holding the 5K Race, as was done for 7-8 years prior to covid and a transition in the event's leadership. She states that board members are meant to support the Foundation. Mary was not able to speak at last meeting, as there were a number of people present. She asked that the board takes the sponsorship, the goal is 5,000\$ with donation packets. She expects the board to support the foundation and find sponsorship opportunities. She reminded the Board that all things done by the Foundation monetarily goes into the YES account for the children and the people of the park district. Mrs. Morrison also stated that she appreciates the staff working with her so diligently.

She went on to speak about why she came in to the last meeting, it was 2 weeks ago. When she came in, she watched what happened at the meeting and was rendered speechless by what occurred in the meeting, from the bullying to the degradation to the way Staff was spoken to and treated. She stated that any trust in the board has been ruined, the board lies about these people and it is disgusting. She went on to remind the Board that it is the Staff that does the day to day operation, not the board. The commentary about the Landmark Forum and the bullying to get them to go to training. "Go or this will happen." This was brought up in 2014 and the Board said NO. They needed better communication at the time and a governance committee was brought together. A Board to Board with the Village, Code Violations. Rod Craig called the board Disgusting, Deplorable, and stated he has no faith in them. She told him she would turn it around but today she would agree with him, states that the board is disgusting and deplorable. Commissioner Vences thanked Mrs. Morrison for her words of support to the staff and stated he agreed with her. At this point, Commissioner Vences left the meeting.

Mr. Gabe Villar was recognized by the board, and begged the public to FOIA the audio and listen to the last meeting.

Ms. Kristi Merrill was recognized by the board. She wanted to thank Mary for stepping up and saying something and also asked her to get in touch with Ms. Merrill for help with the 5K. She also recommended the board read their rules for the board.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

No members of the Board took the opportunity to speak. There are no Questions and Answers from the Commissioners to report.

CORRESPONDANCE

Secretary O'Brien presented the OSLAD Grant Application Notice for Discovery Park to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by President Fuentez to adjourn from the 3/13/2023 Workshop Board Meeting at 8:31pm.

With no further discussion and upon the roll being called, the following answered:

Ayes	2	Commissioner Elkins and President Fuentez
Nays:	0	None
Abstain:	1	Commissioner Mustafa

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob O'Brien
Board Secretary