

**HANOVER PARK PARK DISTRICT
1919 WALNUT AVENUE
HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS 60133
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

**MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners was called to order on Monday, March 27, 2023, by President Fuentez at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following answered:

Commissioners Present:	4	Commissioners Elkins, Mustafa, Vences, and President Fuentez
Commissioners Absent:	0	None
Staff Present:	6	Executive Director O'Brien, Superintendent of Recreation Cox, Marketing and Communications Manager Gomez Superintendent of Parks & Planning Bessette, Business Services Manager Santucci, Executive Assistant Quigley
Staff Absent:	0	None
Guests Present:	16	CPA Howard, Attorney Mraz, Lisa Dzik, Sofie Cstaneda, Kaleigh Pinones, Mary Morrison, Gabe Villar, Renee Benson, Arunava Majumdar, Juan Montes, Michelle Seiver, Marci Erhardt, Peter Erhardt, Herb Porter, Nauman Azeemi, Yasmeen Bankole

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Commissioner Mustafa relayed that he had made requests for items to be added to the agenda that were not present in the final draft, and questioned why this was. Secretary O'Brien stated that those matters were better suited for Questions from the Commissioners and that would be the appropriate time to bring it up. President Fuentez agreed.

With no further discussion and 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve the November 14, 2022 Revised Workshop Board Meeting Minutes, the November 28, 2022 Revised Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the December 12, 2022 Workshop Board Meeting Minutes, the December 19, 2022 Revised Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the January 9, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting Minutes, and the January 23, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Commissioner Elkins stated he would be voting no, as he had not read the minutes and was having difficulty with retrieving them. Secretary O'Brien asked if he had received the packet, which was sent to all commissioners on Friday. Commissioner Elkins relayed that he had an email that was supposed to contain the packet, and Secretary O'Brien asked if Executive Assistant Quigley could attend to the Commissioner and help him retrieve it. Commissioner Mustafa alleged that the Matters from the Public was copied incorrectly from the recordings of the meetings, and he would be voting no.

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

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

Motion did not carry.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Mraz confirmed there was no report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Commissioner Vences and seconded by Commission Elkins to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, 2023, as presented.

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

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements (May 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023)

A motion was made by Commissioner Vences and seconded by Commissioner Elkins to accept the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements from May 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023, as presented.

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

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

Motion carried.

WARRANT

A motion was made by Commissioner Vences and seconded by President Fuentez to approve Warrant #22-23-11 for the month ending February 28, 2023 Covering Check Numbers #81668-81699 From the Payroll Checking Account in the amount of \$141,302.33 & Check Numbers #65662-65740 from the General Corporate Checking Account in the amount of \$127,642.85 for a Grand Total Warrant of \$268,945.18, as presented

Commissioner Elkins pointed out that an error had been made in the original reading of the check numbers from the General Corporate account, reading check number 65652 instead of check number 65662. Commissioner Vences amended his original reading of the motion to the correct check number and apologized for his error. Commissioner Elkins amended his second to correlate appropriately.

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

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

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution #22-23-32 – A Resolution Approving of the First Student Vehicle Lease Between the Hanover Park District & First Student, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve Resolution #22-23-32 – A Resolution Approving of the First Student Vehicle Lease Between the Hanover Park District & First Student, Inc., as presented.

Commissioner Elkins asked for clarification that the contract in question was the annual contract. Superintendent Cox confirmed that not only was it the annual contract, the pricing of the vehicle rental had not changed from the previous year. Commissioner Mustafa stated some confusion on why we needed to rent busses when the Park District had serviceable ones. Superintendent Cox explained that the busses rented are larger than the one the Park District owns, and could accommodate more student for summer camp field trips.

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

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

Motion carried.

B. Resolution #22-23-33 – A Resolution Approving of the Independent Contractor Agreement Between the Hanover Park District & Hot Shot Sports, LLC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve Resolution #22-23-33 – A Resolution Approving of the Independent Contractor Agreement Between the Hanover Park District & Hot Shot Sports, LLC., as presented.

Commissioner Elkins asked what Hot Shot Sports is. Superintendent Cox stated this was the agreement for youth summer athletic instructors.

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

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

Motion carried.

C. Resolution #22-23-34 – A Resolution Approving of the Independent Contractor Agreement Between the Hanover Park Park District & Young Grasshopper, LLC D/B/A Code Ninjas Bartlett

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve of Resolution #22-23-34 – A Resolution Approving of the Independent Contractor Agreement Between the Hanover Park Park District & Young Grasshopper, LLC D/B/A Code Ninjas Bartlett, as presented.

Superintendent Cox offered clarification that this contract was for the Summer STEM programming instructors.

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

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

Motion carried.

D. Resolution #22-23-35 – A Resolution Approving of the Professional Services Agreement Between the Hanover Park Park District & Selden Fox, Ltd.

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and Seconded by Commissioner Vences to approve Resolution #22-23-35 – A Resolution Approving of the Professional Services Agreement Between the Hanover Park Park District & Selden Fox, Ltd., as presented.

Secretary O'Brien offered clarification that this agreement was for the annual auditing of the Park District financial records, performed by Seldon Fox. Commissioner Elkins asked if this contract had a small increase from the previous year. CPA Howard confirmed that there had been an increase on the price of the service, totaling approximately \$500.

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

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

Motion carried.

E. Review of new Park District policies regarding Email Retention, Cellphone Text Communication, and Social Media for the Commissioners and Staff, as well as the new Park District Policy for Social Media usage by the Public.

Attorney Mraz discussed the new policies drawn up as ones that should have been in place long ago. The email policy applies to both staff communication with commissioners as well as with the commissioners themselves should they constitute as a quorum. He also went over the retention policy as it would be against the law to delete emails without confirmation from the state archivist. There is a certain extent to which Commissioners may use their surface tablets, with the understanding that they are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The Social Media policy goes over what commissioners and employees can say online with regards to Park District Social Media pages, as well as the potential need for disclaimers for their personal pages. While this policy can not stop people from voicing their opinions, provided they are not slandering someone, they can say whatever they wish. Attorney Mraz stated that these policies could be placed on Special Meeting agenda as the commissioners didn't have time to read them. Attorney Mraz recommends separating personal pages vs political pages. Commissioner Mustafa wants to know if security footage is admissible. Attorney Mraz advises that it would need to be checked by an attorney as security footage becomes a matter of security. Commissioner Elkins asks about Spam email per the email retention policy. Attorney Mraz advised that non-pertinent emails can be removed without consequences, however pertinent emails should be retained at least on a server at the Park District. Attorney Mraz stated he doesn't expect an answer right now, but will recommend that the Commissioners review them between now and April 10th Special Meeting.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Renee Benson was recognized by the board. She stated that she was there to represent parents seeking the return Mrs T, one of the preschool teachers. She stated she spoke to Mrs. T and Mrs T expressed that she is willing to return. Ms. Benson went on to further state that the parents unsure what needs to be done to bring her back, and asked if corporate sponsorships would work, but the parents tracked Mrs. T down to speak with her. Ms. Benson stated that there is a change.org petition and an interview that would go viral, wherein Mrs. T expressed missing her preschool students. Ms. Benson spoke with a parent who stated that she will likely not come back if Mrs T doesn't come back, as she helped the children, wiped their tears.

Mrs. Marcy Eirhardt was recognized by the board. She stated that Mrs T is really amazing, and the way she greeted the parents and the kids is amazing. Mrs. Erhardt relayed that her daughter, Hazel, regularly returned home with a wider vocabulary under Mrs. T's education. She finished her time, stating that she agrees with Ms. Benson.

Mr. Nauman Azeemi was recognized by the board. He began, stating that Interfaith organization came to the Park District looking for community to find the community where they could grow their first group. Their first dinner was in 2022 (April) and the anniversary of that dinner was coming. He wanted to come and thank the board for coming together to help the organization with many things, evidenced in the previous meeting. The organization had reached out to a vast number of people, of many faiths, and had no idea there were so many here. He stated that Illinois is a very fertile place for interfaith communities. Mr. Azeemi thanked President Fuentez and Commissioner Elkins for their help. Mr. Azeemi states that shirt he was displaying at the meeting received mockery from others who did not believe Cricket would take root in Hanover Park. He stated that the "grandfather of cricket in the Midwest", Mr. Majumdar, told him to keep fighting for grounds to start the Hanover Park Youth Cricket Academy. He was also happy to relay that Cricket can now be taken in schools as an elective sport, per recent legislation.

Mr. Arunava Majumdar was recognized by the board. He stated that he is the President of a Cricket organization attempting to promote cricket at Heritage Park, and he wanted to set up the ground and the facilities. He asked for the space to begin the program.

Mr. Masoud, another Cricket Board President, was recognized by the board. He stated that he started women's cricket here, and even invited the national team as there was no ground available in Illinois, they played in Florida. He said he has been retired for 10 years, and was approached by Mr. Azeemi, asking if he wanted to start something here for

Youth Cricket. Mr. Masoud said yes, and he didn't want to travel to Ft Lauderdale to do it. He asked the board to allow them to do Cricket here at Hanover Park, even though, he himself lives in Glendale Heights

Mr. Juan Montes was recognized by the board. He stated he lives here in Hanover Park and works for a Park District in another town. He stated that he was concerned about Cricket, and recommended an Affiliate Agreement, or perhaps a three year contract or a yearly renewal. He went on to state that it was a bit upsetting when reading through the minutes, as it appears a Commissioner is harassing park district employees. He continued, asking that if that commissioner continues it, what can be done about it. He stated that he doesn't believe it's fair to the recreation team as a whole, and asked how can the public can help fix that.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mustafa stated that he thought most of the things from the previous meeting were aimed at him. He says he is here for the tax payers. He states that most of the staff doesn't live in Hanover Park. Commissioner Mustafa went on to state that his record speaks for itself, he worked with the Hurricane Organization, and the public could tell what he did. He continued, stating that after he left, the public can see "where that organization is going". He stated they brought 20,000 people for the Mulsim prayers, over 20,000 people for GARBA with Interfaith Organization, for Adam and Eve day, for the Women's gathering, and he did help with the foundation. He claims that the old board did nothing. He claims that Soccer is the only program we have, and states that Athletic Supervisor Laura Reilly is doing great with it. He stated that we had people here talking for 10 minutes, stated that the same person was calling him every month, but there was no relationship built. He claimed that Superintendent Cox demanded the board get rid of Secretary O'Brien, that Executive Assistant Quigley "makes things up from her head". He stated an issue with the use of the word "claims" in the minutes, and stated that the Board needs to hold people accountable and "clean up house" for people who "don't want to work". He claimed he was attacked last meeting because someone didn't like him voting along with Mark Elkins, and that the vote for Landmark Forum is what did it. He stated that he is for the community and you won't find anyone on the staff as passionate about the community as he is. He claimed no one here would volunteer from staff, because they don't get paid. He claimed it's all about getting a paycheck. He stated that Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi was here with no staff to greet him, and it was embarrassing.

Commissioner Vences stated that, while it's true that Commissioner Mustafa brought in the GARBA and brought in some Cricket, none of it would be possible without the coordination of the staff. He stated that if it wasn't for all the staff, from Superintendent Bessette and his staff getting the fields ready, Superintendent Cox working on the schedules, Marketing and Communications Manager Gomez advertising on the website, and Secretary O'Brien delegating and coordinating everything, the events would not have been as successful. He stated that the staff did a great job in helping Commissioner Mustafa make it happen. Commissioner Vences extended his personal thanks to all the part time and full time staff that are doing their best to get this job done.

Commissioner Elkins stated that he had questions. He went on to state that he received Superintendent Cox's emails, regarding the GARBA and the Cricket Leagues. He thanked her for the email and stated that he found the information valuable. Commissioner Elkins stated that Superintendent Cox did a great job and has come a long way in terms of her communications with the Board. He believed that he had an understanding of what she has been facing in these events. Commissioner Elkins stated that he wanted first to talk about GARBA. He has no issue with the pricing of the space for the GARBA, and for the amount of hours the event was scheduled to take place. He went on to state that he believed that the HPIO was willing to celebrate after The Park District Trunk-Or-Treat event, as the gym is meant to be a "in case of rain" location for the event, but Commissioner Elkins believes that even if the HPIO had to start at 9 pm, they would still want to celebrate. He suggested that this is something that The Park District should. Superintendent Cox stated that she had scheduled a meeting with the representative from HPIO later that week to lay out all the options for them. Commissioner Elkins said he went looking for the Village Noise Ordinance, but could not find it, but he seemed to recall that the noise ordinance had a level of 60 dB, and there should be a way to work around that. Superintendent Cox reiterated that she plans to meet with the representative of the HPIO, and had intended to meet with him the previous week, but due to a family emergency for the representative, the meeting needed to be rescheduled. Commissioner Elkins also suggested that perhaps the Park District reschedule the Trunk-Or-Treat event for the 27th.

Superintendent Cox relayed that it would be difficult to do as there are Vendors already lined up who donate to the Foundation as well as other difficulties in rescheduling the community event. Commissioner Mustafa stated that Superintendent Cox did not want “to deal with him”, but claimed he was the representative. Secretary O'Brien stated that he and Superintendent Cox were to meet with the person who was signing the application for the event, and not with Commissioner Mustafa. Commissioner Mustafa stated that Superintendent Cox would not be allowed to turn off the music at 10 pm. Commissioner Elkins reminded him that that is not what would occur and Superintendent Cox went over all of that in her email to the Board.

On the topic of the Cricket Leagues and spaces, Commissioner Elkins discussed with Attorney Mraz about the possibility of Affiliate Agreements, and one of the major questions Commissioner Elkins had was whether or not the affiliates would be coming from our community. Commissioner Elkins stated that he had spoken with the Cricket folks, but has noticed that there have been no real -plans- directly related to the percentage of members joining from Hanover Park. Superintendent Cox responded that as the Leagues had gone directly to the Board to get their program through, there had been no communication with her in regards to the potential agreement or the demographics of their programs. Commissioner Mustafa demanded to know why Superintendent Cox has been ignoring the Recreation committee. Superintendent Cox stated that these are matters of the day to day operations of the Park District, and going through the committee is not required. Commissioner Mustafa disagreed. Secretary O'Brien reminded him that the Day to Day operations of the Recreation Department are under Superintendent Cox's purview. The discussion on this matter was cut short by President Fuentez. Attorney Mraz stated that Heritage Park is owned by the School district, Du Page County Forest Preserve, and the Park District. The Park District does not have the authority to simply lease that field. Attorney Mraz has had extensive experience with the school district over the years, and it is a very difficult situation given how the building on the property is heated. Mr. Majumdar stated he would like to know more about the grounds and the state of them, and Superintendent Cox offered to take him on a tour of that field and facility.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Elkins and seconded by Commissioner Vences to adjourn the 3-27-23 Regular Meeting of the Park District board of Commissioners at 8:12pm.

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

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob O'Brien
Board Secretary
BO:SL