Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Kewanee Park District Office Board Room, 1095 Cambridge Road Kewanee, IL 61443 Thursday October 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Present: President Andrew Verstraete, Commissioners, Paula Kapacinskas, Jim Heberer, Jacque Verscha, Steve Brackett, Director Andrew Dwyer, Secretary Christy Jackson-Ehnle, Susan DeVilder (Star Courier), Mike Rapszak, Tim & Angela Hamilton, Bob Cabron, Diane Packee, Brock Tumbleson, Terry & Sue Neirynck, Jerry VanDevelde, Tom Martineau.

Absent: None

President Andrew Verstraete called the meeting to order.

The Windmont and Northeast Lighting crew were chosen by the commissioners to receive this year’s “A Childs Best Friend” Award. President Verstraete gave them their award and thanked each for their hard work and efforts in decorating the parks every year for everyone to enjoy. Director Dwyer also thanked them and said to let him know if there is anything the park district can do to help in getting volunteers.

The minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed and discussed. Jim Heberer motioned to accept the minutes as written. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motioned Passed.

The September 2021 Financial Statement was presented. The Board Reviewed and discussed the Financial Statement. Jim Heberer motioned to accept the September 2021 Financial Statement. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The October Bills for Approval were reviewed and discussed. Steve Brackett motioned to approve the September 2021 Bills. Paula Kapacinskas seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Public Hearing: President Andrew Verstraete called to order the Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposal to sell $517,000 General Obligation Park Bonds for the payment land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving, and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, for the payment of outstanding bonds of the district and for the payment of expenses incident thereto, and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto. Hearing and seeing no testimony from anyone Jim Heberer motioned to proceed with the selling of the General Obligation Bonds. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

President Andrew Verstraete entertained a motion to close the public hearing. Steve Brackett motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Open Business:** None

Commissioner Paula Kapacinskas wants to consider changing the commissioner term from 6 years to a 4-year term and ask what needs to be done to make the change. Is there a Referendum or Board Resolution to change the term? She would like to know what the public thinks about the 4-year term instead of 6 years and ask about doing a survey or survey monkey to get feedback from the public. Paula would like Director Dwyer to check into the survey to get the public opinion.

**Director’s Report and Meeting Minutes**

1. Follow-up from last board meeting:

a. Golf Carts Delivered

i. Need to be outfitted with fill bottles, numbers, and washers

b. Sealed bids for carts

i. Sold 10 for $22,888.29 ii. Trade in for 15 was $20,400

1. Communications:

The Kewanee Park District got a thank you from Valley View for the Cure for the donation.

1. Wethersfield FFA would like us to waive user fee for use this past Saturday for their shoot.
   1. Izaak Walton leadership believes they should pay fee as anytime facility is used it must be manned by Rangemaster.

The Board agreed not to wave the fee.

1. Izaak Walton League Expansion idea to include youth/HS night
   * 1. Tuesday nights is very busy and wanting to keep established shooters happy as well as offering additional day for younger shooters
     2. Suggestion was to offer portion of night to HS teams then open to all youth. Would charge School and public standard shooting rates for open timeframe.
2. Interstate Fence 
   1. Will be on site to install fence on South side of Windmont in roughly

2 weeks

* 1. Gate at South entrance of Windmont has been damaged, will be giving estimate for repair or replacement
  2. Looked at guardrail on 16-17 at Golf course and discussing whether or not their proposed railing would meet our needs Interstate grade guardrail is proposed and is overkill for our needs.
  3. Will be obtaining pricing and options for gates at Parks that do not have or have gates in disrepair. Met on 10/15 to discuss. Cost effective option being discussed is concrete posts with chain and reflectors.

1. Investigating American Rescue funding thru Henry County
   1. Ideas include HVAC at Shelters, new pavilions, Mini Golf, Splash pad, playground equipment, outdoor space at pro-shop, Windmont tennis court re-design and conversation to pickle ball. Lights on driving range.
2. Donating 1 Tree to Eagle scout project (Employee Jace Clayes) at Chautauqua Park.
3. Discussion of community survey in advance of long-range planning
4. Keep admin assistant on during this winter to work on following:
   1. Clean out and disposal of old files that are not needed to be kept by statute.
   2. Compile results from community survey if offered
   3. Investigation and development of digital reservation platform for shelters, ball diamond rentals, golf, etc...
   4. Organization of board room and files.
   5. She also was interested in trying some new program offerings for winter that would be of minimal expense.
5. Assigning Delegate for IAPD's annual Business Meeting in January 2022.

**Director Andrew Dwyer was assigned as Delegate and President Verstraete, Steve Brackett, or Jim Heberer assigned if he could not make it to the IAPD’s Annual Business Meeting in January 2022.**

1. Other Activities
   1. Hosted Regional Boys Golf Tournament
   2. Hosted Sandtrapper golf outing

c. Closure of restaurant for season

* 1. Held night golf, sellout with 13 teams!
  2. Visitation School has listed us on their "sponsor board" for our work and partnership with their Jr. high golf team.
  3. Budget preparation
  4. Met with IT company who is providing a cost basis should we want to design new website, move storage offsite, security threats, and note any other areas they think may be beneficial to us.
  5. Reconciling organizing the donation file
  6. Coordinating with donors for locations and preference on tree and bench memorials
  7. Lighting project complete at Northeast. May need to adjust large lights and will be turning focus to shelter and other building with fixtures that are inoperable not only at Northeast but also Windmont and Chautauqua.

With nothing further to discuss Steve Brackett motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.