

MINUTES

The Monthly Board meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Baker Park Office, Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Commissioners, Paula Kapacinskas, Jim Heberer, Steve Brackett, Director Andrew Dwyer, Secretary Christy Jackson – Ehnle, Diane Peart, Chris Sullens, Tim Atwell, Ron Salisbury, Jennifer Russel (Regional Media), and Susan DeVilder (Star Courier).

ABSENT: President Andrew Verstraete

Commissioner Steve Brackett called the meeting to order.

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- a. Consideration of minutes: Regular Meeting March, 2022
- b. Consideration of Financial Statements
- c. Consideration of Bills for Approval

Commissioner Kapacinskas motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner Heberer seconded the motion.
Motion Passed 4-0

Public Comment: Diane Peart attended the meeting to discuss the park bench that was put at Northeast Park by her house that she would like relocated.

New Business: Dr. Sullens presented the offer of selling the park district soil from the football field at the Kewanee high school that is getting a new turf field. He would require the dirt to be used for the soccer field at Northeast Park that the school uses and mentioned the cost associated with the transfer.

Commissioner Heberer discussed the benefits of getting the topsoil but also had concerns about the cost of transferring and maintaining the soil. The commissioners decided to do more research before a decision.

A) School District approached Commissioner Heberer about the possibility to use topsoil that is to be removed from Football field and place on HS soccer field. I subsequently met with Dr. Sullens and was given some information regarding the potential partnership, below is what I was told in addition to some research done on my own. The school district had a potential agreement on their agenda for Tuesday April 19, 2022.

- a. Requesting 10 year freeze to the rate paid under facilities contract
- b. Rate (36k per year) has been static since 2015.
- c. Estimated value of dirt is around 30k. Guessing around 80 ton of dirt.
- d. 10-year revenue creation if we raise amount 3% year over year is an additional 65k over that period
- e. Additional cost to grade, seed, maintain, Water???, and other developmental upkeep

B) Safety Discussion:

- a. I have been working on camera and internet systems, having a conversation with City recently in addition to looking at other options. Have had great deal of trouble bringing in traditional wired solutions. Looking at NextLink and New Wave which are tower based. Cameras are going to be going in soon and will need to be accessed on site for review until ISP issue is resolved.
Commissioner Kapacinskas would like Director Dwyer to get quotes on gates and security for the parks.
- b. I have been able to obtain names of a fair portion of vandals for our 2 most recent issues (Christmas Vandalism and most recent break-in to Northeast shelter. Charges were filed against 3 youth from the Christmas vandalism and also against 5 youth from last week. I would like some guidance on how to proceed: We have consulted with law enforcement, a reasonable approach would be that if a juvenile is arrested on park property and we obtain the information, a "no trespass" order should be issued to the juvenile, their family, and also a copy to the police department. This would disallow the youth on any of our premises at any time until whichever date we set or permanently if no date is set.
The commissioners discussed the "no trespass" order and the punishment for the vandalism that maybe there should be consideration of age and the repeat offenders.
- c. Also, further researched gates and closing of gates at park facilities within our regions
 - i. Galva, Metamora and Sterling have gates. Galva keeps theirs open while Metamora has police dept who volunteers to shut theirs, Sterling is remotely operated and mechanical on timer.
 - ii. Lasalle, Peru, Mendota, Ottawa, Geneseo, Hennepin Canal, Johnson's Sauk Trail, Galesburg, Peoria, Washington, East Peoria, and Princeton do not have gates.
 - iii. Superintendents recommendation is to not close the gates as historically it has caused greater damage when someone does get in there as they do not believe there is potential for passersby to see them.

1 I have been tracking the budgetary processes on the state level and am pleased to inform you all that OSLAD grants will be funded in the amount of 56 million dollars this year, more than double prior years' appropriations. We are working to identify opportunities that are admissible for grant application when they come available. A brief review of allowable programs based on last year's offering are: Splashpad. Playgrounds, new land acquisition and development, pavilions. We are

considered a disadvantaged community and if awarded, we would be funded at 90%.

■ 2.) Other Activities

■ i. Successfully held Easter Egg hunt on April 9th, with a return of the Easter Bunny.

1. Special Thankyou to "The Hill" Church, Dan, Josh, Christy, Shane, Bill, Board Members Verstraete and Kapacinskas and also

Will Bruno for his "behind the scenes" participation.

ii. Met with Rock Island County Center on Addiction (RICCA) about their staff volunteering at park throughout the summer as well as offering educational curriculum. They currently teach within Kewanee School

District and are wanting to stay active in community during summer.

iii. Met with multiple potential groups about hosting golf playdays iv. Completed Junior Achievement with Mrs. Costenson's 4th Grade class at Central School.

v. Met and began prep for fishing Rodeo with Joe Desmit. Fish were ordered in early March and Oldeen roofing again has graciously sponsored our event to continue this great partnership

vi. Prepping for pollinator grant order and subsequent planting with partners vii. Partnering with Kewanee Public Library on a summer reading program that will be hosted at Windmont Park on

June 8th.viii. Met with the YMCA about summer partnerships. We are preparing for Sand

Volleyball, Free Yoga sessions in the parks, "Tween" night where YMCA will rent pool for their event outdoors, potential for flag football again in the fall, as well as other opportunities

that may present themselves.

ix. Hired Jeremy Peart as Director for baseball/softball/tball

x. Worked on and resolved a warranty issue with lighting issue on ball diamond lights went out, we believe it to be a surge or lighting strike that caused it

xi. Met with Nolan Keane Tournament organizers for planning in advance of tournament xii.

Developed and implemented sponsorship program for soccer.

1. 2 reasons for this new program:

a. Demand from sponsors!

b. As costs have risen, we have not raised our prices to our residents.

2. Soccer numbers have eclipsed 300 and we have 22 teams for this year. I am told this is a record!

Director Dwyer mentioned that The Kewanee Park District won Gold Medal for best golf course of Tri Counties and Silver Medal for the best family attraction.

Director Dwyer said that the Martin Engineering & Jim Finley donations are going to pay for the new score board controls at Northeast and Windmont parks.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Heber asked if the 19th Hole Restaurant was staffed and needed a cook.

Commissioner Kapacinskas: None

Commissioner Brackett said it's a good beginning for the 19th Hole to be open.

Commissioner Heberer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kapacinskas seconded the motion. All in Favor. The meeting adjourned.