

MINUTES

The Monthly Board meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Baker Park Office, Thursday August 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: President Steve Brackett, Commissioners, Jim Heberer, Paula Kapacinskas, Nichelle Morey, Andrew Verstraete, Director Andrew Dwyer, Secretary Christy Jackson-Ehnle, Dan Erickson (Superintendent of Parks), Deb Lindbeck, Richard Lashbrook, Roger Jepson, Rita Wheelhouse, Karen Stickle, Bobbi Rapczak, Diane Packee, Ricci McRae, & Gary Bradly (City of Kewanee)

ABSENT: None

President Brackett called the meeting to order

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Roll Call

2. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:
 - i. Regular Meeting July 21, 2022
 - b. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 - c. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL
Commissioner Verstraete motioned to approve Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Morey seconded the motion. Motion Passed 5-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
Deb Lindbeck, Richard Lashbrook, Roger Jepson, Rita Wheelhouse, Karen Stickle, Bobbi Rapczak, Diane Packee, & Ricci McRae came to the board meeting to discuss the conditions of the pickleball courts that they get dirty and slippery, have cracks in the courts and would like more courts for tournaments. Roger suggested using Windmont for more courts also.

4. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. **Discussion: Potential in changing bonding agency in effort to save on issuance costs**
 - b. **Discussion: OSLAD Grant Application**

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR

- 1.) Request for half season golf passes has risen with our youth golf program booming, families have a desire to obtain pass for the remainder of the season once

league/clinic have concluded. I would like to begin a program next season to offer ½ season passes to begin after 4th of July and run thru end of July

- 2.) A representative from Stifel, who does bonding for Kewanee Schools requested consideration to become our bonding agent as he reviewed many local bond issuances and found our abnormally high. Looking into our bonding fees and have found that there is a potential for a significant cost savings. We have paid about 25 to 30k in issuance fees and by making this more competitive, we can lower those fees to around 10k while still bonding in the same manner but potentially with a new partner or with our current partner but with a more attractive fee amount for the district. (Discussion is listed on agenda with attached supporting documentation to show our savings potential)
- 3.) OSLAD Grant: The total award potential has been increased to 600k this year and up to 100% funding for “economically distressed” communities which Kewanee is considered. A splash pad would give us a fail safe if or when the pool becomes unsustainable and gives a stopgap while we replace/repair/modify in the future with the added feedback of a splash pad to accent/replace/combine without current aquatic center. The City Council has also voiced desire for a splashpad would be mutually advantageous to partner, however, my plan is to prep for application without a partner and if something come together. Other eligible projects include acquisition (New Park locations), playgrounds, open air shelters, tennis/pickleball/basketball and other play courts and renovation of existing, pool, restroom facilities, and dog park (max of 25k). I have a copy of the Grant Manual if anyone would like to take a look.
- 4.) I have also included in your packet a breakdown of potential tax levies for next year for your consideration. Our EAV is expected to decline again this year within our district. This is for reference when we begin our discussions in the coming future. Compton has recommended we consider a “truth in taxation” hearing and up our rate one time at 10% to allow us to offset lowering EAV, rising wages, increases in supplies/materials equipment. This also allows us to focus on modernizing many areas within our parks that are in need of upgrading or replacement and have fallen behind what we are financially capable of doing (Shelters, playgrounds, playing surfaces, equipment, digital infrastructure are all areas of note that I believe are deficient compared to current days standards.

5.) Other Activities

- a. Completed Tree grant application and is being submitted.
- b. Progressing through the red tape of the solar project. With rising electricity costs, the programs have become saturated with is taking extra time.
 - i. Have contacted 3 additional local companies for prices on demo, concrete, and building construction to give us a better idea on cost.
- c. Completed online pre-registration a well as digital announcement (Web, social media, and email) of Labor Day tournaments for this year.
- d. Completed end of year Pizza party with Motor City for Baseball/Softball T-ball teams
- e. Participated in Abilities Plus Outing with Commissioners Brackett, Morey and our Pro, Jerry Bowers. We took 2nd place.
- f. I was asked to co-chair community improvement/service committee thru Kiwanis. This could be fantastic for the Park District.
- g. Finance: We appear very sound as we have not yet tapped into the G.O. bond to supplement our tax levy. This should give us an opportunity to strategically target capital expenditure needs as the year winds down (Solar Canopy, Registration Software, Maintenance building, exhaust at 19th hole, and potentially additional equipment needed) We also have the sprayer that has been on order that has continually had its timeline pushed out. If the sprayer is pushed into next year, I will be speaking with Peoples bank and discussing options in utilizing that funding in the immediate.
- h. I have reached out to Leisure's twice to check in on their fall plan and have yet to hear back.
- i. Meeting with YMCA next week about potentials for future cooperation and collaboration.
- j. Attended the Bakersville meeting. They are in need of volunteers, we will be assisting via our facebook page to help get the word out on the need.
- k. Organized multiple golf playdays. All went well and gearing up as the HS season has started this past week. Compliments for all staff have come in from the course, restaurant, and planning side made their events run smooth with positive feedback

- i. We did have 1 playday have a cart get rolled over. We have the persons information as he came up and told staff of the issue and we are working to get a price to him to pay for the damages.

1. In the parks

- i. Mower was sold by supplier to our vendor and we are awaiting delivery
- ii. Working on equipment maintenance and making good progress
- iii. Big toro mower having issues still and awaiting parts
- iv. Closing Pool
- v. Quite a few seasonal staff resigned and went back to school
- vi. Slow progress on tee marker signs – progress made as time permits
- vii. Slow progress made on decoder replacement – as time permits

COMMISSIONER COMENTS

Commissioner Verstraete: Complemented Director Dwyer great job and the cost savings over the last year and half. Thanks to Dan & his crew he knows some guys from Peoria that golf here and they love this course. Heard great things about the restaurant. Everybody is putting in time and effort, everything is working out well.

Commissioner Morey: Exciting to watch the pickleball players come & likes the half season golf pass. Having Jerry Bowers here & watching him getting involved with the kids. This weekend is the Relay for Life at Windmont Park last year it was at Northeast Park and worked out well. Thank you, Kewanee Park district, for all that you do letting them use the park every year for Relay for Life it is appreciated.

Commissioner Heberer: The golf calendar does not explain various things getting updated and said Director Dwyer is working on it. Maintenance to get a bid to work on finishing the new building. He would like signature on the park trucks with Kewanee Park District. Audio on cameras is it in compliance, concerns about conversations being recorded. Director Dwyer spoke to Deputy Chief Kijanowski who also talked to the States Attorney, he sent an email verifying audio open to the public does not violate statutes in Illinois.

Commissioner Kapacinskas: Things are pretty good, thank you everyone.

Commissioner Brackett: Thank you north side picklers for coming today and for your comments, I've been by and see lots of people standing playing pickleball, something going really well. I heard all good everyone loves the golf course and pool went well this year.

With nothing further to discuss President Brackett entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Heberer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Verstraete seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed. 5-0