

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 December 21, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Present: President Brackett, Commissioner Kapacinskas, Commissioner J. Heberer, Commissioner Morey, Commissioner M. Heberer, Director Andrew Dwyer, Secretary Heather Haga and Jennifer Russell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

2. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Truth in Taxation regarding 2023 Tax Levy

Commissioner J. Heberer motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner Morey seconded the motion. Motion Passed. 5-0

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:
 - i. Regular Meeting November 16, 2023
- b. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
- c. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL
 - i. Month of November 2023

Commissioner Kapacinskas motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner M. Heberer seconded the motion. Motion Passed. 5-0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 373:** Annual Property Tax Levy for Kewanee Park District

Commissioner Morey motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner Kapacinskas seconded the motion. Motion Passed. 5-0

b. Designation of meeting dates and times for 2024

Commissioner Kapacinskas motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner J. Heberer seconded the motion. Motion Passed. 5-0

6. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR

1. Holiday Shutdown

- a. Due to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day falling on a Sunday and Monday, our closure will be from Dec 22 thru January 1. We will return to work on January 2. Staff may be in and out based on weather and other needs of the park.

2. We have been approached by a neighbor that own property near our rice street entrance at Baker Park. The neighbor has built an extension on the garage that is on city property. They are inquiring if we would sign a petition to abandon the alley. I have spoken with Raver and he concurs with my assessment that we need a survey, and then a tentative agreement in place to execute once the city abandons the alley. We would have all of this in place before we sign the petition to begin the process with the city. If we did not proceed in this fashion, we would have the garage on our property that is ceded to us by the city. We will be working with all parties on all 3 aspects and then I will bring to you for sale and approval.

3. Enclosed is a letter from the State of Illinois about the highway 81 project. Through much effort and discussion, we have been given a favorable outcome in regards to the work. I have petitioned for tree replacement at a 2/1 ratio on both our property and also the right of way that is impacted, they will also be placing a pedestrian beacon (at my behest) or a delineated crosswalk across 81/Lexington to ensure safety of those crossing the road to our park and also to use the new bike path.

4. 19th Hole hours have been adjusted for Monday, they will now be 7-2. The buffet has been slow and we are pausing that for the time being to focus on to order menu items. If this trend continues, I would like to try a fried chicken special on Friday evenings and then also consider closing on Mondays as the numbers do not justify staying open. Our losses for November are 9k. 10 working days of October are applied to November. Once December's Numbers come in, we may need to make a decision whether or not to continue.

5. City of Kewanee is inquiring about an easement along the south side of Northeast park as they prepare for a water main project that would run from Main St. to “T” off at the Burr St. dead end and then tie into our Elm St entrance and line that feed Northeast Park. This is a best practice has been in preliminary discussions for quite some time. It will have a positive impact on the water pressure and quality in that area for our park and our neighbors around. I recommend working with the City to ensure there is minimal impact to the park while helping our neighbors.
6. We will be hosting an appreciation luncheon for our park lighting volunteers. I hope this will be a new yearly tradition to take time to show our thanks for their hard work in December. We are planning to hold luncheon in January.
7. Other activities:
 - a. Tax Levy
 - b. Paid Leave for All Workers Act.
 - i. Park District’s are exempt. If you hear about this, we are not required by law to participate.
 - c. Kids Christmas Party is December 20th from 5 to 7p
 - d. Policy book – Draft copy available for review.
 - e. Park Code
 - f. I would like feedback from all of you about the Strategic plan. If possible, I would like to set up a time to discuss and do leg work on some ideas you may have before bringing back to full board.
 - g. Christmas Party(s)
 - h. Excess equipment has been sold with only the transformers left
 - i. Playground has been completed
 - i. Maintenance has leveled the area, seeded it, put down wood chips, and filled low spots.
 - j. Solar Canopy Construction has begun. Demo has started and timeline indicates completion around March 31st.
 - i. Earthwork 1/15
 - ii. Gas 1/15

- iii. Rock Base 1/15
- iv. Canopy 2/1-3/1
- v. Concrete 3/15 – 3/31
- k. Course has been winterized
- l. Parks have been winterized

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner M. Heberer: Attended kids Christmas and helped with hot chocolate, was a good turn out and good time.

Commissioner Morey: Awesome the park is going to recognize the volunteer who helped with lighting to a luncheon.

Commissioner J Heberer: Asked about any recommendation about pickle ball and would like someone to be in touch.

Commissioner Kapacinkas: Thanked wonderful staff at 19th hole, she has attended 2 holiday parties.

President Brackett: Thanked everyone at the Park District and Jennifer Russell for taking time to record meetings. With weather nice the parks, golf course and Liberty looks awesome. Have a great holiday season, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

- 8. At 5:30 pm on December 21, 2023, Commissioner Kapacinkas motion to approve closed session. Commissioner M. Heberer Second Motion to enter CLOSED SESSION to consider Kewanee Park District board meeting. Roll Call
 - a. **Sec. 120/2. Open Meetings The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.**

At 6:23 pm, President Brackett entertained motioned to exit session. Commissioner J. Heberer motioned to exit closed session. Commissioner Kapacinkas seconded the motion. Motion Passed 5-0

9. ADJOURN

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