

APPROVED

The monthly meeting of the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners took place on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Ridgeville Park Community House (908 Seward St, Evanston, Illinois). Meeting agendas and digital packets were made available at www.ridgeville.org/governance prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Diana Anton, Amanda DePalma, Matthew Mitchell (President)
Commissioners Absent: Shawn Jones, Michael (Mick) Morel (Vice President)
Also Present: Gerald Gibbs (Treasurer), Julie Larson (Minute Taker), Marlon Rodas (Director of Parks and Recreation), Natalie Sallee (Program Director), Maricar Fernandez (Office Manager)

President Matthew Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Roll Call

Diana Anton: present
Amanda DePalma: present
Shawn Jones: absent
Matthew Mitchell: present
Mick Morel: absent

Citizen Comment Part 1:

There were no comments at this time.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1: Amanda DePalma moved to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023 Board meeting. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

Gerry Gibbs noted that what was approved at the October board meeting was not what the bills ended up being at the time of printing. The revised amount needs to be approved which will supersede the prior approval last month. Maricar Fernandez prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Summary October 12, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Detailed Report October 12, 2023." Fernandez discussed the differences between the two reports including a check for Bozeman Construction, Nicor bill error, and the annual report for the Ridgeville Foundation. The difference was about \$75.

Motion #2: Matthew Mitchell moved to approve payment of October 2023 revised bills in the amount of \$16,615.98. Diana Anton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Maricar Fernandez prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Summary November 9, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Detailed Report November 9, 2023." Marlon Rodas noted, among other items: background checks and entertainment for the Flannel Fest.

Motion #3: Amanda DePalma moved to approve payment of November 2023 bills in the amount of \$14,228.41. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:

Maricar Fernandez prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Summary November 9, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Details November 9, 2023." Marlon Rodas noted, among other items: Amazon for Flannel Fest and forklift rental for playground equipment.

Motion #4: Amanda DePalma moved to approve payment of November 2023 petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$1,022.06. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Report offered by Marlon Rodas, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation:

Marlon Rodas shared that the maintenance team has been getting ready for winter. They will install the ice rink after Thanksgiving. Sallee and Rodas met with Parkreation and 3D Designs to discuss creating a permanent, covered outdoor stage on the lawn of Ridgeville Park. They visited a current stage in operation for ideas. We expect to receive a proposal in the coming days from 3D Designs that will be presented at the December meeting. The Kubota vehicle has finally been delivered and our parks crew is happy to have it. We signed a contract with Aisha Robinson for ongoing equity consultation. Rodas attended the IAPD Legal Symposium and gained good information about legal matters pertaining to park districts.

Monthly Report offered by Natalie Sallee, Program Director:

- Fall Frenzy: Oct 19, good turnout despite the rain. A 30-min concert was fun before it got too wet.
- Software Symposium: Oct 20 in Carol Stream, Sallee felt good about 2 recreation software programs: My Rec and Amilia. Demos have been scheduled to review both with Rodas. Would be very useful for streamlining administration and patron experience. Would be able to cancel MailChimp, SquareSpace and others. Quotes are between \$3500 and \$4500 per year which is more than we are currently paying; board members felt it would be well worth the cost.
- Skater Halloween Event: Third year that we've hosted this annual event on the skate pad on Oct 28, and it was a good time for all.
- Fall Programs: Fall session has started. We have inherited some of the Little Beans classes. District 65 half days are sold out and are going great; transitioning to using the Field House instead of 908 Seward.

- Flannel Fest: Sold out event for tomorrow night. Sketchbook, Double Clutch, Temperance, Firehouse Grill will be represented and there will be childcare available.
- Winter Break Camp: Splitting into 2 groups, K-3 and 4-6. Will host 35-40 kids. CITs will be added to the group (Counselors in Training).

Monthly Report offered by Gerry Gibbs, Treasurer:

Gerry Gibbs said there was nothing to share this month. Some commissioners noted they have received packets from the auditor, Sikich. All commissioners should be receiving them and completing them soon.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

New Business:

- **Discuss REDI Initiative (Mitchell)**

Matthew Mitchell summarized that the REDI committee does not have any members at this time, and the initiative is in a transition period. Gerry Gibbs summarized the history of the REDI committee emerging out of community concerns in 2018/2019. Dr Ephiom, the initial consultant, suggested the formation of the committee in addition to hosting town hall meetings with the community, healing circles, and etc. COIVD started, Dr. Ephiom provided an assessment to the board, and then Dr. Ephiom unfortunately passed away. There has been a lot of progress on accomplishing some of Dr. Ephiom's recommendations, but there has been a lack of direction since her passing. Mitchell proposed utilizing Aisha Robinson, our current consultant, for training the staff and board and to work directly with staff for the time being. At this time, it would be good to be transparent about our lack of a REDI committee on our website and edit the Equity Charter if those requirements for the committee are no longer wanted. Consulting with Robinson would be good to better determine if the formation of a new REDI committee is a good idea or going in a different direction is preferred. Mitchell noted difficulty in recruiting community members to participate on the REDI committee in the past. The board agreed to invite Robinson to next month's meeting to discuss further. Anton would like to see a proposal from Robinson regarding a vision for equity work for this coming year. This is an opportunity to be proactive in our antiracist mission.

- **Motion to Appoint Maricar Fernandez to Corporate Secretary (Rodas)**

Motion #5: Matthew Mitchell moved to appoint Maricar Fernandez as Corporate Secretary to the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners. Diana Anton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed unanimously.

Call of the Commissioners:

- Anton: Diana wondered about communicating with Jacy Herman on behalf of the board and as an individual, after last month's dissolution of the REDI committee. The board encouraged her to reach out if she felt moved to do so and acknowledged the many years that Herman put into the mission of the REDI committee.
- DePalma: passed
- Jones: absent

- Mitchell: passed
- Morel: absent

Citizen Comment Part 2:

There were no comments at this time.

Adjournment:

Motion #6: Matthew Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda DePalma seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Larson, Minute Taker