

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
March 9, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Anthony Serna, President
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President
Valda Lewis, Secretary
Gilberto Cantu
Eugene Austin

STAFF:

Ateria Allen
Dawn Dawkins-Legal
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Anthony Serna, Eugene Austin

Telephonic: Valda Lewis, Gilberto Cantu

Staff Present: Ateria Allen
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
Dawn Dawkins, Legal Counsel

CHIEF SERNA: Rick Rodriguez called and said he would not be able to make the meeting tonight, but we have quorum. We'll move on the agenda to Administrative matters. First we have approval of February 23, 2021, meeting minutes. I'll entertain a motion to approve the February 23, 2021, meeting minutes.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

MS. LEWIS: Second.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

Next we have approval of payroll dated March 5, 2021. Entertain a motion to approve the payroll dated March 5, 2021.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

1 MR. CANTU: Second.

2 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

3 (All signify aye.)

4 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

5 Next we have approval of warrant
report 030921 PB in the amount of \$32,219.24.
Entertain a motion to approve warrant report.

6 MR. CANTU: I move to approve.

7 MS. LEWIS: Second.

8 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

11 Next item is Old Business.
I don't believe we have any old business before us
now. We'll move on to the next item on the agenda
which is New Business. Vanessa Hernandez-Orange,
Director of Parks and Recreation.

12 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Good evening,
everybody. Before you, you have a donation check
from Fife Funeral Home and it's a donation for our
Easter Egg-travaganza. We will be handing out
Easter Egg-Travaganza golden tickets to some
individuals. Those individuals are going to get
an egg-cellent gift. It's just a theme that we
are going with obviously for Easter. We did ask
the community member businesses to participate and
we have been receiving a great response. And if
we can have this approved so that we can turn and
purchase more Easter baskets that would be great.

13 CHIEF SERNA: All right. Any questions
on the donation from Fife Funeral Home in the
amount of \$75.00? Any questions Board members?
20 (None) All right, I'll entertain a motion to
21 approve and accept the donation from Fife Funeral
22 Home.

23 MR. CANTU: I make the motion.

24 MS. LEWIS: Second.

25 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by

1 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

2 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

3 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: That's all for
4 this evening.

5 CHIEF SERNA: All right. Did the record
6 reflect the innuendo of Egg-travagnza? Be sure to
7 note that. So what is the date of our virtual
8 Easter Egg Hunt?

9 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: March 27th. And
10 it's going to take place in the Park Office from
11 12 to 3. You do not have to sign up if the
12 children want to participate, but we'll be
13 checking ID at the entrance to make sure that you
14 are an East Chicago resident. And we have asked
15 for baskets from ages 1 to 13. You guys are all
16 welcome to come and all welcome to donate, if you
17 like. We accept all donations. But with that
18 being said, we are excited. It's another
19 drive-thru I know, but something we are doing for
20 the community. East Chicago Parks and Recreation
21 has not stopped.

22 CHIEF SERNA: I appreciate your hard
23 work. I want to be clear for the record, our
24 Christmas event you had to pre-register.

25 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct.

CHIEF SERNA: For this one there is no
pre-registration, first come first serve?

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes. We have
planned for 400 bags to be given out to our
residents or the children. After the 400, that's
it, we are stopping. We are going to do about
half of that for golden tickets, that's how many
businesses we have reached out to. I'm not sure
how many are coming back with a response. The
responses are due on Friday. With that being
said, we are hoping that we'll at least receive
200, but anything that we get works.

CHIEF SERNA: Okay. Then people can just
show up. And what is the lineup time or start
time?

1 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: The start time
2 where you actually go through will be
3 12:00 o'clock.

4 CHIEF SERNA: On the 27th.

5 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: You go in through
6 the Park, kind of drive-thru. We are going to
7 decorate that area. We have bunnies. We have
8 decor, obviously flowers are going to be on display.
9 And actually Catholic Charities have come to partake
10 and they are going to give away 100 meals for
11 whoever would like to take them. They also will be
12 there. They have been partnering with us the entire
13 year with COVID. They are going to boost up what
14 they bring in the summertime. They see it as a need
15 and we understand there is a need. So we are going
16 to keep that relationship going.

17 CHIEF SERNA: Awesome. Anything else?

18 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No, that's all.

19 CHIEF SERNA: All right. Any questions
20 for Vanessa today, Board members?

21 MR. AUSTIN: You think you are going to
22 have time enough to do this, for this to take place?
23 You got it in order?

24 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: So we have
25 everything in place. I'm waiting for extra funding
26 if need be. Other than that, we are good to go.

27 CHIEF SERNA: All right. So those
28 donations, I hope they keep rolling in.

29 MR. AUSTIN: That's what I was asking.
30 Seems like we don't have everything yet.

31 CHIEF SERNA: A work in progress. All
32 right, thank you, Vanessa.

33 Any public comments? (None)

34 All right. Our next meeting date is
35 Tuesday, March 23, 2021, right here at City Hall
36 Council Chambers, at 5:00 p.m.. I'll entertain a
37 motion to adjourn.

38 MS. LEWIS: I so move.

1 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

2 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
3 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

4 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries. Meeting
adjourned.

5 ***** Meeting Adjourned *****

6 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
7 March 9, 2021

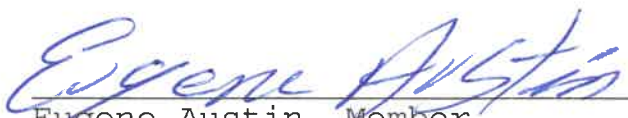
8 Approved and signed March 23, 2021

9 
10 Anthony Serna, President

11 
12 Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

13 _____
14 Valda Lewis, Secretary

15 _____
16 Gilberto Cantu, Member

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18 Eugene Austin, Member

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20 Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 15th day of March, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

