CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
March 12, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:
Grayling Gordon, President
Joseph Fernandez
Eugene Austin, Secretary
Anthony Hopkins
Jaylan Robinson

STAFF:
Genesis Gary
Marino Solorio
Jewell Harris

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Grayling Gordon, Anthony Hopkins, Eugene Austin, Joseph Fernandez, Jaylan Robinson

Staff Present: Genesis Gary
Jewell Harris, Attorney
Marino Solorio

MR. GORDON: I would call to order the Board of Parks and Recreation meeting for Tuesday, March 12th, 2024.

We'll move on to Administrative matters. First on the agenda is approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting as written. Can I get a motion?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. GORDON: I will second that. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Next, approval and signing of payroll dated March 1st, 2024.

MR. ROBINSON: Make a motion.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by

saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Next approval and signing of Warrant 031224 PB, in the amount of $49,815.53. Can I get a motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. GORDON: I will second that motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

There is no old business, so we'll move on to our New Business. Our Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Marino Solorio.

MR. SOLORIO: Good afternoon, Board. First item, we have our Senior Boat Trip that we do annually. So I would like to get that contract approved to get that moving so we can start promoting and getting people registered. I know it's in September, but always the early bird grasps the worm. It's for $11,137.68 and it's comparable to what we paid last year.

MR. GORDON: Okay. Was the deposit made on this already?

MR. SOLORIO: We don't do deposits and they are aware of that. Is that correct, Miss Gary?

MS. GARY: Correct.

MR. SOLORIO: We'll be paying the day of the event.

MR. GORDON: All right, can I get a motion?

MR. FERNANDEZ: Has our attorney reviewed the contract?

MR. HARRIS: Yes, and everything is fine.

MR. GORDON: Is there a motion for the payment of the Senior Boat Trip, approving the contract?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. GORDON: I will second the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: The second item on the agenda is an MOU for Ayden Carter, AAU Basketball Program. We did this program last year. It was a great success. They have already had tryouts, so we want to make sure there is a legal document that can hold both parties accountable to what has been discussed and the use of the facility or what services they are going to provide for the residents of the City of East Chicago.

MR. GORDON: What facilities are being used?

MR. SOLORIO: Both Unity and Heritage.

MR. GORDON: Was that asked about as far as with the School Board as well?

MR. HARRIS: I was going to ask the same question.

MR. GORDON: I have an understanding of that the AAU program for basketball, that Mr. Brandon Hinkle has been running this for a number of years, so I will ask for a motion.

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: Next we have an MOU, Code 10 Jasmine Coty. Again it's a program that happened last year, also with great success. A young lady that participated has nothing but good things to say about the program and how it helped her. We want to make sure we redo that this year.

MR. HOPKINS: What is this for?

MR. SOLORIO: It's a program that helps empower young ladies to, you know, whether it's etiquette, how to dress well, even like mentorship. So the program, it's a holistic program through the Summer that would kind of elevate their mind, their body,

etcetera. So it's a real good program that we felt we would like to again renew.

MR. GORDON: My question is, I see the contract starts on March 1st, are we backdating this?

MR. SOLORIO: Correct. So it would have to be retroactive to that date, yes.

MR. GORDON: Till to August 15th?

MR. SOLORIO: Correct.

MR. GORDON: I do know about that program as well and have heard nothing but good things about it. Can I get a motion?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. ROBINSON: Second. Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: Lastly on your agenda is my -- well, the good news is that this will possibly be my last invoice this way because I actually just am moving to payroll. So sounds like they are happy with what I have been doing and so I will be full time payroll in about the next couple of weeks, so this will be the last invoice.

MR. GORDON: I want to congratulate you, looking forward for that to happen. Motion for approval of payment for our Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Marino Solorio.

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. AUSTEN: I'd like to know about this program. We did this last year? She is not here.

MR. SOLORIO: No, she's not here.

MR. GORDON: This is all in your packet. Is that all our New Business?

MR. SOLORIO: Yes.

MR. GORDON: We'll move on to Public Comments. Any Public Comments? (None)

We'll move on. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024, right here at City Hall Council Chambers at the appointed time of 5:00 p.m.

That being said, can I get a motion for adjournment?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

* * * * Meeting adjourned * * * *

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
March 12th, 2024

Approved and signed _____

Grayling Gordon, President

Eugene Austin, Secretary

Anthony Hopkins, Member

Joseph Fernandez, Member

Jaylan Robinson, Member

Genesis Gary, Recording Secretary

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 Valparaiso, Indiana, this 18th day of March, 2024.



Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR