CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
April 11, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS:
Grayling Gordon, President
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President
Joseph Fernandez
Eugene Austin, Secretary

STAFF:
Genesis Gary
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 in Chambers: Grayling Gordon, Eugene Austin, Joseph Fernandez

Staff Present: Zariah Frierson
Jewell Harris

MR. GORDON: I would call to order the Board of Parks and Recreation meeting for Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

We'll move on to Administrative Matters. First item is approval of March 28, 2023 meeting minutes. Can I get a motion?

MR. FERNANDEZ: Make a motion to approve the minutes for February 28, 2023 as written.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Approval and signing of payroll dated March 31, 2023.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Approval and signing of Warrant 041123 PB, in the amount of $31,794.66. Can I get a motion?

MR. FERNANDEZ: I make a motion.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

There is no old business. We'll move on to new business. We have Zariah Frierson from Parks and Recreation speaking in place of the Director.

MS. FRIERSON: First item is the Spirit of Chicago, Senior Lunch Cruise. The cost would be $45.00 individually for each person. And she said that we are absorbing most of the cost for the actual boat. The final cost came with a final balance due of $9,958.20, and that's to cover the cash bar, the lunch menu, the senior discount, and the DJ.

MR. GORDON: Sounds good. We have been doing this for a while. Can we get a motion for approval?

MR. HARRIS: Do we know the date of the event?

MS. FRIERSON: Wednesday, September 13th. The guest count would be 140.

MR. AUSTIN: So for me and my wife it would be $90.00? How many weeks do we have to pay this?

MS. FRIERSON: I believe probably up to two weeks. We always require at least two weeks beforehand so it's not last minute and so we have a final count of everybody as well. The final balance is due 21 days prior to sailing.

MR. AUSTIN: There is no difference in the price if people live out of East Chicago and want to

go? Do we have any kind of space in there for nonresidents?

MS. FRIERSON: So normally we open up to residents only. If we have spots available, then we open to nonresidents. Normally we don't have enough space for nonresidents.

MR. AUSTIN: I'm asking in case someone would ask me about that.

MS. FRIERSON: It's really residents first. Residents are first come first serve. If we have any other spots available for nonresidents, then we open it up. Normally we don't have any spots for nonresidents.

MR. AUSTIN: Another question I would like to ask, are any kids allowed?

MS. FRIERSON: No. This is just the senior citizens.

MR. FERNANDEZ: You have a bus to take them to Navy Pier?

MS. FRIERSON: Yes.

MR. GORDON: Can I entertain a motion?

MR. AUSTIN: I make a motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries. motion carries.

MS. FRIERSON: Next is the service contract for Federal Protection.

MR. GORDON: We have discussed this numerous times and we have passed it, but I believe that it has to be updated.

MR. HARRIS: It has been -- if I can fill in the blanks. There was some language that was

included in the original draft of this agreement that was presented to us that was recommended to be changed. For example, we wanted to make sure the Indiana law would apply and we were in the proper venue in the event of a dispute between the parties, things would be in Lake County. So if we ended up in a lawsuit with one another it will be handled in Lake County.

I think that this version of the agreement has those recommended changes and we are requesting approval since the protection is in the best interest of the Park Board.

MR. GORDON: Can I get a motion for the passing of the service contract with Federal Protection Agency?

MR. FERNANDEZ: I make a motion.

MR. AUSTIN: I'll second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Do we have any public comment?

MR. AUSTIN: I'd like to ask our attorney here, are we doing anything that needs to be talked over because I don't know the legal part of this.

MR. HARRIS: I don't think there is anything else that we need to put on the record regarding the agreement that we haven't already talked about. The agreement otherwise is in good form. It's something that you need, a service that you need. It was recommended by the Director, Mrs. Hernandez-Orange. We have legally taken care of any changes and you made a good decision in adopting that agreement.

MR. FERNANDEZ: It just updated the agreement?

MR. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. GORDON: Any public comment?

MR. HARRIS: Just for the record I would introduce Hunter Balczo. He's an associate attorney with the Harris Law Firm, my office. He's in the

process of training and there may be some time that he will attend a meeting when I am not available. I just wanted to introduce him to everybody.

MR. GORDON: Very nice to meet you.

MR. BALCZO: Pleasure to meet you today.

MR. GORDON: If there are not anymore comments, then we'll move to adjournment.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, 2023, right here at City Hall Council Chambers, at the appointed time of 5:00 p.m.

If there is nothing else, can I get a motion for adjournment?

MR. FERNANDEZ: Make a motion.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
April 11, 2023

Approved and signed _____

Grayling Gordon, President

Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

Eugene Austin, Secretary

Joseph Fernandez, 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 13th day of April, 2023.



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR