

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Tuesday, May 26, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Ateria Allen
Dawn Dawkins-Legal
Mayra Acosta, Dir.

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Anthony Serna, Rick Rodriguez
Valda Lewis
Telephonic: Eugene Austin

Staff Present: (Telephonic) Dawn Dawkins, Legal Counsel
Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary
Mayra Acosta, Director

CHIEF SERNA: We have a quorum.

First thing, under Administrative
Matters, I would entertain a motion to approve meeting
minutes of May 12, 2020, as presented.

Motion to approve minutes of May 12, 2020, made by Rick
Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

Next item is approval of the payroll
dated May 15, 2020. I'll entertain a motion.

Motion to approve payroll of May 15, 2020, made by Valda
Lewis. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

Questions/Comments: None

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

1 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

2 Next we have approval of Warrant
3 052620 PB, in the amount of \$109,907.47. I'll entertain
4 a motion.

5 Motion to approve Warrant 052620 PB, in the amount of
6 \$109,907.47, made by Valda Lewis. Second by Rick
7 Rodriguez.

8 Questions/Comments: None

9 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
10 saying aye?

11 (All signify aye.)

12 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

13 Next we have Warrant 052920 PB, in
14 the amount of \$175,061.66. I'll entertain a motion.

15 Motion to approve Warrant 052920 PB, in the amount of
16 \$175,061.66, made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda
17 Lewis.

18 Questions/Comments: None

19 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
20 saying aye?

21 (All signify aye.)

22 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

23 Next we have Old Business. First
24 the Service Agreement with Balance Holdings Inc., makers
25 of ECSIA. Where are we at with that, Mayra?

MS. ACOSTA: Last meeting we spoke about
the contract that we had concerns about before signing.
I did a spreadsheet of what we used in the past, with
pricing. However, this is an internal pricing. This is
the price they pay, so I'm sure there's a markup there.
But this will give you an idea of what we are spending
per year.

So then the Board needs to decide,
is it all right to sign the contract as is or is there
more to negotiate.

CHIEF SERNA: So, Board members, did you
have a chance to see the comparison?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have you tried to
negotiate with them?

1 MS. ACOSTA: I have over the last few
2 months. He said for us to do whatever changes we wanted
3 on the contract and send it back for him to review and
4 sign the papers.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Then it's just going back
6 and forth. Why not come to an agreement over the phone,
7 10 percent off or something like that?

8 CHIEF SERNA: I guess she's asking us to
9 decide. Mayra, would you say their latest offer is
10 probably going to be their best?

11 MS. ACOSTA: I don't. I think they are
12 open to a little bit of negotiation. So what I would
13 suggest is, one, instead of maybe a lower price, if we
14 could maybe get a credit of whatever we don't spend so
15 that we could use that credit to purchase other items
16 that are not in the agreement.

17 CHIEF SERNA: That's a good idea.

18 MS. ACOSTA: Let's say we usually use
19 three bags of fish feed a year, but this year we're
20 going to use six. So can we not get the iron and get
21 the fish food instead, kind of like that.

22 CHIEF SERNA: Okay. So you think it's
23 worth one more try negotiating those specific things?

24 MS. ACOSTA: I think it's worth a try and
25 he's open to suggestions.

CHIEF SERNA: Does that sound good to
you -- Attorney Dawkins -- that you could change those
things on the contract?

MS. DAWKINS: I'd be happy to. I've had
difficulty hearing Mayra, but I can speak with her after
the meeting and iron it out.

CHIEF SERNA: Okay, no problem. Mr.
Austin has come on the line now.

MR. AUSTIN: Yes, I'm here.

CHIEF SERNA: Welcome to the meeting. We
are on Old Business, the Agreement with ECSIA. Mayra
and Attorney Dawkins are going to talk probably tomorrow

1 and have the contract that's going to state some of the
2 desires that we have, maybe getting a credit on some of
the things that we won't use.

3 Rick, would you say that we table
this again until next meeting?

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think we should table
5 it because we can't do anything until we get the
contract.

6 CHIEF SERNA: Then I'll entertain a
7 motion to table this item until our next meeting.

8 Motion to table service agreement with Balance Holdings,
9 Inc. Makers of ECSIA, made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by
Valda Lewis.

10 Questions/Comments: None

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

(All signify aye.)

12 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

13 Next we have the agreement with
Groupon, the merchant agreement.

14 MS. ACOSTA: That's for Attorney Dawkins.

15 CHIEF SERNA: Attorney Dawkins, do we
16 have an update on the merchant agreement with Groupon?

17 MS. DAWKINS: I just wanted to highlight
18 a couple of the provisions they called me on. My
concerns were -- after I spoke with the sales person,
19 Eric -- were that he indicated to me that they can lower
the amount of the coupon. The costs are not coming back
20 to the City, because at this point the people are paying
upfront. I got a clear understanding now of how the
21 program works. And, Mayra -- correct me if I'm wrong --
based on my understanding and yours, but basically
22 there's no upfront money by the City, but when we submit
the agreement on the contract what we want, what our
23 prices are going to be; whatever the prices are that
come from the Parks Department, the people that get the
coupon, they pay less. And then Groupon has the
24 authority to make the amount less than what was
originally agreed upon, up to 20 percent. So they have
25 a lot of authority in what they are doing with not
getting any money upfront. So if they decide it will be

1 extended -- the coupon itself doesn't ever expire, but
2 whoever holds it would have to pay the difference from
3 what the coupon is to whatever the going rates are. The
4 Groupon coupon holder has to pay that difference.
5 That's what that means.

6 Those portions that I underlined
7 that I was concerned about, that's the essence of what
8 that means. The Groupon coupon never expires, but the
9 people have to pay the difference if it increases,
10 whatever the Park Board is charging at the golf course
11 at that time.

12 CHIEF SERNA: That all sounds very fair.
13 So, Mayra, would you recommend that we approve this now
14 -- finally -- the merchant agreement, or do we need more
15 time to work on it?

16 MS. ACOSTA: No. I think we have worked
17 on it long enough, so we can approve it and move
18 forward.

19 CHIEF SERNA: Any questions on that Board
20 members?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This will take effect
22 this year or next year?

23 MS. ACOSTA: This year or whenever we
24 open the golf course.

25 CHIEF SERNA: So whenever we do in fact
open the golf course. So I'll entertain a motion to
approve the merchant agreement with Groupon.
Motion to approve merchant agreement with Groupon, made
by Valda Lewis. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

We'll move on to New Business.
Mayra?

MS. ACOSTA: The first thing on the
agenda is the Change Order form. So this change order
form is for the golf course. Our original contract was
to install electric only on the shelter. Now that the
shelter has been installed, what we want to do is

1 install outlets on the trees next to the shelter and
2 across from the shelter, across from the pond, so that
3 we can light it up during the 4th of July or for
4 weddings. So that's what the change order is for.

5 CHIEF SERNA: What's the amount of the
6 change order, Mayra?

7 MS. ACOSTA: \$4,000.00.

8 CHIEF SERNA: Any questions Board
9 members? (None) I'll entertain a motion to approve.

10 Motion to approve change order at MacArthur Golf Course,
11 made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

12 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
13 saying aye?

14 (All signify aye.)

15 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

16 MS. ACOSTA: The next one is for plumbing
17 rates, which the Board of Works already approved for the
18 Water Department. So we want the Park Board to approve
19 this in case we would need a plumber, this way the rates
20 are already approved.

21 CHIEF SERNA: So that would be with
22 Hessville Plumbing.

23 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

24 CHIEF SERNA: Any question on those rates
25 with Hessville Plumbing? (None) I'll entertain a
motion to approve.

Motion to approve rate schedule with Hessville Plumbing
made by Valda Lewis. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

MS. ACOSTA: The next item is just for
informational purposes. Cleaning out the Washington
garage we found a lot of musical instruments and we
decided we want to let Mr. Kendrick use them for this
program. So they still belong to the City, to the Park

1 Department; we are just going to move them from the
2 garage to Mr. Kendrick's facility for him to use. Amy
3 and the Attorney put this letter together so they can
4 sign this agreement making it official.

5 CHIEF SERNA: Do you need any kind of
6 motion on that or just informational?

7 MS. ACOSTA: Just informational.

8 CHIEF SERNA: I think you have one more
9 item, the Greenhouse mural.

10 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. The next item is the
11 Greenhouse mural. This mural will be around the entire
12 Greenhouse and I submitted pictures for you to see what
13 they are going to look like.

14 CHIEF SERNA: So the mural, is it going
15 to go on the glass of the Greenhouse or on the wall?

16 MS. ACOSTA: On the concrete, on the
17 bottom.

18 CHIEF SERNA: So it will be about three
19 feet high?

20 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It looked like it would
22 be on the fence. Okay. Who is painting this?

23 MS. ACOSTA: Felix Maldonado. I don't
24 know if you are familiar with Felix, but he's a local
25 artist from East Chicago.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So how much is he
charging you?

MS. ACOSTA: So it's going to be, I
believe, \$10,000.00.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's just one wall?

MS. ACOSTA: No, the entire Greenhouse.

CHIEF SERNA: So around the entire
perimeter of the Greenhouse.

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MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

CHIEF SERNA: Do you need a vote on that or anything?

MS. ACOSTA: I don't. It's just for informational purposes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Don't we need to approve this?

MS. ACOSTA: You have already. These are just the images of what it's going to look like. I'm just keeping you informed. You approved it last year.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right.

CHIEF SERNA: So it was approved in 2019. Any questions, Board members, for Mayra? (None)

Public Comments - (None)

Our next meeting date is Tuesday, June 9th, back home, at the Council Chambers, at 5:00 p.m., and we will still be using Zoom. So Zoom meeting at the Council Chambers, June 9th.

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by saying aye?


(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

***** Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*****

1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
2 May 26, 2020

3 Approved and signed June 9th, 2020

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5 _____
6 Anthony Serna, President

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8 Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

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10 Valda Lewis, Secretary

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12 Gilberto Cantu, Member

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14 Eugene Austin, Member

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17 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 27th day of May, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR