

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
June 28, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Grayling Gordon, President
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President
Gilberto Cantu
Eugene Austin

STAFF:

Ateria Allen
Dawn Dawkins
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,
Gilberto Cantu, Eugene Austin

Staff Present: Ateria Allen
Dawn Dawkins

MR. GORDON: We do have a quorum.
First, under Administrative Matters,
we have approval of June 14th, 2022 meeting minutes, as
written. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

MR. CANTU: So move that we accept the
meeting minutes.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)
Motion carries.

Next approval and signing of payroll
dated May 13, 2022. Can I have a motion for approval of
payroll dated May 13?

MR. CANTU: So move that we accept the
payroll.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

1 (All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

2 Next, approval and signing of
3 payroll dated June 22, 2022. Can I have a motion for
4 approval of payroll?

5 MR. CANTU: So move that we accept the
6 payroll.

7 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

8 MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
9 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

10 Approval and signing of Warrant
11 062122 PB, in the amount of \$500,000. Can I have a
12 motion for approval of signing of warrant?

13 MR. CANTU: So move that we accept the
14 Warrant.

15 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

16 MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
17 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

18 Approval and signing of Warrant
19 062822 PB, in the amount of \$9,287.87. Can I have a
20 motion?

21 MR. AUSTIN: I make a motion.

22 MR. CANTU: Second.

23 MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
24 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

25 Madame secretary, is there any old
business we need to discuss?

MS. ALLEN: No.

MR. GORDON: We'll move on to new
business and we'll call the Director of Parks and
Recreation, Mrs. Vanessa Hernandez-Orange.

1 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Good evening,
2 everyone. Today I have before you, first item which is
3 past due invoice for Ace Exterminating. Unfortunately
4 the pest extermination, this one kind of got shuffled in
5 with everything. We have multiple locations every month
6 for the 12 months that we have. We thought it was paid,
7 it was not. So we are asking for approval to pay a past
8 due amount. That's all for that one.

9 MR. GORDON: How much is that amount?

10 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: The total is --
11 invoice number 11239 and the date of invoice was
12 3-18-2022, amount of \$55.00.

13 MR. GORDON: Now just a question, we
14 hadn't approved this already.

15 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No. So what
16 happens is that sometimes they go through and they say
17 this was not paid for. So we like to go through our own
18 records and make sure it is not paid.

19 So, for instance, we had ServiScape
20 call about a bill from last November in regards to the
21 golf course. They said that it was not paid -- we got
22 it last week -- and you guys never paid. My manager,
23 who pays most of the bills, she said, no, it's paid. So
24 we are now looking through our information, as well as
25 the controller's office because I want to make sure we
double check. I am not going to give you extra money.
That's basically what happened.

MR. GORDON: Can I get a motion to
approve this past due invoice of \$55.00 for Ace
Exterminating Company?

MR. CANTU: Move that we accept.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Next is the
general service agreement with Balance Holdings, they
are the makers of ESCIA, the company that ends up
working with us for the aquaphonic system that we have

1 with the fish. So we are going back and forth with some
2 items in regards to -- I just want to explain. So, for
3 instance, they wanted us to receive X amount of food.
4 They would only give us so much food, if we needed it.
5 I was like, no, we are paying for it, you give us all of
6 it. So other than that, that was the only real change
7 that we had. The agreement is something that we have
8 done for the past, since -- I was here two years -- the
9 third year that we are going with this agreement. I'm
10 just asking for approval.

11 MR. GORDON: Can I have a motion to
12 approve the general service agreement with Balance
13 Holdings?

14 MR. CANTU: So move.

15 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

16 MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
17 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

18 (All signify aye.)

19 Motion carries.

20 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: The next item is
21 contracts for six summer camps. Currently, I don't know
22 if you guys know, we have summer camps going on within
23 our Parks and Recreation Department. Currently we have
24 tennis going on, as well as our summer special needs
25 summer camp, and they are going very well. Our tennis
camp has 21 kids and our special learners camp we have
every day at least 13 to 24.

So there was a big thing happening
on Thursday at Heritage Hall with Special Learners from
the school and we get to give them a show, a star show
basically.

Regardless, I have to pay the
coaches. The coaches are the ones that the high school
-- that are running these camps and we have do a
contract with them. This is what the contract consists
of, but our attorney has yet to read the contract.

So, I'm going to ask to table this
until our next meeting so that we can get eyes on it to
make sure that it's fine. The language basically is
changing because of the fact that we are not paying it
through the grant. We are paying it and I'd ask we do
this in order to pay for coaches for programs. So she
is going to read through it to see if there is any
corrections that need to be made and we'll do it for the

1 next meeting. So we can table that.

2 MR. AUSTIN: I have one question. Is the
3 kids -- how many kids are involved, do you know? Are
4 you going to set on organizing this before the next
5 meeting?

6 MR. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: It just depends.
7 Our volleyball camp, they had I think 18 girls. The
8 tennis camp they have 21. Total for the special
9 learners, we have 67. And then for the other ones that
10 are upcoming, I haven't got all the numbers. I do not
11 continue with the contract unless we have ten or more
12 students.

13 Last year we kind of let it happen
14 because of COVID and we wanted to do something and let
15 in low numbers. This year we have -- we are not
16 allowing small numbers and letting the coaches know in
17 advance. If there is less than ten, they do not have --
18 we do not have the camp. So baseball only had four, we
19 did not have a camp. But I can give you the numbers of
20 all the kids that participated, if that's what you would
21 like.

22 MR. AUSTIN: They going to be safe, have
23 shots and everything? We are not going to be
24 responsible for that, are we?

25 MR. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: We don't ask if
26 they have their shots or not, but we do take precautions
27 in having the space at all the locations that they are
28 at, either at the gym that they go to school at or
29 Central High School might have them, or we have them
30 outdoors; so there's space enough. We do ask them ahead
31 to be cautious, to use their masks if they choose. If
32 they don't, they don't have to. When I spoke to the
33 coaching staff, you know, I am going to pay you X amount
34 of dollars, we do ask that your kids or your coaches
35 come and partake with it. This is not something that is
36 brand new.

37 When I used to work as an intern in
38 2001, this is how I started. I was part of my coaches
39 coaching staff. We ended up showing the kids the sport.
40 So I'm not reinventing the wheel, I'm making sure that
41 it happens again. So that's how you start the programs
42 and I'm going to continue to do that, so we can keep
43 that economics between the School City and the Parks and
44 Recreation.

1 MR. GORDON: All right. Did you have
2 another item?

3 MS. DAWKINS: Yes. I prepared the
4 resolution for Parks based on the resolution that was
5 made by Public Works, and it was agreed upon, but it
6 does need to have an actual resolution from the Park
7 Board.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: So last week I had
9 you guys, last meeting, there was approval of the Board
10 of Public Works. I don't know if you guys remember the
11 resolution in regards to letting some of the
12 organizations that previously ended up having events at
13 our parks prior to 2019, the resolution we asked to have
14 you guys pass. Unfortunately I was wrong. We need to
15 have our own resolution here at the Park Board. So that
16 in turn references that resolution. Am I correct in
17 saying that? But it's going to be approved under our
18 Park Board, so that it will be approved as the Park
19 Board resolution. So I just need approval of that as
20 events are happening and people are going to use the
21 parks.

22 MR. GORDON: All right. I need a motion
23 from the Board of Parks to adopt Resolution 2022-03.
24 It's the waiver for certain rental fees on public owned
25 facility and land. We approved this once before, so now
we just are making it official, if I can get the
approval.

MR. CANTU: Move to accept resolution.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: Any questions on the motion?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

I don't think there's any questions.
I think we explained it pretty good when we talked about
it. We are going to sign this again?

MR. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: You will sign it
because now it says resolution. That's all I have.

MR. GORDON: Any other comments?

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No other comments

1 on my end. We do have on July 6th, or actually we had
2 Rhythm and Soul Fest last weekend at Washington Park.
3 It was extremely well attended. We are very excited to
4 see all the people at Washington Park and the rain held
5 off, so we probably had about 500 people there. But I
6 have to tell you, the Public Works staff, along with my
7 staff did a great job of cleaning up. You could not see
8 any difference from the weekend to today. They cleaned
9 up everything afterwards. I'm very proud of the team
10 that came out.

11 We do have, July 6th, there will be
12 a movie at the park. We'll be at Sunny Park. First
13 time we are going to Sunny Park. We wanted to move some
14 things around to have access to other communities, small
15 communities. We are excited to see that happening. And
16 we also have, July 9th, we just added a charity game at
17 Block Stadium. So the Block family, they are still
18 involved in baseball. Their family members play in
19 men's leagues. One of the family members played in the
20 65 and over fast pitch league. They asked if they could
21 do a charity game at Block Stadium and we agreed.

22 So, all the proceeds from that game
23 will end up going to a veterans fund and will be used
24 here in East Chicago to either help with the down
25 payment for a home and/or ramp, or just for veterans,
because that organization, what they usually do, is
donate to the Wounded Warriors. We wanted to do
something for East Chicago vets, so it will go to that.
And that's about it.

16 MS. DAWKINS: Did you get the memo about
17 the zoom attendance?

18 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I know, Ateria
19 contacted everyone about the zoom. We need to sign a
20 resolution saying that you cannot be on zoom and it goes
21 in further detail. I just want -- we are waiting for
22 the resolution to get to everyone, so you can adopt that
23 as the other boards have.

24 MS. ALLEN: I gave them the memorandum.

25 MR. GORDON: All right.

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Thank you.

MR. GORDON: Any more public comments?
(None) If not, our next meeting will be Tuesday,
July 12th, 2022, right here at this friendly location,

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 29th day of June, 2022.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25