

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Telephone Conference)
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: Anthony Serna, Rick Rodriguez.
Present Via Telephone: Valda Lewis, Gilberto
Cantu, Eugene Austin.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Approval of Minutes: June 23, 2020

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to approve June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Rick
Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

Approval & Signing of Payroll: June 26, 2020

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to approve June 26, 2020 Payroll made by Rick
Rodriguez. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

Approval & Signing of Payroll: July 10, 2020

1 Questions/Comments: None.

2 Motion to approve July 10, 2020 Payroll made by Valda Lewis.
3 Second by Rick Rodriguez.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 Approval & Signing of Warrant: 060120PB \$1.30

7 Questions/Comments: None.

8 Motion to approve Warrant Number 060120PB made by Rick
9 Rodriguez. Second by Eugene Austin.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 Approval & Signing of Warrant: 071420PB \$35,341.15

13 Questions/Comments: None.

14 Motion to approve Warrant Number 071420PB made by Valda
15 Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

16 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
17 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

18 OLD BUSINESS: None.

19 NEW BUSINESS:

20 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to New Business. Vanessa
21 Hernandez-Orange, our Director of Parks and Recreation.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Good evening, everyone again.
23 Our New Business that we have is our Resolution Number
24 2020-02. And it is a Resolution of the Board of Parks and
25 Recreation governing the Recovery/Reopening Plan of the
Department of Parks and Recreation for the use of Covid
Acknowledgment and Waiver of Liability.

So the reason we came up with this Resolution was
because we were reopening and because of the new Covid --
well, not new, but the Covid 19 Pandemic. We had to find a
way to protect our City, our parks, our Community.

And after speaking with Miss Dawkins we came up
with not only making a Resolution as well as making sure that

1 we had Waiver Forms. And that is the item after this that we
2 will discuss.

3 I don't know if you would like me read the
4 Resolution. I am sure you guys have it before you.

5 MR. SERNA: The Resolution Number is 2020-02. It's a
6 Resolution of the Board of Parks and Recreation governing the
7 Recovery/Reopening Plan of the Department of Parks and
8 Recreation for use of a Covid Acknowledgment and Waiver of
9 Liability.

10 So whereas that on June 11, 2020 Indiana Governor
11 Eric J. Holcomb ordered that the State accelerate its phase
12 reopening pursuant to Executive Order 20-32, Back on Track
13 Indiana.

14 And whereas on June 16, 2020 the Honorable Anthony
15 Copeland, Mayor of the City of East Chicago, issued Executive
16 Order 20-06 in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order
17 20-32.

18 And whereas in response to the Mayor's Executive
19 Order 20-06 the Department of Parks and Recreation has
20 developed a Recovery/Reopening Plan which Plan is subject to
21 change at any time due to several internal and external
22 impacts and to be reevaluated every 30 days.

23 And whereas it is the intent of the East Chicago
24 Department of Parks and Recreation to adopt an Acknowledgment
25 and Waiver of Liability for access to and participation in
any East Chicago Department of Parks and Recreation Programs
and/or City of East Chicago facilities, property and
equipment used in the Parks and Recreation Programs.

Be it resolved that the Board of Parks and
Recreation hereby accepts and approves such
Recovery/Reopening Plan and the use of the attached proposed
Acknowledgment and Waiver of Liability which is hereby
certified and adopted by the Board of Parks and Recreation of
the City of East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana on today the
14th day of July 2020.

Are there any questions, Board Members, on the
Resolution?

Questions/Comments: None.

1 Motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-02 made by Rick
Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 MR. SERNA: Next we have For Our Information the actual
Liability Waiver for Parks and Recreation. Vanessa.

5 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. So you have the
6 Liability Waiver for Parks and Recreation. We also worked
with Miss Dawkins in regards to the Waiver Form.

7
8 At first we thought that we would be able to just
hand it out to every individual that comes in to use the
9 recreation facilities or to use the golf course and we would
be able to give them a packet.

10 Well, as you can see it's about five pages. So
11 what we have done is we have put it in a folder. They're
able to read it. If they would like to keep one, they could
12 have that. If not, then signatures and all that we will
keep.

13 But Miss Dawkins, she changed the verbiage of the
14 Waiver Form to go from an actual hand document to state that
we would have it or it would be just read. So that was a
15 change or else we felt like we would killing many trees.

16 So what we also did was within our Parks and
Recreation, so the golf course, the recreation centers, if
17 you're coming into a shelter you have to fill out this
Waiver. And it's kept in one of our drives so we know if you
18 come in for the golf course, but yet you want to go to the
recreation center, your name and your Waiver are in there.

19 It actually states that all of our facilities are
20 included on here, our Parks and Recreation facilities. So
we're covered all over.

21 And more importantly just in case someone forgot to
22 give it to you if you did the golf course, but yet you got it
when you did the batting cages, at least we have you. We
23 have your form filled out for everything throughout the City.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Mr. President.

25 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, Mr. Rodriguez. Question?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Vanessa, can't you just post this
up there?

2 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I am sure we can.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Instead of making copies?

4 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Well, that was one of the
5 options. But we ended up just getting like a folder, couple
6 folders. It's laminated. And they're able to just go
through it.

7 So I mean I am sure we can post it somewhere. But
8 like at the golf course we're going to post it up against the
9 wall. So when they come in they have to take the folder,
that folder with the laminated copies. They read it and then
they sign the Waiver. And we keep the Waiver. If they would
like one, we give it back to them.

10 MR. SERNA: I have a question, Vanessa. Recently I read
11 an article in the newspaper that the City Council has asked
and passed a resolution or an ordinance allowing them to use
12 any public building for whatever purposes they deem
necessary.

13 It's two questions I have. One would be have they
14 approached you about using Heritage Hall or any one of our
halls? And two, would they and every person who would want
15 to enter on their event, whatever their event would be, a
Council meeting, whatever, would they be subject to filling
16 out this paperwork?

17 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: First question no one has
approached me. I only saw it online. That's the only reason
18 I found out. That's number one.

19 Number two, yes. They would have to. It's for
every person who comes into our facility because at the same
20 time it could be a public person who comes into the meeting.
And again somehow, some way they could have touched
21 something. They might say that they caught it from our
facility. We're not sure. So we need to make sure everyone
22 and anyone would have to sign this.

23 So the first stop would be to our office or to
where they pull in. It would be to our desk. They have to
24 fill it out.

25 MR. SERNA: Any questions, Board Members, on the Waiver,

1 the Liability Waiver?

2 Vanessa, do you have anything else for us?

3 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I do. I actually probably about
4 an hour ago solidified our port-a-potties for the parks.

5 Now, I know this is an issue. We don't want the
6 port-a-potties to be there because of the cleanliness of
7 everything. So what I did was I asked them how often they
8 could come to our parks. And they explained to me they could
9 come five times a week. They could come three times a week,
10 two times a week.

11 I think previously we only had them come clean and
12 empty once a week. So what I did was I looked back at our
13 POs that we had. And I did that amount. And I just wanted
14 to make it a little bit more cleanlier. And I ended up doing
15 where we're cleaning twice a week or three times a week.

16 And again we will work with Public Works to see if
17 they can come and sanitize twice if possible. If not, they
18 will be cleaning, the port-a-potty company will be cleaning
19 itself three times a week.

20 And we're going to have 20 port-a-potties
21 throughout the parks. So some will have two, the bigger
22 parks like Kosciuzko, Tod, Washington. And the rest will
23 just have one.

24 MR. SERNA: I have a question on that. Not all parks
25 need port-a-potties. Don't we have a permanent restroom
26 facility like for example at Washington Park?

27 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: They do need port-a-potties
28 because they close at 2:30. We cannot keep those open all
29 night. For example it was left open this past week and we
30 had a homeless person end up sleeping in there. So that
31 tends to happen.

32 Also we have had where the port-a-potties have
33 been open and children go in there and make a mess. So this
34 is the main reason why we have to have those facilities
35 actually closed.

36 MR. SERNA: So then my follow-up question would be if I
37 understand this right you were able to secure the company,
38 the port-a-potty company to come out three times a week?
39

1 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct.

2 MR. SERNA: And they're going to clean or they're going
3 to exchange the port-a-potty?

4 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Exchange.

5 MR. SERNA: So they will be exchanging, giving us a new
6 or a clean port-a-potty three times a week?

7 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct.

8 MR. SERNA: 20 of them throughout the parks?

9 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. Yes.

10 MR. SERNA: Do you know how many and where they're going
11 to be at yet?

12 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: If you give me a second, I could.
13 Give me one second.

14 MR. SERNA: And the reason I am asking that is just to
15 be sure that we know as a Board in case anyone asks us the
16 bathrooms are locked at Riley Park or wherever that may be
17 and we can at least say we know that there's two
18 port-a-potties at Riley Park there in the Third District.

19 Or at Washington where I live close to if someone
20 asked me, hey, the toilets are closed, but I see those
21 port-a-potties. Yes. We have X amount of port-a-potties at
22 Washington Park. And by the way they're replaced every
23 Monday, Wednesday and Friday or whatever those days are that
24 you're having them replaced.

25 I just think it would be good for the Board to know
where these port-a-potties are.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Totally understand. And I will
give it to you right now. So we will have one at 3509 Spruce
Street.

MR. SERNA: That's Marketown.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: We'll have one at Broadway Street
and Alder.

MR. SERNA: That's Nunez. Broadway and Alder is Nunez.
Well, not necessarily. Broadway and Alder is --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Callahan Park, right?

2 MR. SERNA: Yeah. Callahan. I'm sorry. Broadway and
3 Alder is Callahan.

4 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: We will have one at 141st and
5 Grace Street.

6 MR. SERNA: That's Sunnyside.

7 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 142nd and Parrish.

8 MR. SERNA: That's Washington Park.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: And actually there's going to be
10 two there. 105 East Chicago Avenue.

11 MR. SERNA: That's Riley Park.

12 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: East 150th Street and Kennedy
13 Avenue.

14 MR. SERNA: That's the park that's there, yeah.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: And there's going to be two
16 there. 4801 Melville.

17 MR. SERNA: That's MLK.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right across the street.

19 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 900 Shell Street.

20 MR. SERNA: Roxana.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 151st and Indianapolis Boulevard.
22 And that's going to be two.

23 MR. SERNA: Kosciuzko.

24 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 143rd and Homerlee.

25 MR. SERNA: Edward Valve.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: McShane Boulevard east of
Indianapolis Boulevard. And there's going to be two.

MR. SERNA: That's Tod Park.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 401 Alexander. It's the new
2 addition.

3 MR. SERNA: That's the new addition.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's all new.

5 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 136th and Elm Street.

6 MR. SERNA: Now that's Nunez Park.

7 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: And 3550 Pennsylvania Avenue.

8 MR. SERNA: That's by the old Penn Center.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. Right behind. And I
10 put that between the basketball courts and the actual park.

11 And 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard.

12 MR. SERNA: City Hall, Edward Valve Park here.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Veteran's.

14 MR. SERNA: Veteran's. I'm sorry.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: 148th and Carey Street. It's
16 Jackson Park.

17 So all those port-a-potties will have a basic
18 port-a-potty with a hand sanitizer in the bathrooms.

19 MR. SERNA: Any questions for Vanessa, Board Members,
20 for our Director?

21 Do you have anything else, Vanessa?

22 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: That's all.

23 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

24 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 28,
25 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers.


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

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
2 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

3 * Meeting ended at 5:19 p.m.
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Tuesday, July 14, 2020

3 Approved and Signed July 28th, 2020

4 
5 _____
6 Anthony Serna, President

7
8 _____
9 Rick Rodriguez, Vice President

10
11 _____
12 Valda Lewis, Secretary

13
14 _____
15 Gilberto Cantu, Member

16
17 _____
18 Eugene Austin, Member

19 
20 _____
21 Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary


22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 19th day of July, 2020.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483

