
NILES PARK DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Held at Howard Leisure Center
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
6:00pm

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Pat Byrne, President
Ray Czarnik, Vice President
Christopher Zalinski, Treasurer
Julie Genualdi, Commissioner
Dennis O'Donovan, Commissioner

ATTORNEY

PRESENT: Dan Shapiro, Attorney

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT: Tom Elenz, Executive Director
Scot Neukirch, Director of Finance
Jo Ann Raschillo, Executive Administrative Coordinator
Robin Brey, Office Manager, Program Supervisor
Laura Newton, Tam Tennis Manager
Julie Jentel, Marketing
Peter Dubs, Golf Course Manager
Paul Nielsen, Athletic Director
Jeff Halsema, Soccer Manager
Joe Cermak, LoVerde Center Manager
Marty Stankowicz, Iceland Manager
Matt Schiller, Park Grounds Supervisor
Bob Kreiling, Park Patrol

GUEST PRESENT:

Jason Trunco, Niles Resident
Mark Colbert, Prairie State Cycling
Ross Klicker, Village of Niles
Carl Maniscalco, Village of Niles
Trish Finn
Tom Robb Niles Journal
Caroline McAteer-Fournier, Chicago Resident
Steven Yasell, Niles Resident
Ralph Ziegler, Niles Resident
Scott O'Brian, Niles Resident
E. Duffy, Niles Resident
Louella Preston, Niles Resident
Carl Steffen, Park Patrol

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

President Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.**

President Byrne led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL.**

All commissioners were present.

4. **CHANGES TO AGENDA.**

Executive Director Elenz would like to move Number 9 – B. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL VILLAGE BIKE EVENT AT OAK PARK ON THURSDAY, JULY 26TH to Item 5, Number 7 – A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT to Item 6 and 12 – CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD to Item 7.

5. **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL VILLAGE BIKE EVENT AT OAK PARK ON THURSDAY, JULY 26TH.**

Mr. Ross Klicker spoke regarding the Village Bike Event. He explained that the date has been changed from last year. He said the streets are reopened at approximately 8:30pm. He also presented a jersey to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Genualdi asked if there was any negative/positive feedback from residents. Ross stated that he received positive feedback. He said if anyone had a concern during the day, they were addressed. A few residents needed to leave the area and they were able to accommodate them. As far as Ross knew there were no formal complaints regarding the race.

Commissioner Zalinski said that he has given much thought in regards to the possibility of the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners allowing the Village of Niles to use Oak Park to host their Bike Niles Event on July 26th, 2018.

Much has happened at the Niles Park District's Oak Park facility in the past year since we allowed the Village of Niles to host their maiden Bike Niles Event at Oak Park. Most importantly the Park District learned that the Park District had signed a lease with the Village of Niles in 1994 that limited the Park District's use of the Village's portion of Oak Park.

In June 2017, the Park District constructed a much needed new youth T-ball & softball field at the NE corner of Oak Park. The Mayor informed the Park District leaders in a meeting that the lease for the Village's land only allows "passive recreation" to happen. Shortly after the Mayor informed the Park District about the "passive recreation" clause the Park leaders asked to have another meeting with the Village. The Mayor agreed to the meeting and at that meeting the

Park leaders asked the Mayor if the Village and Park District could work together and have the lease amended to allow "active recreation" on the Village's property. That would mean the new T-Ball and softball field could remain. The Mayor denied the Park's request. The Mayor then stated that because the Park District's new T-Ball and softball field are "active recreation" activities the Park District would have to remove the newly constructed ball diamond from Oak Park. The much needed field was taken down by the Park District in November 2017 to avoid costly litigation as warned by the Village of Niles officials.

Now the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners know too well the details of this lease the Park District has with the Village of Niles at Oak Park. Bicycle riding is "active recreation"; therefore, I cannot knowingly violate our present lease with the Village of Niles. I vote NO.

Commissioner Zalinski stated that he would be open to discussions with the Village of Niles concerning the allowance of "active recreation" at Oak Park.

Mr. Klicker comment was that the race itself is on public right of way. If the feel of this board is that the park should not be utilized for staging we would work around that.

Commissioner Zalinski stated that you are asking to use part of the park that the lease shows that for the Village and for the Park can only have "passive recreation".

Commissioner Czarnik also said that he lives down the block and that he had a couple of neighbors that felt that they were trapped in their homes last year. These were retired residents and Commissioner Czarnik said this was tough for these seniors. He also said that he votes NO.

A motion was made by President Byrne, seconded by Commissioner Genualdi to approve the Village Bike Event at Oak Park on Thursday, July 26, 2018. Recording Secretary Raschillo called the roll:

President Byrne	Yes
Vice President Czarnik	No
Treasurer Zalinski	No
Commissioner Genualdi	Abstain
Commissioner O'Donovan	Abstain

The motion did not carry.

6. **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Byrne stated that on Thursday, February 15th NPD Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting to share information regarding the soccer field turf at the LoVerde Center. We received questions and public comments. President Byrne thanked all that attended for their interest and input.

In addition, on January 9, 2018, there was an incident involving one of our commissioners.

Commissioner Czarnik was unfortunately drawn into a heated exchange with a resident during the Public Comment portion of our meeting. After the meeting adjourned, while still in the meeting room, Commissioner Czarnik used unacceptable language. We condemned his behavior and the language he used. As a board we welcome comments from the public we serve and we will continue to work to provide Niles with the best services as possible.

7. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Vice President Czarnik stated that regarding January 9th meeting his attorney would like to make a statement on his behalf.

Attorney Randall Peters, on behalf of Ray Czarnik said that he admitted made an unsuitable statement on January 9th. First, the verbal slur is not a crime, second, and most important for the record Commissioner Czarnik was fell into a situation where an immediate reaction arose do to a disparaging statement Resident Trunco made about Commissioner Czarnik' s daughter. That statement by Resident Trunco provoked a response by Commissioner Czarnik of which he is not proud of and apologetic for making. Once the statement by Resident Trunco designed to provoke a response, if so, it worked. Commissioner Czarnik reacted as any parent would regarding false accusations which have persisted that could harm the reputation of their child and diminish that child's reputation in the eyes of the community. Commissioner Czarnik threw no punch nor did he initiate any bodily contact that the statement made by Resident Trunco could have incited. It should be noted for the record after the initial exchange of words Resident Trunco charged at Commissioner Czarnik and subjected the Commissioner to a litany of profanity, discredit Commissioner Czarnik did not retaliate. Again, for the record Ray Czarnik has been a dedicated member of the Niles Park District Board for many years. He has always done things in his capacity as a commissioner with the best interest of the Niles community in mind. He has been instrumental in many projects that have made Niles a leading edge community. Commissioner Czarnik reached out to Resident Trunco after this unfortunate incident in an effort to reconcile differences. This is indicative of his character and reputation in putting aside an incident that the commissioner is not proud of. However, let it not be misunderstood Commissioner Czarnik although apologetic for his selection of words on that evening in question as a private citizen will not tolerate the statement directed at him or any member of his family, nor should anybody. As Commissioner Czarnik has apologized for his poor choice of words he awaits the same apology from Resident Trunco and wants the Village of Niles to move forward in harmony for the betterment of all members of this community. On behalf of Commissioner Czarnik, thank you.

Caroline McAteer-Fournier, Chicago Resident stated her concerns with the turf at the LoVerde Center and would like to state that until the EPA can unequivocally state that it is safe for children, she asked that it be removed.

Steven Yasell, Niles Resident stated that the Niles Historical Society thanked the board for the pictures of the LoVerde Center and also receive more pictures from Lindsay. The Historical Society is working on obtaining a larger archive put together in digital. He also commented on the meeting of February 15th and commended the board for their composure during the meeting. He also said he would like to see the Village and Park work together and looks

forward to the future.

Scott O'Brian, Niles Resident made a comment that corroborates what Commissioner Czarnik said about the residents on the bike trail not approving the event. Mr. O'Brian said he lives on Ottawa, which is on the bike path. He said that all the neighbors will file a formal complaint if the Village has the event.

Jason Trunco, Niles Resident stated that he did not come to the meeting to talk about what happened in the past. He asked where the board stands on the turf at LoVerde Center. He also had a couple of safety concerns at LoVerde Center. He asked about the netting that winds outside of the field going where the bleachers are. He said that there is nothing supporting the netting. He stated that he had a conversation with Commissioner Czarnik and at that time they both apologized for what occurred at the meeting. He stated that issue has been resolved. He has offered his support to the board and has no problem sitting down and helping in any way possible.

8. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL.

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

B. Voucher List as presented February 20, 2018. Approval of Disbursements:
VOUCHER LIST OF BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018 -SUMMARY BY FUND:

General Fund	134,656.02
Recreation	156,232.29
Ice Rink	37,962.49
Swimming Pool	1,705.25
Golf Course	28,066.51
Police Protection	108.00
Handicapped	2,411.45
Capital	60,987.63
Grand Total:	<u>\$422,129.64</u>

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Donovan, seconded by Commissioner Genualdi to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 9, 2018 and the Voucher List as presented. Recording Secretary Raschillo called the roll:

President Byrne	Yes
Vice President Czarnik	Yes
Treasurer Zalinski	Yes
Commissioner Genualdi	Yes
Commissioner O'Donovan	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

9. **TREASURER’S REPORT.**

Treasurer Zalinski reviewed the Treasurer’s Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Genualdi, seconded by Commissioner O’Donovan to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Recording Secretary Raschillo called the roll:

President Byrne	Yes
Vice President Czarnik	Yes
Treasurer Zalinski	Yes
Commissioner Genualdi	Yes
Commissioner O’Donovan	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

10. **REPORTS OF PARK OFFICIALS.**

A. **President’s Report.**
Moved to Number 6.

B. **Attorney’s Report.**
None.

11. **BOARD REPORTS.**

Robin Brey – Recreation

Preschool registration for the 2018-19 school year is underway and will continue until classes are filed. Anticipate enrolment to be around 150 students which is our current enrollment

The popular Little ladies Dance was held mid-February and was a successful with a sold out crowd. We will be hosting a new special event this Friday the Mom/Son dance.

Some new programs that have started for 2018 are Hip Hop Dance, Kindermusik, Magic Workshops, Little Chefs, Science Explorers and Guitar Lessons.

Laura Newton, Tam Tennis Manager

January finished good for Tam Tennis. We are on track with our budget.

We are finishing up our second session for classes and currently taking enrollment for our last session that starts in March.

We continue to have a strong representation of USTA matches here and our Greater Suburban teams have a couple more months of matches too.

We have made our additions for our fitness areas (dumbbells at Tam and a Nu Step at Golf View) and are just finished up the furniture re-upholstery at Tam.

Commissioner Genualdi asked Laura about Pickle Ball. Laura said it started in October 2017 and it is growing. Laura is working on a league.

Fitness classes are gaining.

Executive Director Elenz said that Laura has done a great job in building her programs.

Matt Schiller, Park Grounds Supervisor

Matt recognized his staff and Jim Majewski's staff for their tireless efforts during the last 2 snow falls.

We have been working on repairing all the vandalized and broken picnic tables and refurbishing the trash cans around the parks.

The sign out front will be put back up as soon as we are able to drive on the turf.

The signs for the golf course entrance are coming in next week.

Marty Stankowicz, Iceland Manager

The Sweetheart Open figure skating competition was held last Saturday and Sunday. There were 104 individual skaters and five teams competing.

Our next special events are St. Patrick's Day skate on March 17 & Bunny Hop on March 31.

The winter hockey season is coming to an end in March and we will be hosting playoff games at Iceland again. Spring hockey starts with no break and registration started February 1st. Levels are filing fast and we expect to exceed last year's numbers again this spring.

Chicago Blackhawk alum Jamal Mayer was a guest at our Ranger practices on January 17th. His appearance is part of our rink partnership with the Blackhawks. Jamal participated on ice with teams and signed autographs after for the players.

I took 31 players to the United Center on February 6th to play a JR Hawks game against Glenview. They played a game prior to the Blackhawks and were met in the locker room after by Eric Gusstafson. They stayed to watch the Blackhawks play after.

Spring registration for LTS classes starts March 1.

Tom Elenz, Finance Director

Executive Director Elenz stated that Nick Jochim has left the NPD to pursue another job after finishing his master's degree. Executive Director Elenz is in the process along with Scot interviewing for an aquatics manager. We will conduct second interviews next week and hopefully will have someone by the end of March.

Commissioner Genualdi asked about the concession stand opening at the LoVerde Center. Executive Director Elenz said that he will make arrangements for the opening of the concession stand.

Scot Neukirch, Director of Finance

Completed and filed W2s and 1099s for all employees and submitted the necessary information to the Social Security Office and State as required.

Continued creating and collecting the many documents for the 2017 audit for the fieldwork that will take place in April.

Julie Jentel, Marketing

The Summer Fun Guide is being worked on. It will come out April 13. All programs will go online at that time as well.

The Camp Guide is being finalized and will be out soon.

A Park District Newsletter, The Park Bench, will be sent to households in March.

A large spring athletic mailing will be headed to households early March.

Social media is constantly being updated with our events & programs.

Joe Cermak – LoVerde Center Manager

Joe said that he has re-introduced the high school basketball earlier this month and it was very successful. We currently have six rental groups using the LoVerde gym. Greg Gierke just finished his basketball academy finish in late January and the second academy will begin tomorrow. We have seen 191% enrollment from session 1 to session 2. Marketing and planning for youth floor hockey and adult volleyball will begin shortly. Indoor t-ball and rookie ball began last week.

Jeff Halsema, Soccer Manager

- Soccer Academies
 - Round 1 had 80 participants

- Round 2 had over 100 participants
- Micro Soccer
 - Session 1 had 428 participants
 - Session 2 has 283 participants
 - Together we had 711 kids play indoor micro soccer this winter
- Tots – we are averaging 10-15 2-3 year olds per class offering
- Coed has another session going with 4 teams
- Rentals are healthy
- I am in the middle of trying to write curriculums for all summer programs we will offer

Paul Nielsen, Athletic Director

Revenue for the Athletic Department year to date is \$478,000 compared to \$368,000 last year.

Programs that are currently operating are Small Shots, Future Superstars Basketball, Basketball Academy, High School Basketball League, Men's Basketball League, Indoor Soccer League, Soccer Holiday Camp, Soccer Academy, Co-Rec Soccer League, Softball Academy, and Gymnastics.

Dodgeball is starting shortly with the league being played at Golf View, LoVerde Center, and Grennan on Friday nights with 1090 children participating.

The Youth Winter Basketball season will be beginning for children from grades 2nd through 8th grade. Games are being played on Saturdays and Sundays at Golf View, LoVerde Center, Grennan, Culver, St John Brebeuf, Northridge Prep, and Notre Dame.

After speaking with Executive Director Elenz, Paul said he is exploring possibilities for starting a wheelchair basketball league. Paul said he would like to start with an adult league, possibly reaching out to military veterans before considering starting a youth league. Paul said he is in process of contacting organizations to find out what is needed to establish the league.

Peter Dubs, Golf Course Manager

League and permanent tee time contracts were sent out February 6th and groups are currently locking up their times for the coming season. With the delayed opening of the course, fees are not due until May 14th.

Our new website, golftam.com, is currently up and running. We have also coordinated links on the main park district website to forward to the new page.

We have an indoor junior class running at the learning center, with the bulk of our spring instructional programming set to begin the first week of March.

Our 2018 Golf Guide is almost complete and should be printed up by the end of the month. Currently assessing staffing needs for the coming season. Training for new and returning employees will likely take place in early April so we're ready to go once the new turf is healthy.

We're working to put together some opening week promotions to welcome players back to the course and show off the improvements.

Jim Stoneberg, Supt. of Golf Course Maintenance

Treasurer Zalinski read Jim's report.

Gathering pricing for materials and supplies purchases for Turf maintenance programs and application schedules.

Working on new course Tee signage and site amenity's for purchase for the upcoming year.

15 golf cart windshields will be ordered and installed for replacements as needed to the fleet.

Will be ordering budgeted greens mower and debris blower once State of Illinois purchases are available.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION SPECIAL EVENT FEE

Executive Director Elenz stated with Special Events coming up at Golf Mill Park he has put together a list of districts that charge a fee for the Special Events. When we have A Special Event our employee's time is a large undertaking. Executive Director Elenz recommends that we charge \$500.00/day for Special Events at Golf Mill Park.

Treasurer Zalinski asked if there was any other NPD location that requires a Special Event. Executive Director Elenz said that we have not received any other requests.

Commissioner Genualdi asked that we contact Morton Grove, Skokie and Lincolnwood to see if they charge a Special Event Fee and the size of the location that is used.

Also, Executive Director Elenz stated that with any Special Event it would be approved by the board.

It was decided that Executive Director Elenz will email the additional prices for Special Events to all the commissioners.

13. **OLD BUSINESS.**

None.

14. **MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

15. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD.**

Moved.

16. **CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2 (C)(1) TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES, SECTION 2 (C)(5) TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE AND SECTION 2 (C)(11) TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

The Board agreed it was not necessary to convene into executive session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Genualdi, seconded by Commissioner O'Donovan to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. Recording Secretary Raschillo called the roll:

President Byrne	Yes
Vice President Czarnik	Yes
Treasurer Zalinski	Yes
Commissioner Genualdi	Yes
Commissioner O'Donovan	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

APPROVED:

President
Board of Commissioners
Date: March 20, 2018

Board Secretary