
NILES PARK DISTRICT
Minutes of Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2023
5:00 pm

Board Members present: Julie Genualdi, President
Dennis O'Donovan, Vice President
Scott O'Brien, Commissioner
Ronnie Strzelecki, Commissioner

Committee Members
present: Pat Byrne
Ray Czarnik
Steve Fischer
George Van Geem
Rich Wlodarski

Staff present: Tom Elenz, Executive Director
Heather Petrie, Executive Administrative Coordinator
Dan Shapiro, Attorney

1. **Call to order**

President Genualdi called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm on Tuesday, August 15th.

2. **Roll Call**

Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll. Treasurer Hynes was absent, Joe LoVerde, and Scot Neukirch were absent.

3. **Discussion on Committee Purposes, Rules, and Objectives**

On June 10, 2022, Governor Pritzger signed the Local Government Efficiency Act into law. This law requires all Illinois local governments that impose a property tax to form a committee by June 10, 2023, to study local government efficiencies and issue a report to the County Board that unit of government is situated in. Local units of government have been defined as park districts, library districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, and townships. The act does not apply to municipalities and counties. Each committee must include the elected or appointed members of the governing board. In addition, it must include any Chief Executive Officer or other officer of local government. The Committee must also include at least two residents of the governmental unit appointed by the Board and the Board may appoint more than two to serve on the Committee. The Committee is required to meet at least 3 times and must meet in public in accordance with this act. This first meeting will be an organizational meeting to go over the report template set forth by IAPD and will discuss the items to be included in the report. The report must be filed by November 16, 2024.

4. **Discussion on Materials Provided to Committee Members**

Director Elenz thanked the Committee members for volunteering to serve on this Committee. IAPD has given the park district a report template which was provided to the Committee. Director Elenz went through the template to discuss the format and answer any questions. Future Committee meeting dates, a general overview, and park district operations were also discussed. Director Elenz also went over the recommended back up materials suggested by

IAPD to be provided with the report, such as the operations manual, administrative policies and procedures manual, general conduct ordinances, employee handbook, safety policy, budget, zero tolerance policy, the comprehensive financial report, and the fund reserve policy. These documents will be provided at the next meeting for Board review.

The reason for these committees is in response to a State Representative asking why there are so many taxing districts listed on the property tax bill. The Governor wants local taxing bodies to explain why these organizations are worth their tax dollars.

List of shared services and partnerships

The park district is one of seven park districts that is a member of the Special Recreation Association. The park districts in this group offer participants with special needs programming and transportation assistance. Data pertaining to the SRA will be forthcoming.

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)

The park district has engaged in a few IGAs recently. The Park District has an agreement with Culver School for the use of their fields in exchange for the Park District doing the field maintenance such as cutting the grass, landscaping, and fertilizing. The Park District has another IGA with the Village of Niles involving Golf Mill Park. The Park District has agreed to do the maintenance on Golf Mill Park and in return the Village deeded their portion of Oak Park to the Park District.

Cooperation with governmental units

The Park District provides transportation services for school districts in the form of lending golf carts or providing a tractor for school hayrides. The Park District has also provided golf carts to the Village of Niles and collaborates with the Village on special events such as the 4th of July parade and Concerts in the Park.

Volunteers

All of the Park District coaches are volunteers who are often parents or family members of kids in our programs.

Tax Revenue

Programming for the Park District provides at least 60% of its revenue. The Park District utilizes a lot of non-tax resources. The Park District represents approximately 5% of the tax levy for the Village of Niles. The majority of the Park District's revenue comes from user fees and programming.

Surveys

A survey is sent out to participants after every program.

Community Projects

There are two community projects currently underway. The Park District received an OSLAD grant for renovations to Pioneer Park. Multiple public hearings were also held regarding Golf Mill Park.

Benefits and Services

Staff will provide a list of programs for the next meeting.

FOIA Requests

Staff fulfills approximately 5 FOIA requests per year.

Criminal Background Checks

Background checks are conducted on every employee, coach and volunteer.

Prevailing Wage

The Park District adheres to the prevailing wage.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Survey of Residents in Attendance


There were no residents in attendance.

7. Adjournment


A motion was made by Vice President O'Donovan and seconded by Commissioner O'Brien to adjourn the meeting. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes
Commissioner Strzelecki	Yes

The motion passed	4-0
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President Genualdi
Board of Commissioners
Date: August 15, 2023



Board Secretary

