

**Alsip Park District Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**August 26, 2024**

- Par. 1      **CALL TO ORDER**  
President Becker called to order the Meeting of the Alsip Park District Board of Commissioners at 6:30 pm.
- Par. 2      **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
Those in attendance gave the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Par. 3      **ROLL CALL**  
The Secretary called the Roll, and there were present Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker. Absent was Commissioner Gutierrez. A quorum was present.
- Par. 4      **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**  
Motion made by Commissioner Kleina, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2024 Meeting as presented. Motion carried by voice vote 4 – 0.
- Par. 5      **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**  
There was no public in attendance.
- Par. 6      **SECRETARY’S REPORT**  
Secretary Poremba reported the next Consolidated Election for park commissioners was scheduled by Cook County for April 1, 2025. She announced the candidate filing period is Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – Monday, November 18, 2024, beginning at 9:30 am. The first day of the collection period for signatures on candidate nomination papers was Tuesday, August 20, 2024. Secretary Poremba emphasized that candidate material must include proof of a filed Statement of Economic Interests by November 18, 2024.
- Par. 7      **COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
**FINANCE**  
Business Manager  
Sue Bruesch’s Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 8      Manager Bruesch reported the auditors finished their work and have submitted a draft for  
\*\* review. She added she was in process of preparing the Management Discussion and Analysis Report, which will be sent to NFP when finished. Manager Bruesch anticipates the final Audit Report will be completed for the September meeting.
- Par. 9      Manager Bruesch reported she was preparing for the annual Open Enrollment for insurance, which is November 4 – 22.
- Par. 10     Manager Bruesch requested approval of the August 2024 bills for payment.

- Par. 11 Motion made by Commissioner Schmitt, seconded by Commissioner Kleina, to approve payment of bills for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$534,889.48. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 12 RECREATION  
Recreation Superintendent  
Jennifer Torres' Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 13 Superintendent Torres reported the program book was in order and on time. She noted registration dates were on track as well.
- Par. 14 Superintendent Torres reported staff training of Building Attendants for after office hours duties at the front desk. She added Office Manager Smith is training staff on minimal front desk work and the return of Daily Passes.
- Par. 15 Superintendent Torres reported the hire of a new Athletic Supervisor and commended Aaron Jordan for his cleaning and organization of the concession stand at Commissioners Park.
- Par. 16 ATHLETICS  
Athletics Supervisor  
Aaron Jordan's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 17 Supervisor Jordan reported the fall soccer and women's volleyball league sports would begin early in September. A new offering is in process to give athletes the opportunity to continue training after summer in preparation for softball season.
- Par. 18 Supervisor Jordan noted fun upcoming events were in preparation, including the Fishing Derby  
\*\* and Fall Turkey Shoot. Commissioner Schmitt commented that he was able to donate prizes if a shortage occurs.
- Par. 19 Fitness/Aquatics Manager.  
Leslie Guerrero's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 20 Manager Guerrero reported she had adequate staff to be able to add two weeks to the morning pool season. The lap swimmers were very appreciative.
- Par. 21 Commissioner Gutierrez arrived at 6:43 pm.
- Par. 22 Manager Guerrero reported the fitness centers were running smoothly. A few new members are  
\*\* using the squat equipment and asking for the promised mirrors.
- Par. 23 PARKS/MAINTENANCE  
Superintendent of Parks  
Chris Grubb gave an oral report.
- Par. 24 Superintendent Grubb reported concrete at the Skate Park was partially poured. It has been  
\*\* delayed because of the rain and will take time to dry. The park landscape beautification has begun. Good news for the district is the Sears Park lighting replacement project is complete.

- Par. 25 Superintendent Grubb reported ComEd has cancelled the lighting contract for Commissioners Park. Manual switching of the lights from 6:00 to 10:30 pm will be done till Christmas. The district will reapply for participation in the Edison Energy Efficiency incentive January 1.
- Par. 26 Superintendent Grubb reported brush has to be cleared at Freedom Park for the wetland delineation project. He added it needs determined if it can be handled by the department.
- Par. 27 **GOLF COURSE**  
Operations Managers  
Rich Gottardo's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 28 Manager Gottardo reported golf rounds were up about 13% and driving range business is up over 25% from last year. Three high school golf teams use Fountain Hills as their home course: Shepard Girls, Brother Rice Frosh/Soph, and St. Rita Frosh/Soph.
- Par. 29 President Becker commended the golf course's appearance, that it looks great after all the work.
- Par. 30 Manager  
Donna Smith's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 31 Manager Smith reported that registration of Fall programs began and noted people coming in for on-site registrations are loving the Apollo updates.
- Par. 32 President Becker dismissed the staff at 7:00 pm.
- Par. 33 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
Jeannette Huber's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 34 Freedom Park/OSLAD Grant Update  
\*\* Director Huber reported the investigative search and delineation of wetlands within the Freedom Park site was scheduled to start the week of August 26. About 2 – 3 weeks later, a land survey will be conducted depending on the leaves' abscission but needs a clear underbrush.
- Par. 35 Director Huber reported the Freedom Park Committee is planning for an official kickoff meeting and reviewing the concept plan presented by Joe Brusseau.
- Par. 36 Cal-Sag Trail/ICC Update  
\*\* Director Huber reported news from the Springfield attorney that Arkema had agreed to move their water vault that has been holding up development of the bike trail. She added there is an issue with rail crossing maintenance being that it is private and the plan will need some engineering rework. The engineering may be done by June 2025.
- Par. 37 Director Huber announced a 20th anniversary celebration for the creation of the Friends of the Calumet Sag Trail was scheduled for September 22nd in Blue Island. She added that she would be there to represent the Alsip portion of the Cal-Sag Trail. FOCST was created to support the Burnham Greenway Trail legacy plan of which the Cal-Sag Trail is a part.

- Par. 38  
\*\* Director Huber reported that Palos Heights has agreed to lend the district the boom arm mower needed for the bobcat by the Parks Department to tidy the low-lying growth and underbrush of the bike path. Staff will be meeting with the Palos Heights public works director to investigate its use in Alsip.
- Par. 39  
\*\* Skate Park/OSLAD Grant  
Director Huber reported the skate park is close to finalization. When landscape work is completed, a grand reopening can be scheduled and the project closed out. She noted the skate park's project extension was approved by the IDNR, resulting in a necessary amendment to the grant-funding agreement.
- Par. 40 Motion made by Commissioner Kleina, seconded by Commissioner Perretta, to approve the Amendment to the Grant Agreement between the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Alsip Park District for the Mary J Lynch Skate Park as presented. Roll was called with Commissioners Gutierrez, Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- Par. 41  
\*\* Village of Alsip Bike Plan  
Director Huber reported the Alsip Park District had been invited to participate in the Alsip Bike and Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee, among which includes the library, village public works, village trustees, Senator Cunningham, and SWSRA. She noted the Village of Alsip had been grant funded to create a plan for walking and biking throughout the community. A brief discussion ensued. Director Huber reported she is sharing work the district has done with the committee. Emphasized by commissioners for this new plan was recognition of extensive work the district has already done on the Cal Sag Trail, on Pulaski, and for the former map. Director Huber noted she looks forward to gaining ideas for other property.
- Par. 42  
\*\* Apollo Recreation Center Expansion/PARC Grant Update  
Director Huber reported she is in process of ordering a building plaque to include credit for PARC funding towards the Apollo project. Director Huber is also collecting final construction documents for a grant audit and submission to the IDNR for the last reimbursement amounting to \$500,000.00.
- Par. 43  
\*\* Vehicle Purchase/Ford Escape  
Director Huber reported that she has been investigating the purchase cost for a 2025 Ford Escape through the Suburban Cooperative Purchasing Program from where other vehicles have been purchased for years. She reiterated there was no point in considering the purchase of a van and she could not always make her vehicle available. A brief discussion ensued and question about determining if a new 2024 Escape was available.
- Par. 44 Motion made by Commissioner Schmitt, seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez, to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford Escape from the Suburban Cooperative Purchase program in the amount of \$29,028.00. Roll was called with Commissioners Gutierrez, Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- Par. 45  
\*\* Diving Board Engineering and IDPH Permit  
Director Huber reported a signed permit application for the replacement diving board had been submitted to WT Engineering. When the aquatic inspection passes, they will send the application

Par. 45 to the Illinois Department of Public Health. She noted a certified board installation contractor  
Cont'd must be identified to complete the work before any final permit is issued. A search is on to secure board installation quotes to make a final company selection.

Par. 46 **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**  
\*\* Attorney Cainkar reported the Alsip Park District will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 23, 2024. The purpose is to receive questions and/or comments on the proposal to sell non-referendum bonds in an amount not to exceed \$990,000.00 for the purpose of payment for land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving, and protecting of the same and the existing facilities of the District, and for the current refunding of outstanding bonds.

Par. 47 **NEW BUSINESS**  
There was no New Business to come before the Board.

Par. 48 **OLD BUSINESS**  
There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

Par. 49 **ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion made by Commissioner Kleina, seconded by Commissioner Perretta, to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

Par. 50 The Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Poremba, Board Secretary

\*\* Denotes follow-up action required