

Alsip Park District Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting
October 28, 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, and 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 Perretta, to approve the Minutes of the September 23, 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 reminded the public the first day to file nomination papers for a park commissioner position is Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Attorney Cainkar advised Secretary Poremba and staff to have an extra copy of nomination materials available for public inspection.
- Par. 7 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
FINANCE
Business Manager
Sue Bruesch’s Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 8 Manager Bruesch reported open enrollment for the district’s health program would begin early in November and noted plan health rates have increased. She added that it was a good time to offer a different kind of plan to the employees. They will have until November 22, 2024 to decide on their coverage choice.
- Par. 9 Manager Bruesch reported the new credit card processors had arrived and were already in use because of prompt configuration assistance from Vermont Systems. It is hoped this payment upgrade will help alleviate problems that occurred with the outdated systems.
- Par. 10 Manager Bruesch reported there was still time to decide on electricity brokerage provisions as the contract with Avion Energy Group does not expire until the end January. Options on supplier rates will be carefully weighed in the meantime and a recommendation determined.
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- Par. 11 Motion made by Commissioner Schmitt, seconded by Commissioner Perretta, to approve payment of bills for the month of October 2024 in the amount of \$486,971.27. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 12 RECREATION
Recreation Superintendent
Superintendent Jennifer Torres’ Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 13 Superintendent Torres reported the winter program book was in the hands of the printer and would be delivered on time for the opening of registration on November 12th.
- Par. 14 Superintendent Torres reported she had visited a number of area programs and events promoting district programs and positions. She also participated in association meetings as well as a school community night. Additional events are scheduled.
- Par. 15 Superintendent Torres reported the search and hire of a Recreation and an Athletic Supervisor was still ongoing.
- Par. 16 Recreation Supervisor
Director Huber reported that Supervisor Merlo expects to return to her position in October.
- Par. 17 Recreation Supervisor
** Director Huber reported the other Recreation Supervisor position was still unfilled. A brief discussion ensued and it was noted advertising should continue.
- Par. 18 ATHLETICS
Athletics Supervisor
In the absence of a new Athletics Supervisor, Director Huber reported that interviews were ongoing and one was scheduled for that day.
- Par. 19 Fitness/Aquatics Manager.
Leslie Guerrero’s Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 20 Manager Guerrero reported that Women’s Center members will enjoy the new Stamina Magnetic Recumbent Bike/Rower machine and its various exercises.
- Par. 21 Manager Guerrero reported the cola beverage fountain had been winterized at the Aquatic Park’s concession stand. She went on to commend the Parks department on winterizing the pool.
- Par. 22 Manager Guerrero reported the mirrors are up and patrons are very happy to look at their forms while working out. She added the mirrors are helpful in determining correctness and safety.
- Par. 23 Manager Guerrero
** Manager Guerrero reported she is researching area prices for pool memberships and daily fees for 2025. She hopes to provide recommendations in time for the Spring program book.
- Par. 24 PARKS/MAINTENANCE
Superintendent of Parks
Superintendent Grubb’s Board Report was placed on file.

- Par. 25
** Superintendent Grubb reported the Skate Park redevelopment project is complete with the exception of small final plantings by Hacienda Landscaping. The district planted a number of trees and annuals purchased from the soil and water conservation district Fall plant sale.
- Par. 26 Superintendent Grubb reported progress on the cutting ability of the Cal-Sag Trail underbrush. The last step to borrowing the swing boom from Palos Heights is signing a liability waiver and have the town's mayor okay it so district staff can schedule a pickup of the machine.
- Par. 27
** Superintendent Grubb reported a preliminary brush clearing of about four acres at Freedom Park was completed by Clean Cut Tree Service for the start of site survey work by WT Group that commenced on October 22nd. There is a majority of brush clearing to the acreage yet to be done.
- Par. 28
** Superintendent Grubb reported receipt of a revised proposal from WT Group for examination of Aquatic Park's pool facility for the new diving board permit and purchase. With the pool winterization completed, WT Group was able to begin its review to assist the planning and budgetary processes for securing the board.
- Par. 29
** Superintendent Grubb reported he and Mike Dechene have completed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course and added it will take about five weeks to get their score.
- Par. 30
GOLF COURSE
Operations Managers
Rich Gottardo's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 31
** Manager Gottardo reported the golf course had a break-in and theft of eight golf carts with use of a pickup truck. He suggested having a construction meeting with Superintendent Grubb about some type of pole barn or secure outbuilding to house the carts and deter future break-ins and thefts.
- Par. 32 Manager Gottardo reported he had received two quotes out of four contacted to trim the foliage on the driving range. A quote from Smitty's Tree Service Inc. came in at \$7,500.00 and the Clear Cut Tree Service quote was \$9,900.00. He recommended accepting the quote from Smitty's.
- Par. 33 Motion made by Commissioner Perretta, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to approve Smitty's Tree Service to remove foliage on the right side of the driving range at a cost not to exceed \$7,500.00. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 34
MAIN OFFICE
Manager
Donna Smith's Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 35 Manager Smith reminded the commissioners that the Seniors Club Annual Christmas Luncheon was scheduled for Monday, December 9th. She requested approval of a \$400.00 donation towards the luncheon and another \$100.00 for raffle prize money.
- Par. 36 Motion made by Commissioner Perretta, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to approve a \$400.00 contribution to the Alsip Park District Senior Citizen Club for their 2024 Christmas Luncheon. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

- Par. 37 Motion made by Commissioner Perretta, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to approve a \$100.00 contribution to the Alsip Park District Senior Citizen Club for raffle prizes for their 2024 Christmas Luncheon. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 38 President Becker dismissed the staff at 6:54 pm.
- Par. 39 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
Jeannette Huber’s Board Report was placed on file.
- Par. 40 Freedom Park/OSLAD Grant Update
** Director Huber reported there were four playground proposals showing potential themes for Freedom Park. The committee will get together to review and plan the next steps. She added initial brush clearing for the land survey and water delineation has been completed to help get the project started. More cleaning will be needed for the topographical examination of the terrain’s natural and man-made features to aid in the park’s final layout and development.
- Par. 41 Director Huber next reported themes of the playground and its appearance have elicited some
** comments by the public. Among concerns identified is the location of the parking lot in comparison to the length of the walk to the dog park. Director Huber reported that as plans develop further she may offer another public meeting.
- Par. 42 Director Huber reported that the topographical survey is ready to get started. With the brush cleanup by the district, Superintendent Grubb and she have been able to meet with the WT Group to discuss a final proposal and perhaps conduct a little value engineering to reduce the total. They had reached an initial agreement for completing the work on an hourly basis not to exceed \$40,000.00; however, that number has since been reduced to \$35,000.00.
- Par. 43 Motion made by Commissioner Kleina, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to approve the
** agreement with WT Engineering for Topographic Survey Work at Freedom Park at an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 44 Skate Park/OSLAD Grant Update
** Director Huber reported the concrete, site amenities, and shelter were complete at the Skate Park. She added the landscape and an additional feature need to be completed to plan a ribbon cutting/grand reopening and finalize the closeout of the grant process.
- Par. 45 Apollo Recreation Center Expansion/PARC Grant
** Director Huber reported work continues on gathering final documents for the Apollo expansion project audit for submission to the IDNR for the final \$500,000.00 of the grant. She added a building plaque including the PARC assistance is in development.
- Par. 46 Cal-Sag Trail/ICC Update
** Director Huber reported the Cal-Sag Trail delay over the Arkema vault have progressed; however, details on maintenance of the rail crossing have yet to be worked out.

- Par. 47 Gym Pass Giveaway
** Director Huber reported she will begin promoting the giveaway of five Gym Passes on Giving Tuesday.
- Par. 48 IAPD/IPRA
Director Huber reported the IAPD/IPRA Conference is scheduled for January 23-25, 2025. She added the IAPD Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, January 25th. Delegates will need to be selected and approved by the board to obtain credentials certificates to participate.
- Par. 49 Motion made by Commissioner Kleina, seconded by Commissioner Perretta, to approve the Credentials Certificate for the Annual Business Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts to be held on January 25, 2025. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 50 **ATTORNEY’S REPORT**
Attorney Cainkar recommended approval of the issue of \$990,000.00 in general obligation tax bonds and the levy to pay the principal and interest by Ordinance 24-2.
- Par. 51 Motion made by Commissioner Perretta, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt, to adopt Ordinance 24-2, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$990,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE ALSIP PARK DISTRICT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS as presented. Roll was called with Commissioners Kleina, Perretta, Schmitt, and President Becker voting yes. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Par. 52 **NEW BUSINESS**
There was no New Business to come before the Board.
- Par. 53 **OLD BUSINESS**
** Director Huber reported she had received a brief communication from St. Terrence about the district’s use of the church parking lot when large events are held in the area. She added the district will have to request use of the lot for the few large events it presents in the area.
- Par. 54 **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion made by Commissioner Perretta, seconded by Commissioner Kleina, to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote 4 – 0.
- Par. 50 The Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Poremba, Board Secretary

** Denotes follow-up action required