

**Chicago Heights Park District
Park District Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting
May 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order: The Regular Board meeting of the Chicago Heights Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Upon roll call, the following board members were recorded present: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Commissioner Nichols-Brown was recorded absent. A quorum was established. Motion passed.

Swearing in of Officer:

Chicago Heights Corporation Council of the City of Chicago Heights, Attorney TJ Somer gave the Oath of Office to Harold Foston as 1st Ward Chicago Heights Park District Commissioner, Willie Robins as 3rd Ward Chicago Heights Park District Commissioner, Michelle Baikauskas as 4th Ward Chicago Heights Park District Commissioner, and Margarita “Maggie” Guzman as 7th Ward Chicago Heights Park District Commissioner. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski read the certified count of votes for each commissioner’s election.

Roll Call: The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. A quorum was established.

Nominations and Appointments of Park District Board Officers:

On nomination and appointment of Commissioner Mangiaracian as Park Board President by Commissioner Straczek and seconded by Commissioner Baikauskas. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina

On nomination and appointment of Commissioner Straczek as Vice President Board Present by Commissioner Baikauskas and seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina

On nomination and appointment of Commissioner Perez as Secretary by Commissioner Straczek, second Commissioner Baikauskas. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina

On nomination and appointment of Commissioner Baikauskas as Treasure by Commissioner Perez and seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner

Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes on April 10, 2023, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: None was given.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Shari Demitrowicz announced that the D&R Grant opened today. She stated that she will start working on the grant to be submitted by June 15th. She announced that the membership enrollment for the month of April was thirty-nine members. She also welcomed all the new commissioners and thanked all the outgoing commissioners for their service to the Chicago Heights Park District. She also gave a special acknowledgment to the Senior Staff of the Chicago Heights Park District for doing a phenomenal job every day.

Attorney Report: None was given.

President Report: President Margiaracina announced that the Music in the Park event started last Saturday, May 6th at Jirle Park. She stated that this event was awesome. She thanked Commissioner Perez and Alderman Smith for their continuous celebration of heritage at Jirtle Park. She thanked 7th Ward Alderman and Union Street Gallery board member Kelli Merrick and the Alpha Leo Club for bringing “Art in the Park”. Also special thanks to the Chicago Children Equestrian for sponsoring 3 horses for this event. She informed everyone that the next Music in the Park event is a Juneteenth Celebration at Smith Park on Saturday, June 17th. She stated that we are looking for volunteers to help decorate this special event. She also informed the board that we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the “Friends of the Park” committee. Please contact her if anyone would like to serve on the board. She informed everyone that the Annual Pre-Mother’s Day Party will be held on Saturday, May 13th at the West Golf Course. She also informed everyone that another Mother’s Day event will be hosted at Smith Park by Alderman Kelli Merrick. She concluded her report with an announcement of the special honoring of veterans on Monday, May 29th at the Memorial Day Parade.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Foston: Commissioner Foston thanked everyone for their support. A special thanks to Mayor David Gonzales and TJ Somer for allowing him to run for the office of 1st Ward Commissioner.

Commissioner Perez: Commissioner Perez thanked everyone for their support with the Annual Cinco de Mayo event held at Jirtle Park on May 6th. She informed the board that her joint ward cleanup will be rescheduled for a later date.

Commissioner Robinson: Commissioner Robinson thanked everyone for their support during the elections. He also thanked Mayor David Gonzales and TJ Somer for their support also.

Commissioner Baikuskas: Commissioner Baikuskas announced that her monthly joint meeting with Alderman Baikuskas will be held on Monday, May 22nd at Roosevelt School at 6 pm.

Commissioner Straczek: None given.

Commissioner Guzman: Commissioner Guzman thanked everyone for their support and was very excited about serving as commissioner.

Public Participation: None.

New Business

Submission of Bills: On a motion to pay the bills for the month of April 2023 by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Ordinance: Ordinance 2023-02 authorizing the purchase of playground equipment through the OMNIA Partners Purchasing Program from KOMPAN, Inc., for the Chicago Heights Park District by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Resolution: Resolution 2023-02 creating a local Government Efficiency Committee for the Chicago Heights Park District by Commissioner Straczek, second Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Resolution: Resolution 2023-03 to include compensation paid under an Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan as IMRF earnings by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Commissioner Foston, seconded by Commissioner Robinson at 7:22 p.m. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Foston, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Guzman, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Secretary

Date