

**Chicago Heights Park District  
Regular Meeting  
Park District Board of Commissioners  
April 11, 2022  
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 7:03 p.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes on March 14, 2022, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**President Mangiaracina:** President Mangiaracina announced she will be doing a park clean-up on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Meidell Park, and on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> she will host a cleanup at Sangamon Park and an Early Bird cleanup at Greenbriar Play Area. She announced that if anyone need supplies, please call her in advance. Also, Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> with tree plantings and “A Giving Tree” dedication to literacy lovers at Serena Hills Play Area. Also, on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> a special “Pet Memorial” dedication to pet owners who have lost a loved pet will be held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Meidell Park. A memorial bench will be donated for this event. Thanks to Winpak Portion Packing Company for donating a memorial bench. Also, special thanks to Mrs. and Mayor David Gonzalez for a donation of pet memorial rocks. A special prayer will be held at 11 a.m. for those who have lost a beloved pet.

**Treasure’s Report:** None gave.

**Superintendents Report:** Superintendent Demitrowicz stated that a lot of exciting things are happening at the park district. Seasonal hires were successful. The park district is moving into a digital platform. Training is taking place with our Front Office staff. She announced that phone line cleanup was done with Comcast. Also, informed the board that meetings have taken place with the media and social consultants. PARKS has assessed all the parks. All Department Heads visited all the parks to assess the needs. A donation of \$20,000 was received from Mr. Shelton for Sesto Park improvements. She informed the board that she is collaborating with Alderman and Commissioner Baikauskas to possibly erect a K-9 Dog Park. She stated that quotes are being submitted to get new playground equipment. New signs will be posted on Halsted and Lincoln Highway for the East and West Golf Course. She announced that the park district staff will be a part of the City-Wide Clean-Up on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Wanda Rodgers-Spruell and Rob Williams for doing an excellent job preparing for the Annual Easter Bunny Festival. She informed the board that new programs are highlighted in the Spring Booklet which will be published in English and Spanish. She announced the Senior Prom hosted with Victory Center and

Oak Street Health will be held Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. She informed the board to check their packets for directions on retrieving their voice messages. A Girls Soft Ball camp will be starting. She thanked her entire staff for doing an excellent job. She also thanked the Board of Commissioners and Mayor David Gonzalez for their continual support.

**Attorneys Report:** None gave.

**Public Participation:** Ramon Woods asked the Board of Commissioners about local gym rentals.

### **Commissioners Report**

**Commissioner Ridley:** None was given.

**Commissioner Perez:** Reminded everyone that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a cleanup at Euclid Park for Earth Day and Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Petrarca and Jirtle Park.

**Commissioner Baikuskas:** Commissioner Baikuskas informed the board that her next joint 4th Ward Meeting with Alderman Baikuskas was on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 6 pm 6 pm at Roosevelt School. Clean up at Landeen Park on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Commissioner Straczek:** None given.

**Commissioner Zuniga:** None given

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Submission of Bills:** On a motion to pay the bills of March 2022 by Commissioner Baikuskas, seconded by Commissioner Ridley. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**Resolution:** On a resolution 2022-08 authorizing and approving certain emergency repairs at the West Golf Course in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the Chicago Heights Park District, County of Cook, State of Illinois by Commissioner Zuniga, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Discussion followed: Superintendent Demitrowicz stated that the park district is looking for approval to hire Earth Works for emergency repairs at the West Golf course in an amount not to exceed \$40,000. The city is making repairs to Thorn Creek costing \$250,000.

**Motion:** On a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 2(c)(11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss (11) litigations and possible action coming out of Executive Session. A. Approval of Settlement Agreements.

**Executive Session:** Chicago Heights Park District Board entered the executive session at 7:14 pm.

**Motion:** Motion to reopen the Regular Board Meeting at 7:24 p.m. by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Motion to approve the settlement agreement as presented by Jose Maldonado pending cases by Commissioner Baikauskas, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:** On a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed

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**Secretary**

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**Date**