

**Chicago Heights Park District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Park District Board of Commissioners**  
**March 13, 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 7:01 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.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes on February 13, 2023, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Baikauskas. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**President Report:** President Mangiaracina started her report by announcing the article featuring Dr. Demotrowicz in the Daily South Town on March 8<sup>th</sup> “Chicago Heights Parks and Schools Partner to offer students restorative practice and peace circle”. She thanked Dr. Demitrowicz for her great work and for taking extra steps to partner with the schools to help our youth and that the Chicago Heights Park District is proud to support her. She also announced the following Music in the Park Music Series schedule: May 6<sup>th</sup>, Cinco De Mayo Celebration, Fiesta in the Park at Jirtle Park, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth House Picnic Party at Smith Park, July 1<sup>st</sup> Landeen Park “Block Party”, and August 19<sup>th</sup> “Throw Back Party” at King Park. She announced that in addition to the “Music in the Park” Music Series, we will have Union Street Art Gallery host “Art In the Park” with a special art piece picnic table that will be featured at all four sites and at the Fiesta Chicago Heights in September. This special art piece will then be placed in Alex Lopez Park. She also announced that the City-Wide Clean-up will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>, and she concluded her report by announcing the Annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasure’s Report:** No report.

**Superintendents Report:** Superintendent Demitrowicz announced that we currently have one hundred and thirty new members as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. At the end of February, there were close to forty new members. She stated that the park district is reaping the benefits of the new workout equipment and upgrades done by our maintenance staff. She also informed the board that the Chicago Heights Park District has been awarded to receive a \$600,000 OSLAD grant for the expansion of Commissioners Park, including three soccer fields, lighting to accommodate extended evening play and spectator seating. Also, a new concession stand will be done. She announced that the Spring/Summer booklet will be out on March 21<sup>st</sup>. She also informed the board that the Capital Bill funding of \$100,000 for the rec center renovation from State Representative DeLuca has not been released yet. However, State Representative DeLuca has confirmed that he is working on getting those funds released to the park district. She also

informed the board that the following five designated parks in phase 1 will receive new park equipment this year: Commissioners, Meidell, Wacker, Jirtle, and Sesto. Phase 2 will include the remaining parks to receive new park equipment next year. A mailer will be going out soon to highlight new updates and projects at the Chicago Heights Park District. She concluded her report by informing the board that the bond funds have been officially transferred.

**Attorneys Report:** No report.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Commissioners Report**

**Commissioner Ridley:** No report.

**Commissioner Perez:** No report.

**Commissioner Baikuskas:** Commissioner Baikuskas announced that she would be hosting her 4th Ward Meeting with Alderman Baikuskas on Monday, March 27th at 6 pm at Roosevelt School.

**Commissioner Straczek:** No report.

**Commissioner Zuniga:** No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Submission of Bills:** On a motion to pay the bills for February 2023, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**Motion:** On a motion to approve a Settlement Agreement with Ram Accounting and Financial Services Corporation by Commissioner Baikuskas, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:** On a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikuskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

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**Secretary**

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**Date**