

**Chicago Heights Park District
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
Park District Board of Commissioners
August 12, 2021
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 7:00p.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 Public Hearing Meeting minutes on July 12, 2021, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Baikauskas. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, and President Mangiaracina. Commissioner Zuniga abstained. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting minutes on July 12, 2021, by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Perez. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, and President Mangiaracina. Commissioner Zuniga abstained. Motion passed.

President Mangiaracina: President Mangiaracina thanked the staff for doing a great job at the Back-to-School Community Outreach Event. She stated that it was a success and great for our community.

Treasure's Report: None given.

Assistant Superintendents Report: Mike DeButch informed the board that he submitted his report to the board.

Attorneys Report: None given.

Public Participation:

Joe Reda thanked everyone on the behalf of Dr. Navarre, Superintendent and Bloom High School District 206 Administrative Team for the park districts hospitality for their Administrative Retreat on July 29th.

Public Participation cont.:

Darryl Stroud informed the board that he was following up on the status. He asked the board when he will receive answers to his questions. He also acquired about the status of the Chicago Heights Park District in 2022. He also asked if the board received board meeting reports from him for the past 12 months. Commissioner Straczek stated that there have been reports submitted from Chief Jones. President Mangiaracina informed Mr. Stroud that the board understands that there are some concerns. However, there is nothing relating to employee matters that will be discussed in a Regular Board Meeting during Public Participation. Therefore, if you need to make comments they will be allowed and recorded on public record and then we can move on. Mr. Stroud agreed with that.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Ridley: None given.

Commissioner Perez: Commissioner Perez informed the board that she and Alderman will host their ward meeting on Monday, August 23rd at Garfield School and on Sunday, August 15th at Jirtle Park Back to School Give Away.

Commissioner Baikauskas: Commissioner Baikauskas informed the board that she and Alderman Baikauskas will host their 4th ward joint meeting will be on August 23rd at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Straczek: None given.

Commissioner Zuniga: None given.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Submission of Bills: On a motion to pay the bills for the month of July 2021 by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Baikauskas. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Motion: On a motion to table the renewal of Health Insurance by President Mangiaracina, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Resolution: On a resolution adopting rules for attendance by means other than physical Presence for meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Heights Park District County of Cook,

State of Illinois 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. Discussion followed.

Park District Attorney informed the board that during the Opens Meetings Act does allow a commissioner to attend electronic attendance. Requires a physical form to be requested to attend a meeting remotely only if they are ill, family is ill, or they have a work or park district commitment. This does not apply to a person on vacation. The board votes on if the person can attend the meeting electronically. Commissioner Ridley asked if we were still in Covid-19. She said yes due to the fact the Governor has declared a state of emergency. Commissioner Perez asked would there be a physical form established for this process and she replied yes.

Ordinance: On an ordinance 2021-02 fixing the length of time a Chicago Heights Park District Commissioner may fail to attend Regular Meetings of the Park Board in order for such Commissioner's Office to be declared vacant and providing procedure for declaring such a vacancy by Commissioner Baikauskas, seconded by Commissioner Straczek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Ridley and Commissioner Straczek asked if this ordinance will take place now and Attorney Jaworski stated yes. Commissioner Perez asked if this will be any consecutive (3) months missing a meeting during a 12-month period? Attorney Jaworski said yes.

Resolution: On a resolution 2021-08 appointing a Superintendent and a Chief Financial Officer for the Chicago Heights Park District 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. Discussion

President Mangiaracina made a formal statement as followed: Over the last 3 months I have been meeting with the park district staff on a regular basis to determine the needs of the park district. Upon the previous park board majority and previous Park District Superintendent financial miss management, wasteful contracts, and expensive political **prarieism** has plagued the district. I want this current board to restore the financial health and integrity of our park district and that is why I am recommending hiring David Gonzalez, a former Park District Superintendent, and a Certified Public Accountant, who's expertise will only cost taxpayers only \$1,000 annually, compared to over the \$120,000 under the previous Superintendent. David Gonzalez was former Park District Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer from 1999 to 2007. During his tenure he negotiated a triparty agreement to with Prairie State College and St. James to build a fitness complex on Halsted. He negotiated the purchase of the West Golf Course and was able to get the state to pay ½ of the purchase price 1.5 million. I have asked David Gonzalez and he has agreed to step in as Superintendent and CFO approximately for 6 months until while the board searches for a long-term replacement. I want David Gonzalez to lead the vetting and training of a new superintendent and I'm asking for this board's approval on this appointment.

Motion: On a motion 5ILCS 120/5 (c) (1) to enter Executive session for Commissioner the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this act 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.

Executive Session: Chicago Heights Park District Board entered Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

Motion: Motion to reopen the Regular Board Meeting at 8:08 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.

Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. by Commissioner Straczek, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Baikauskas, Commissioner Straczek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Mangiaracina. Motion passed.

Secretary

Date