

**PARK DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 5, 2021**

The Board of Park Commissioners met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the Choice Health & Fitness community room, 4401 South 11th Street, at 5:00 p.m. with Vice-President LaDouceur presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present were Vice-President LaDouceur, Commissioners Bartholomew, Dvorak, and Kraft. President Skarperud was absent.

Park District staff in attendance were: Executive Director Palmiscno, Superintendent of Finance Hellyer, Choice Health & Fitness General Manager Orr, Community Relations & Marketing Manager Nelson, Facilities Manager Arola, Accounting Manager Lancaster, and Office Assistant Parker.

CITIZENS OR DELEGATES TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 1, 2020

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020, Board meeting. Commissioner Bartholomew seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

FOR DISCUSSION

Tax Increment Financing Update by City of Grand Forks

Todd Feland, City Administrator for the City of Grand Forks, informed the Board of four projects that are requesting tax increment financing. Feland stated the purpose of tax increment financing is to stimulate private investment within an area of the city that needs economic revitalization by reducing taxes on these projects for several years. The Park District does not get a vote in the approval process but follows the decision of the City of Grand Forks.

Hiring Committee Process for Executive Director

The Board agreed that all five Board commissioners will comprise the hiring committee for the next Executive Director. The Executive Director position will be advertised internally and then the Board will go over applicants at the next Board meeting on February 1, 2021. The application process will be opened first to internal applicants. If a qualified internal applicant is not found, then it will be opened to external applicants.

FOR ACTION

BMX New Site Construction Support

Danny Weigel, with the Red River BMX, informed the Board that they are considering changing locations and constructing a new BMX track. The new track would be located on the southwest corner of the Alerus Center parking lot adjacent to the interstate. Weigel updated the Board on the new location, the new track construction process, and the Red River BMX organization. Red River BMX is requesting financial support from the Park District for

construction of the new track. Staff is recommending providing financial support of \$10,000 from the Recreation Fund to Red River BMX to construct the new track.

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to provide \$10,000 from the Recreation Fund to Red River BMX for the construction of a new track at their new location southwest of the Alerus Center. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

Year End Transfers for Various 2020 Projects

Superintendent of Finance Hellyer reviewed the year end transfers for various 2020 items totaling \$911,000. Hellyer is recommending approval of transfers from C&B to Lincoln Golf Course for \$5,000 for drain tile on hole #5, from C&B to Choice Health & Fitness for \$16,000 for snow guards on the roof above the community room, from C&B to the General Fund for \$29,000 for LED lights at Purpur and Gambucci Arenas, from the General Fund to C&B for \$1,000 for excess expenses for signage/branding and \$160,000 for parking lot maintenance and new construction, and from the General Fund to Choice Health & Fitness for \$700,000 for 2020 budget shortfalls due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Bartholomew made a motion to approve the year end transfers for various 2020 items as presented. Commissioner Dvorak seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

Designate Bank Depositories

Hellyer stated that every January the Park District designates the banks depositories that will be used to meet ND Century Code requirements. He recommended using the bank depositories as presented.

Commissioner Kraft made a motion to approve the bank depositories as presented. Commissioner Bartholomew seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Hellyer reviewed the November 2020 financial reports. Vendor payments for November 2020 were \$1,874,776.57.

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion to approve the financial report for November 2020. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.

STAFF REPORTS

Facilities Manager Arola stated that all outdoor rinks are open as of January 4th. Hockey tournaments have started and are scheduled for every weekend until April. Skating lessons will resume on January 7th.

Community Relations & Marketing Manager Nelson stated Giving Hearts Day donations for 2021 will be directed to the Northern Valley Law Enforcement Memorial. The Veterans Memorial Park dedication and grand opening has been postponed until the fall of 2021. This years Blizzard Bash will be on January 18th and the Greenway Ski Days will be on February 6th. Nelson is requesting approval from the Board to pursue fundraising for a destination playground, next to the Alerus Center near the Red River BMX track, only if a Children's Museum is constructed at the location. The general consensus from the Board was to proceed.

Choice Health & Fitness General Manager Orr presented to the Board the December membership numbers which show visits are down 23% from last year at this time. Winter programs have started this week. City League Basketball has been cancelled this year since we are unable to use the school district's facilities. The Adult Grand Am Basketball Tournament that is scheduled for March may also be cancelled due to lack of facilities. The Governor has signed an executive order changing the COVID-19 level to yellow effective on Friday morning. Policy changes will include allowing guests in the facility, workout times increase to two hours, two people are allowed per lane in the lap pool, and 3 on 3 basketball resumes. Vice-President LaDouceur inquired on the reasons for not providing cycling classes. Orr stated the reasons are due to the guidelines regarding spacing requirements between participants and room capacity, and mask policies.

Hellyer stated that the Park District received a \$75,000 hospitality economic resiliency grant. The Park District also received over \$165,000 from FEMA for Forestry expenses incurred for tree clean up after the October 2019 winter storm. Hellyer stated that several bonds are available for refunding/refinancing at favorable interest rates allowing for significant interest savings and that more information will be provided at a future Board meeting. Hellyer stated that the Forestry department has implemented a new tree plotting software and has located over 31,000 trees in the Park District system on berms and parks.

Executive Director Palmiscno informed the Board that the Knight for a Princess event has postponed and rescheduled to April 23rd and 24th. Palmiscno stated there is a group interested in fundraising for Eagles Arena improvements of over \$1,000,000. The group will present their vision and ideas at the February Board meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

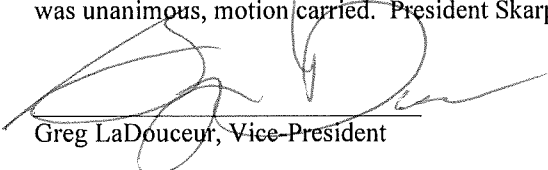
Commissioner Dvorak stated he was impressed by the large number of people using Riverside Park over the weekend.


Commissioner Bartholomew inquired on the issues with the new hockey cameras in the arenas. Arola stated they are installed but not working correctly. Issues include losing internet signal, being shut down for music copyright infringement claims from YouTube, and hardware issues. Programming the cameras has also been an issue and he is working with the camera manufacture to resolve.

The Board decided to move the February Board meeting to Monday, February 1st, at 5:00 p.m. This change was due to a scheduling conflict.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dvorak made a motion at 6:12 p.m. to adjourn. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried. President Skarperud was absent.


Greg LaDouceur, Vice-President


Bill Palmiscno, Executive Director and Clerk