

COLOMA TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 11, 2016

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Coloma Township Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6pm in the Park District Office located at 508 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Rock Falls, Illinois.

Present: Commissioners, Walker, Sigel, Bubbers, and Stindt  
Absent: Nehrkorn (deceased)  
Also Present: Michael P. Sterba, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Commissioner Stindt motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 14, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Bubbers seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Commissioner Stindt motioned to approve the September 2016 bills in the following amounts:

Corporate Fund	\$	\$176,858.50
Liability Fund		2,936.19
Recreation Fund		3,257.24
Retirement Fund		3,294.64
Bond Construction Fund #34		27,717.10
Museum Fund		1,263.41
Police fund		4,043.35
Total	\$	219,370.43

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The following is a listing of the Work Fare People from Coloma Township, Whiteside County Probation Office, Project Chance, Department of Human Services, Experience Works and Partnership for Employment that has worked for us the past month. Also included are total days worked in September and in 2016.

	Coloma TWP	Best	Probation Dept.	Whiteside County Housing	Dept. Human Services	Worker's Comp	Partners/ Employment
Days in August	0	0	18	0	0	0	0
Days in 2016	78	0	37.25	0	0	0	0

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a letter sent to Mayor Wescott and the City of Rock Falls City Council thanking them for their partnership with the park district in regards to the installation of the new LED street lights in Centennial Park. The project is all but finished in a sense that 48 of the new heads are installed and operational. The only 4 that are not in place are in the commissioner's garden, and that is due to the poles requiring the new heads have a different sleeve. The sleeve is the same size as the light fixtures. Brad has ordered new sleeves to go on both the poles and the bottom of the light fixtures so that they will adapt to each other. He hopes to do that as soon as possible, which will complete the project in full. We will then request our \$1000 for the energy grant from the Illinois Municipal League and that project for all intents and purposes will be complete. Sterba thinks it has been a great project for the park district. If you have been out at the park at night you would see the park has more illumination, which makes it safer for all concerned. The total cost of the project is not quite known due to the fact that we have not received a final bill from the City of Rock Falls electric department for the second phase. As we know we will still have to pay for the materials with the labor being thrown in by the City of Rock Falls.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported there was nothing new since the last Park Board Meeting in regards to the Dillon Park ball diamond lights and the Dillon Foundation Grant.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that there was nothing new in regards to the Jerry Celletti Memorial monument in Centennial Park. As reported by Commissioner Sigel last month, it looks like the final dedication of the monument will occur in the spring 2017.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that as we all know Centennial Park had some unrealistic flooding in the last few weeks. However, now it appears the heavy rains have subsided and the pumps have finally caught up to where the lagoon is basically, back in its banks. We are hoping that in the very near future we can continue to plan the installation of the abutments for the foot bridge. Again, we will be testing to see what kind of water problems we are going to have in regards to the high water table in Centennial Park. In the meantime, we are going to monitor the situation and keep the park board informed of any future plans in regards to the new pedestrian foot bridge.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported there was nothing new since the last park board meeting in regards to the Rock Falls Trail Committee. As you may recall from the last board meeting, we talked about the city creating four different trails of different lengths in and around the city for locals and visitors to enjoy. Those four trails have not yet been established, but are in the works. Once they are finally established proper signage will be placed along the trails so that individual walkers can know not only the distance they will be traveling, but also in what direction.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that as you may recall the park board tabled any discussion in regards to replacing former commissioner, Donny Nehrkorn, on the Park Board. The board tabled any action to the October board meeting so that a thorough discussion could be conducted in regards to the direction the park board wants to take. After a long discussion among the park board members, Commissioner Bubbers motioned to not appoint any individual to the park board at this time to replace the deceased park board member, Donny Nehrkorn. The board chose to let any and all applicants take out election petitions and to face the general public at the election in April 2017. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba has been in touch with Rock Falls Police Chief Tammy Nelson in regards to the problem we have been experiencing at Bowman Park. Sterba informed her about the problem in regards to individuals spending the night there, drinking alcohol, and urinating around the shelter. She was not aware that we do not have security on throughout the night. Chief Nelson recommended we let the Rock Falls Police Department handle any problems that we may have due to them not only having the authority, but the insurance to protect them from any future problems. Nelson told Sterba to make sure our people call the police whenever we have a problem and they will respond and give out warnings to individuals breaking the ordinance of the park district. Nelson said, continued violations of the park district ordinance will allow them to issue citations so that they have to appear in what is called the Remediation Court, held in Sterling and Rock Falls on a monthly basis. This court is similar to going to court in Morrison, but basically without a formal judge. If the defendant is found guilty, he/she will pay a fine each month as an ordinance fine rather than a criminal conviction. Each violation raises the fine so that eventually we hope that the individuals will get the message. At this time, Sterba recommends that we follow the police chief's recommendation and not issue out our own no trespassing notices to individuals breaking our ordinances. After a short discussion among the park board the board chose to accept the recommendation of both Director Mike Sterba and Rock Falls Police Chief Tammy Nelson.

The park board conducted a short discussion in regards to the trespassing problem and chose to put a closing time on all of the parks within the district. Commissioner Walker motioned to close all of the Coloma Township Park District sites at 11:00pm central standard time year round. Commissioner Stindt seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to sell not to exceed \$270,000 General Obligation Park Bonds for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for building, maintaining, improving and protecting any of the same and the existing land and facilities of the district and for the payment of expenses incident thereto. Tonight a public hearing is to be held for the park district sale of \$270,000 worth of non-referendum bonds to be issued on December 1, 2016. As you can see by the heading provided by the attorneys Chapman and Cutler is the legal terminology we need to issue the bonds. After the public hearing the board will authorize to have the bonds put out for bid which will be brought back at the November Park Board meeting. At that meeting the Park Board will hopefully accept the low bid of the local banks with the issuance of the bonds to be on December 1, 2016. Commissioner Bubbers motioned to open the public hearing in regards to the sale of \$270,000 of General Obligation Park Bonds. Commissioner Stindt seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motioned carried. President Sigel then called for a discussion on the park bonds and asked for any pros or cons in regards to the issuance of the bonds. Hearing no comments from those in attendance, President Sigel then called for the closing of the public hearing. Commissioner Walker then made a motion to close the public hearing as suggested. Commissioner Stindt seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Commissioner Bubbers, after a short discussion Commissioner Bubbers motioned to put out for bid the sale of \$270,000 of Non-Referendum Bonds to be issued on December 1, 2016. These will be due at 5:00pm on November 8, 2016 as presented in the documents. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Park District has not yet received a personal property tax distribution for the month of August or September from the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$356 from the Illinois Public Risk Fund. The check represents a successful grant application for securing additional park maintenance equipment for our workers. The park district received a list of approved equipment that could be purchased with their dollars. The park district purchased a backpack leaf blower for our maintenance operation with the grant fund.

Director Michael P. Sterba has received materials from the Whiteside County Clerk in regards to the park district elections that will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. As we all know we have one spot up for reelection that was the former Donny Nehrkorn's. Whoever chooses to run for the park board will be running for a full six year term. The packets are currently ready for any and all candidates that may be interested in the spot on the park board.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that IAPD/IPRA annual state conference will be held Thursday through Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Chicago Hilton. Anyone interested in attending should let Sterba know so he can make the appropriate reservations. Enclosed please find the preconference brochure for the Park Boards review.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of the letter addressed to the Dillon Foundation requesting our annual Bowman Park Donation.

Director Michael P. Sterba was fortunate enough to attend the Dedication of the Wahl Clipper World Headquarters in Sterling in recent weeks as part of the United Way gala. Sterba would suggest to anyone that if they have the opportunity to tour the facility they should do so, it is absolutely amazing. They have installed the latest technology as well as creature comforts for all concerned. There is also a small museum in the Wahl Headquarters dating way back to the turn of the 1900's in regards to how Wahl was able to get started on the world market. They currently have 8 manufacturing plants in the world with 6 distribution centers on 4 different continents. Greg Wahl, the current CEO of Wahl Clipper, was there that night greeting people and talking about his vision for Wahl Clipper and where they are going to go in the future. Our local community is very fortunate to have individuals that still believe their local community deserves to retain their jobs and not try to take facilities like this to major cities like Chicago or New York.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a letter from the Whiteside County Collector. The letter outlines a deposit of \$198,360.44 to the park district's general corporate fund. The deposit is the fourth real estate tax distribution for 2016. These funds will be distributed among the park districts 12 accounts by the bookkeeper as required by law.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$250 from U.S. Bank. The check represents the Fall 2016 recreation program brochure sponsorship.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$200 from Wheelock Furniture in Rock Falls. The check represents the sponsorship of the Todd McThenia memorial tennis tournament held recently in Centennial Park.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$500 from IPARKS. The check represents a successful grant application made for the purchase of soft surface material that was installed under the playground equipment at AAL shelter in Centennial Park.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$862.34 from the Erie Insurance Exchange. The check represents payment for damage done to the fence at the Northeast corner of the playground at Optimist Park. This check was paid by Erie Insurance who covered the individual's vehicle who drove through the fence.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of the IPARKS Fall 2016 newsletter for the park board's review. IPARKS of course is the park districts insurance carrier and represents literally hundreds of park districts throughout Illinois.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at approximately 7 o'clock am Crystal Lake Fisheries did a trout drop in Centennial Park of approximately 1,200 pounds of golden and rainbow trout. The trout were paid for by the IDNR as part of their fishing program throughout the state. Trout season in Illinois is scheduled to open on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5am in Centennial Park. Trout drops are done twice annually in Centennial Park, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. The Daily Gazette was also present for the trout drop and featured 3 pictures in the Gazette on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a thank you letter from Betty Clementz. Betty Clementz handled the Power of the Purse fundraiser for United Way. Power of the Purse pays for books to youngsters from 0 through 5 years of age. The Dolly Parton Foundation provides those books locally throughout the entire country.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented the 2015/2016 annual treasury report of receipts and disbursements for the park board's review. The report notice is put in the daily Gazette notifying the public that the report is available for public inspection as required by law.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented his monthly Directors report to the Board.

IPRA also sent us their monthly Meeting Minutes for our review.

The Park District has received weekly newsletters from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce for our new review.

Commissioner Walker motioned to adjourn the Park Board Meeting. Commissioner Bubbers seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 6:00 at the Park District Office located at 508 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Rock Falls, Illinois 61071.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM

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Minutes Submitted by  
Michael P. Sterba  
Director of Parks & Recreation

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Date

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Donald E. Stindt, Secretary  
Coloma Township Park District  
Board of Commissioners