

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

Call to Order

President Gunsteen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call

Executive Director, Kevin Romejko, called for roll. Commissioners answering present were: Diana Gunsteen, Theodore J. Lewis, Stephen Eckelberry, Lori Palmer, Susan Stocks, and Dale Ann Kasuba. Commissioner Jody Fagan was absent.

Staff members present were: Executive Director, Kevin Romejko; Superintendent of Recreation, Kimberly Dasbach; Superintendent of Parks and Planning, Kelly O'Brien; Superintendent of Business Services, Eric Leninger; Superintendent of Special Facilities, Katie Mix; Superintendent of Villa Olivia, Bobby Pierobon, and Executive Assistant; Maureen Carter.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Gunsteen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Gunsteen informed the Board, all items appearing on a consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board and shall be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately. Mr. Eckelberry motioned to approve of the consent agenda as presented, Ms. Kasuba seconded. **Motion Passed.**

Public Comment

None

Monthly Treasurer's Report, Mr. Eckelberry, Chairperson

Mr. Eckelberry presented the Monthly Treasurer's Report for November 2024. Mr. Eckelberry motioned to approve the monthly Treasurer Report as presented, Ms. Stocks seconded. **Motion Passed.** Commissioners discussed moving the Treasurer's Report to the consent agenda for future meetings.

Finance Committee, Mr. Eckelberry, Chairperson

Ordinance 24-07 Annual Tax Levy

Mr. Eckelberry presented Ordinance 24-07 Annual Tax Levy that was reviewed at the December Committee Workshop meeting. Mr. Eckelberry motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Palmer. Ms. Gunsteen asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gunsteen, Lewis, Eckelberry, Palmer, Stocks, Kasuba

Nays: None

Absent: Fagan

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Purchase Orders Between \$6,000 and \$20,000

Mr. Eckelberry shared the purchase orders between \$6,000 and \$20,000 from September 2024 to November 2024. Finance Committee recommended approval and Mr. Eckelberry motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Kasuba. **Motion Passed.**

Planning Committee, Mr. Lewis, Chairperson

Approval of Bid for Sunrise Park OSLAD Development

Mr. Lewis reminded the Board, five bid proposals were opened for the Sunrise Park OSLAD Development project on December 3rd, 2024 and reviewed at the December Committee Workshop meeting. Planning Committee requests approval to hire Hacienda Landscape Inc. and include alternates one through four. The total bid, including the alternates, comes to \$1,171,223. Mr. Lewis motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Eckelberry. **Motion Passed.**

Building and Grounds Committee, Ms. Stocks, Chairperson

No Report

Recreation Committee, Ms. Fagan, Chairperson

No Report

Special Facilities Committee, Ms. Kasuba, Chairperson

No Report

Villa Olivia Committee, Ms. Palmer, Chairperson

No Report

Personnel Committee, Ms. Palmer, Chairperson

No Report

Community Relations and Legislative Issues Committee, Ms. Gunsteen, Chairperson

No Report

Executive Director's Report, Mr. Romejko

Park Foundation's 2025 Raise Your Glass Fundraiser

Mr. Romejko informed the Board, Bartlett Parks Foundation's 2025 Raise Your Glass Fundraiser will be held on February 28th at Villa Olivia. Tickets are available on the Foundation website and staff is collecting donations for silent auction baskets.

Superintendent of Recreation Report, Ms. Dasbach

Astronomy Starry Nights Program

Ms. Dasbach shared the Nature Center is excited to welcome Peggy Hernandez, former U-46 Planetarium Director with over 30 years of experience, to our team of instructors. Ms. Hernandez will be facilitating monthly astronomy classes at the Nature Center beginning in January. Ms. Kasuba asked if these classes will be information only or if participants will be looking at the sky. Ms. Dasbach confirmed the classes will be outside so participants can view the planets that will be discussed. The first class will be on Venus and Saturn.

Superintendent of Parks and Planning Report, Ms. O'Brien

Holiday Décor

Ms. O'Brien provided pictures of some of the holiday décor around the District. Parks Department staff enjoyed creating outdoor festive holiday décor including the log train, wooden reindeer and new lollipops. Staff creates all of the decorations from reused items or things found in nature and are already thinking of new ideas for next year.

Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Leninger

IMRF 2025 Calendar Year Employer Rate

Mr. Leninger explained the finalized IMRF employer contribution rate was released earlier this month and will be 7.00% for 2025, a slight increase from last year's rate of 6.70%. This is the first increase in several years and the District's rate remains historically low.

Superintendent of Special Facilities, Ms. Mix
LIFECENTER Update

Ms. Mix reported LIFECENTER is hosting its “Fitmas Race to Christmas” challenge designed to encourage members to participate in group fitness classes from November 11 to December 23. For every three classes attended, members earn an entry into a drawing for a \$25 gift card and two personal training sessions. LIFECENTER has also introduced new indoor track pass options which include one, three, and six month passes.

Superintendent of Villa Olivia, Mr. Pierobon
Winter Sports Orientation

Mr. Pierobon stated orientation was held on December 7th and 11th for 142 new and returning winter sports staff. Winter sports staff include ski and snowboard instructors, equipment rental staff, tow operators, and office personnel. Mr. Pierobon then explained the plans for opening the ski hills. To combat the anticipated warmer temperatures, staff has been making snow and keeping it in large piles on the hill. Tomorrow staff plans to push out the snow throughout the hill and continue to make more snow while holding off opening the hills until December 26th. Pushing the opening date from December 20th to December 26th will give staff more time to focus on making a stronger base of snow.

Old Business

Ms. Gunsteen asked about the minimum wage increase scheduled to take affect January 1, 2025. Mr. Leninger confirmed this is the last increase included in the Minimum Wage Act and staff has already updated pay for employees who will be affected by this increase. Additional increases have been made to other pay rates in an attempt to avoid pay compression.

New Business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Gunsteen asked to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Eckelberry made a motion, and Mr. Lewis seconded. **Motion Passed at 7:48 PM.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on January 28, 2025.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary