

Justice Park District
Board of Commissioners
Special Board Meeting
Held via conference video due to Covid-19
Call in: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 873-7344-6761 **Password:** 305836
February 22, 2021
6:00pm

This meeting is being conducted electronically and remotely. Anyone who wishes to make a Public Comment to the Board can provide a written statement: and drop it off in person by 4:00 p.m. on 2/16/2021 at the Drop Box located at the Park District at 7747 Oak -Grove Ave Justice, IL 60458

1. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance:

B. Roll Call Noyes, Longi, Bernardoni and Sutera – Present Cerny – Not Present

C. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda Motion – Noyes -2nd- Bernardoni 4/0 Pass

D. Approval of minutes for January 27, 2021 meeting Motion- Bernardoni 2nd Sutera 3/0

Pass – Longi was not at this meeting

2. Public Comment: NONE

3. Treasurer Report: January 2021– Treasurer will report.

A. Cash Disbursements /Warrants Listing \$9,974.16 – Motion – Longi 2nd – Sutera 4/0
Pass

B. Payroll \$8,067.90 Motion-Noyes 2nd-Longi 4/0 Pass

Bernardoni – Do we have plans to close that Midwest account? Everything should be reconciled. Vallez – Yes, by the end of the month. Benardoni- savings and checking Vallez-Yes, must get the county know we are going to using a new bank account. Bernardoni – Debit cards still being used at Midwest verse the new bank – Vallez Yes, will check on it.

4. Staff Report:

A. Recreation Director Report –

Covid 19: moving to a more open situation – no impact on us due to the size of the room. 50% capacity or 25% whichever is less. Park programs happening. Summertime we will still allow soccer programs, social distancing, mask wearing ext. Outdoor recreation really did not change. Basketball courts? Bernardoni – Limit participants? No game nothing competitive. Sutera – Keep the courts locked. The kids need to give with ids. Vallez - Maybe we can make kids make a reservation? Time limits?

Programs: Martial arts does not what to start until April. Music Piano 4 out of 4 spots, Violin, 3 out of 4 spots. Dance starting sometime in March. 2 Yoga classes 6 to 7 per class. Dog training 1 spot – Arts and Crafts 5 spots – Painting class for adults Saturday time slot. Bernardoni – Is this every Saturday class or is this the Valentines craft, I have not seen promotion for it. Vallez – Will investigate it. Bernardoni - District 109 has a very strong orchestra Vallez – The struggle is storing equipment. Bernardoni Instruments are rented through Quin and Fabish. Bernardoni heard there will be brochures going out this spring – Vallez – No, digital version just in case of cancellation.

Senior Programming: Starting in March

Snow Removal: We have been struggling with snow removal. The gator is going into John Deere for a tune up.

Building: Small roof leak at the front door

Website/Email Address: We are set up to start. We purchased a new website jpd4fun.com as well as emails. Holding out hope for Go Daddy – only way to communicate is through email. At this point we need to move forward. Bernardoni – How much was invested for jpd4fun.com Vallez \$12.00. Bernardoni – a discussion it sounds like a bouncy house rental

company verses a Park District to me. Vallez – We can just purchase another one. Sutera – Agrees with Bernardoni – jpd? Jpdparks? Noyes- We should have something with the name Justice verses JDP. People are going to search Justice not JPD. Vallez- We already bought Justiceparkdistrict.com. Bernardoni – Agrees with Noyes would like it to look more official. Vallez – let me see what is available.

Entertainment: Spoke with the stage and lighting people about rental for the Car Show. The 2nd half of summer will start the festivals – with respect to lighting an stage to throw a deposit down. Sutera – I spoke with village, waiting until after the election – but, more than likely will have it. Longi -Dates for this? Vallez- picking 2 dates 20th and 27th. Noyes – Can we have something for the children? Vallez – Sure in the village parking lot – We can figure something out. Segregating the parking lot for the children? Bouncy house is out – ask amusement companies on what they think so we can stay within Covid 19 guidelines. Bernardoni – Utilize local stables if we were to have ponies. Vallez – Will call local stables. Vallez – Are all ok with putting deposits down on lighting, stag, entertainment ext – Yes all-in agreement.

Vallez – My contract is up in end of this year. Development of any organization there comes a time you move in a different direction. You are elevating whatever you are doing or changing based on circumstances. Some of the issues that occurred are no longer prevalent. The park district right now has a fund balance, close to twice the operating budget which is not really heard of. That is a very healthy financial situation to be in. With that being said I want to have a meeting with each Commissioner to talk about a transition moving forward from my leadership to a potential director. I can make some recommendations to you on how I think this organization should be structured. That would be up to you guys to determine if you would want to follow my recommendation. One thing that the Park District needs be aware of is the fund balance has been accumulating over 8-year period. The JPD does not have alot of revenue coming in. Any overspending for personal or along those lines large capital expenditure could out the Park District in a financial situation. You could have a low fund balance moving forward potentially be strapped for cash. That is a Commissioner decision – I only recommend and advise. Talking about myself transitioning out of the park district my contract is up on December 31, 2021. I wanted to do this prior to the election so it was not an election driven decision. So, after the election the new board can work on transition. Very important to the residents are getting the best moving forward.

Noyes – I think it is a real good idea Joe, I think the community wants to move forward and this is not saying anything bad about you. You have done a terrific job. They want to see a Park District ran with someone from the community where the director is on the job, 40 hours a week in the building. Vallez – I agree with you, I cannot play the day to day in Justice. I just cannot. I did not come for that. It was to fix finances and a few other things. Do not get too far ahead of yourself. I ended my contract with Marengo Park District on Jan 31. Sometimes Park Districts has different objectives and I know for Justice the objective was to straighten out the finances. When I came 10 years ago, they had less than \$20,000 in the bank, tremendous issues within the parks, and playgrounds needed to be re-funded. They still had a \$600,000 balance due on the golf range. They were in severe financial trouble. Moving forward I think the transition is a good idea. I cannot be the day to day in Justice. The board can decide whether they want hire director, a rec supervisor those types of things. I think it would be for the elected officials to decide what direction they want to go in. Noyes- Thank you for offering this conversation for us – cuts through a lot of the tension that has been going on recently. I owe Justice a Smooth transition. Noyes – When do you think by September to get someone in? Vallez – Justice does not have a lot of revenue coming in we have to be careful how much payroll you start picking up in a time you do not have a lot of revenue coming in. End of Summer to run a summer camp to bring in revenue as well as taxes coming in. You should have a good buffer. I am thinking around September.

Summer camp: Bernardoni: Do you foresee us running a summer camp that we will bring in significant revenue? Vallez .A summer camp under the guidelines. You can only have a camp with the size of campers you can safely fit if you have bad weather. 6 kids- 8 kids at the most. Years past 100 kids. We are not going to those years of 100 kids like the prior years. Younger campers may be more difficult may have to add another counselor which will cut into revenue. Bernardoni -Let make sure we revisit the Lyons Township Youth to cut down on costs. Vallez – Yes, I agree. Comfort level bringing kids in on a regular basis. Guidelines are driven on the rate. A lot are planning on summer camps 10 kids maximum with 4 supervisors that is doubling your costs. Are all the Commissioners ok with me contacting them individually? How does the board want to do this? Noyes- I think during our regular meeting. We can just throw questions out. Vallez next meeting we can open it. Bernardoni – We need to take in account after the election whatever board is sat is the board that will make those decisions.Vallez – My recommendations is to put together a transition plan that would be for consideration. March meeting we will talk deeper and you can compile questions.

A. Document Storage at Justice Park District – Ongoing process

B. Walking Path Repair, Spring, 2020 – possible grant from Springfield

C: Basketball Court Repair, Spring, 2020 – possible grant from Springfield

6. New business:

A. Board Meeting Dates for 2021 – Board Action - Bernardoni – We need to note the time of the meeting from 5pm – 6pm. Motion to include the time from 5pm to 6pm – Bernardoni. 2nd -Noyes 4/0 Pass.

B. PDRMA Statement Update – Finalized – Bernardoni- Small press release when will that go out? If website is still down - Why don't we just move forward with the press release. Vallez - Ok

C: Website and Emails Update

D: Hybrid Meeting Plan –A lot of other entities are doing, to give everyone an option. Certainly, if some Commissioners are more comfortable at home and some would like go into the building. If we are going to run programs but not go back to building as a board. Keeping in mind it is an option to call in. Vallez - What would happen if you get too many people in the room and stay within your guidelines. Cap off and direct them to call in which is fair – Vallez – contacting the lawyer to get legal. Bernardoni –Mr. Noyes?, Loie? Longi – size of the room and being limited get the lawyers opinion. Set numbers and makes sure the public understands. Bernardoni : A balance of both in person and zoom. Noyes- comfortable at home but agrees with hybrid option. Giving the community a chance to be there if they want. Seniors are not comfortable on Zoom.

8. Executive Session:

9. New Business from Executive Session:

10: Adjournment: 6:51pm Motion – Bernardoni, 2nd – Noyes 4/0 Pass