

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF DECATUR PARK
DISTRICT, MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD AT
DECATUR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
620 E. RIVERSIDE AVENUE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS
AT 12:00 NOON ON THE 4th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Decatur Park District, Macon County, Illinois, met in a regular session on Wednesday, the 4th of September, 2024 at the hour of 12:00 p.m. at the Decatur Park District Administration Office, 620 E. Riverside Avenue, Decatur, Illinois at which time and place there were present the following officers and members of said Board:

Dr. Kristin White, President
Chris Harrison, Vice President
Shelith Hansbro, Commissioner
Stacey Young, Commissioner
Bob Brilley, II, Commissioner

A quorum of the members of the Board of Park Commissioners being present, President Dr. White called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

NO. 16356 A motion to approve items 1-2 on the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Hansbro and seconded by Commissioner Young. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

1. Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Bills for Approval

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CULTURAL ARTS STAFF AND GOLF STAFF

Recreation Director, Jamie Gower congratulated Megan Dickerson, Cultural Arts Manager and Alexis Riley, Cultural Arts Supervisor as well as their staff for the numerous accomplishments they have made this past year. They developed 7 unique events with more than 28 performances including music, dance and theater. The Arts Jamboree brought in more than 1,500 people. Best of Summer Stock (BOSS) had 175 participants and the program has grown so large that for the first time staff offered BOSS Kids K-2, BOSS Jr. 3rd – 5th and BOSS Sr. 6th – 12th. Arts staff are also heavily involved with the Special Recreation programming which now have Heart & Soul choir, Heart & Soul in Motion and Heart & Soul on Stage. Director Gower noted that the dance program enrollment has went from 226 in 2021-2022 to 406 in 2023-2024. The work and dedication of the Cultural Arts Staff does not go unnoticed. Megan thanked everyone for helping to keep the Arts alive. It is a team effort!

Executive Director, Clay Gerhard recognized Golf Manager, Ben Irwin and golf staff. Over the last 5 years pro shop sales have increased almost 100%. Nearly 80% of the increase has

been in the last 2 years alone. In addition to this increase margins have risen almost 50% and bottom line is 3X what it was 5 years ago. Part of this is attributed to an increase in golf rounds during the same time period. A large part of this improvement is due to improved inventory and pro shop management. Bens' recommendation for the pro shops to become Lululemon distributors became a huge factor. In just the first year of sales the Lululemon merchandise sold over \$35, 000. Kudos to the entire golf staff! Ben thanked everyone and added it is a team effort with lots of support from Clay, Kristin, Gabby, Andy and all golf staff.

DISCUSSION OF UPDATED REPLACEMENT TAX REVENUE ESTIMATES

CFO Kristin Sowa gave the update on the replacement tax revenue estimates. The Decatur Park District recently received the Illinois Department of Revenue's Fiscal Year 2025 Estimate for Replacement Taxes. Their estimate for the upcoming fiscal year is significantly less than the previous two years. Kristin went on to discuss the language that they provided explaining the reduction as well as the spreadsheet that reflected the historical annual replacement tax revenues adjusted for FY24-25 updates and how it will impact the Decatur Park Districts financials. Fortunately, the district errs on the side of being conservative when budgeting for replacement taxes in the event there were drastic reductions. The board of commissioners had several questions and discussed the information received.

RECREATION Fall programs have begun as well as adult softball leagues.

Grandparents' Day at Scovill Zoo will be Sunday, September 8th. Grandparents will receive free admission with a paying child or adult.

Splash Cove season has wrapped up.

Staff are preparing for the first Trees on the Tees meeting September 5th.

The Devon had a busy weekend with three great shows in a row. Casting Crowns, KC and The Sunshine Band and Larger Than Life Boy Band Tribute. This coming weekend Southern Accents a tribute to Tom Petty will perform on Friday and Free Movie Night will be Saturday featuring the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie. Ticket sales for Lauren Alaina are going good.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS The first shipment of the netting supports for the Scovill Zoo Puma Exhibit are on site and being installed. Concrete is due to be poured by the end of this week.

Scovill Park West Activity Center roof, downspouts and gutters are now complete.

The challenge course equipment has been installed at Fairview Park. The climbing Vista Twist Tower footings are installed and the assembling for the tower has begun with over 1,000 pieces.

Garfield Park is moving along as expected. The perimeter landscape timbers have been installed by Decatur Park District Staff. Garfield Phase I bids are due September 9th.

The DISC Golf room completion date looks to be approximately 3-4 weeks.

AIRPORT Enplanements as of August are 1,058. Last year numbers where 990.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles event will be September 21st.

FOUNDATION Save the date for Zoorific on September 21st. Sponsorships are still available.

MARKETING The new website is up and going. Marketing staff continue to pursue Trees on Tees sponsors and Boo at the Zoo sponsors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR was happy to announce the promotion of Russ Bodine, Project Manager for the Decatur Park District. Russ has now been promoted to Director of Operations and will manage the Parks Division.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hansbro Thank you to the staff!

Commissioner Young is looking forward to seeing more of the staff to acknowledge them as well. The office landscaping and windows look great!

Commissioner Harrison Considering where golf was 5 years ago it is great to hear how much improvement has been made. Kudos to golf staff and to Russ on his promotion.

Commissioner Young made and Commissioner Harrison seconded a motion that the meeting adjourn. All voted aye and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:49 p.m.

/s/ Melanie Moore
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners

/s/ Dr. Kristin White
President, Board of Park Commissioners