

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

October 22, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS:

Anthony Serna, President
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President
Valda Lewis, Secretary
Alberto Cantu
Eugene Austin

STAFF:

Courtnee Dinkins
Dawn Dawkins-Legal
Mayra Acosta

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Anthony Serna, Valda Lewis,
Gilberto Cantu, Eugene Austin,
Rick Rodriguez.

Staff Present: Dawn Dawkins, Legal Counsel
Courtnee Dinkins, Recording Secretary
Mayra Acosta, Park & Recreation Director

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

MR. SERNA: First thing, I would
entertain a motion to approve meeting minutes of October
8, 2019. Entertain a motion to approve.
Motion to approve minutes of October 8, 2019 made by
Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

Next, approval of payroll dated
October 18, 2019. Entertain a motion to approve payroll
dated October 18, 2019.
Motion to approve payroll made by Valda Lewis. Second
by Rick Rodriguez.

MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

1 (All signify aye.)

2 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

3 Next, approval of Warrant Report
4 102219PB, in the amount of \$33,109.87. Entertain a
5 motion to approve warrant report.

6 Motion to approve Warrant Report 102219PB made by Rick
7 Rodriguez. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

8 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
9 saying aye?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

12 Next, under Old Business, Nipsco
13 claim. Counsel, have you heard anything from Nipsco?

14 MS. DAWKINS: I haven't, but I sent them
15 an aerial photo, because the whole issue -- from what
16 they presented to me -- was the location. So I sent
17 them an aerial photo letting them see where the Park's
18 actual office business is and the Greenhouse behind, I
19 forwarded that on to them. So I think -- hopefully --
20 that will suffice. I'm going to continue to harass.

21 MR. SERNA: Please, do. Maybe we can
22 finally get this claim settled. Madame Secretary, if
23 you would leave this under Old Business, hopefully we'll
24 hear something in the next two weeks.

25 Moving on to New Business, Mayra.

MS. ACOSTA: First item that I have is
actually the Kawaan Short Charities. They actually want
to donate gifts to the kids at the community centers.

MR. SERNA: I read the proposal. And,
Board members, if you had an opportunity to look at your
packets, the proposal by Kawaan Short Charities, they
are asking to put a wish tree up in each recreation
center from December 2nd through the 12th, and then they
will pick them up on the 13th. And they are looking for
-- I think -- a total of 20 children to distribute gifts
to. They have a \$30 budget for each child, so that's
\$600 they are looking to spend. And they would also
like to have a small invite only event, either
December 20th or 21st, for the children and one parent,
at one of the rec centers -- which Mayra will
determine -- serve light snacks and the gifts passed

1 out at that time. So do you have any questions, Board
members, on this proposal?

2 MS. LEWIS: So -- no question -- it says
3 20 gifts per center.

4 MR. SERNA: Okay. So then it's 20
5 footballs to each center. So \$600 per center that they
are going to be spending. And how many centers, do you
know, that they want to use?

6 MS. ACOSTA: Six.

7 MR. SERNA: All six. That's good. So,
8 \$3600 that they are budgeting for this. Any other
questions? (None) I'll entertain a motion to approve
9 the proposal with the Kawaan Short Charities for the
Christmas gift give away.

10 Motion to approve Kawaan Short Charities proposal made
11 by Valda Lewis. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

12 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

15 Next, we have the fees for the
Greenhouse and the agreement -- the Winter Agreement.
16 This is something that we talked about, but if you want
to explain it a little bit, Mayra.

17 MS. ACOSTA: So this is new. The one
last time was for the Greenhouse staff to come do like
18 pots or landscaping. This one is actually for housing.
So there is a lot of employees or departments that would
19 have plants they have planted during the summer, they
want to store them somewhere during the winter months.
20 So this is for us to store those for them.

21 MR. SERNA: Would this be open to the
public as well?

22 MS. ACOSTA: No, we don't have enough
23 room for that.

24 MR. SERNA: This is only for departments?

25 MS. ACOSTA: It's internal. Departments,

1 as well as City employees.

2 MR. SERNA: Okay. I know I have a lot of
3 plants at my house. We actually bought a grow light,
4 fluorescent black light for the basement of our house.
5 This could be something that we could use. So
6 employees, like the plants at my house, this is for
7 employees' plants?

8 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

9 MR. SERNA: And Board members, of course,
10 as well?

11 MS. ACOSTA: Right.

12 MR. SERNA: Looking at this, you have two
13 options on the housing fees. One is \$25 for the season,
14 for two-and-a-half foot by five-foot bench space, and
15 the department, if it's fire department storing, they
16 would have to water the plants. And that's \$25 for
17 two-and-a-half by five-foot bench space. And \$100 you
18 you will have the Greenhouse staff water and groom,
19 except for repotting, fertilizing soil, pesticides; you
20 want to charge an additional fee for that.

21 MS. ACOSTA: Right.

22 MR. SERNA: Then you also have the
23 agreement, and this agreement would be signed between
24 the department, or employee, and the Parks and Rec
25 Department?

MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

MR. SERNA: Would you be signing off on
this?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

MR. SERNA: Or one of your -- maybe your
assistant, or Hilda, or you, signing off on this?

MS. ACOSTA: It will be myself and
whoever -- whatever department or individual.

MR. SERNA: Okay. Board members, do you
have any questions? (None) The Agreement is pretty self
explanatory. So, I will entertain a motion to approve

1 the Greenhouse housing fees and the Greenhouse bench
space Agreement.

2 Motion to approve Greenhouse Housing and Bench Space
3 Agreement made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Rick
Rodriguez.

4 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
5 saying aye?

6 (All signify aye.)

7 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

8 MS. ACOSTA: Next one is approval for the
9 fees for the skating rink. They are the same as last
year, so there was no increase. The only difference is
10 that last year we did not have walkers, and at the end
of last year we got a large donation from BP. We got
\$10,000, which we used for those walkers.

11 MR. SERNA: You mean for babies or
12 adults?

13 MS. ACOSTA: For adults and children.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What is a walker?

15 MS. ACOSTA: I submitted a copy. They
walk on the ice, like for those that don't know how to
16 ice skate or need extra help. We are proposing a dollar
rental for the walker.

17 MR. SERNA: And the hours are the same,
18 Thursday and Friday 3 to 8; Saturday and Sunday, 11 to
8?

19 MS. ACOSTA: Everything is the same.

20 MR. SERNA: Any questions on the fees for
21 the skating rink and the fees for the walker rental?

22 MR. CANTU: I want to know, are these
walkers mostly for senior citizens or people who are not
23 seniors?

24 MS. ACOSTA: It's for everyone, adult and
children, whoever needs help ice skating.

25

1 MR. CANTU: I was wondering if you are
going to charge the senior citizens, that's why I say.
2 The young people, some of them come in and start playing
with them.

3 MR. SERNA: You have staff on-site
4 watching, so nobody gets wild with anything in there,
right?

5 MS. ACOSTA: Right. Right. Plus we are
6 going to ask for their driver's license as well, to make
sure we get them back.

7 MR. SERNA: Okay. Any further questions?
8 (None) All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve
the skating rink at MacArthur Park, the skating fees,
9 rental fees for skates and the walker rental.
10 Motion to approve rentals at MacArthur Park Skating Rink
made by Eugene Austin. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

11 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
12 saying aye?

13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

15 MS. ACOSTA: Next item is rental of the
16 concession stand over at MacArthur for the skating
season. Last year Freda's Cafe had the rental space.
17 She wasn't interested this year. We reached out to Mo
Poppin, they are interested in renting the space this
18 year. They were the one that rented space at Washington
pool and they did a pretty good job. They were always
there.

19 MR. SERNA: Okay. And same fee, just
20 like last year, that Freda's paid?

21 MS. ACOSTA: Same fee as last year.

22 MR. SERNA: Any questions on that Board
members? (None) I'll entertain a motion to approve the
23 concession fee rental with Mo Poppin at the ice skating
rink.

24 Motion to approve concession rental made by Valda Lewis.
25 Second by Rick Rodriguez.

1 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

4 MS. ACOSTA: Next one is the Board of
5 Elections, they are requesting use of Roxana Community
Center as a polling site.

6 MR. SERNA: I see on here that MLK is
7 also included.

8 MS. ACOSTA: You already voted on that
one.

9 MR. SERNA: So you need approval for
10 Roxana?

11 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

12 MR. SERNA: This is something that we do
almost every year. Any questions?

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Question, Mayra. How
14 come they don't request all of them at one time? I know
they are going to use Riley Park too.

15 MS. ACOSTA: They did request all of them
16 at the last meeting, and Roxana was missing. I reached
out to them and said, you didn't send a request for
17 Roxana, do you not need to use that? They said they
just missed it.

18 MR. SERNA: Good catch, Mayra. I'll
19 entertain a motion to approve the use of Roxana
Recreation Center on Election Day.

20 Motion to approve the use of Roxana as polling place
21 made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

22 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

23 (All signify aye.)

24 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

25

1 MS. ACOSTA: Next one is approval to
2 purchase two sets of soccer goals for Marktown, and
3 there is two quotes

4 MR. SERNA: I looked at the two quotes.
5 Looks like BSN Sports was the lowest of the two, for the
6 two goals, at \$3744.80. And they are the same type of
7 goals?

8 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So BSN is the one
9 the high school actually purchases theirs from. And
10 because we do purchase all of our sports equipment, we
11 did have a large discount. I think regular price was
12 about the same, 3,000 something per set; but because we
13 do purchase a lot and, you know, the City itself
14 purchases, we get a discounted price. That's why they
15 are way lower.

16 MR. SERNA: So you are recommending
17 approval of BSN Sports quote?

18 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

19 MR. SERNA: Any questions? (None) I'll
20 entertain a motion to approve the purchase of the soccer
21 goals with BSN Sports for \$3,744.80.

22 Motion to approve BSN quote for soccer goals made by
23 Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

24 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
25 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

MS. ACOSTA: Next one is two quotes to
redo the landscaping in the miniature golf course at
MacArthur.

MR. SERNA: I looked at those as well.
It looks like Great Lakes, their quote is \$11,642.12 and
Red Bud Landscaping is \$14,501.47. These are apples to
apples, they both quoted on the same thing?

MS. ACOSTA: No. They both had different
suggestions on flowers.

1 MR. SERNA: So then who are you
recommending?

2 MS. ACOSTA: Just the lowest.

3 MR. SERNA: That would be Great Lakes
4 Landscaping. Any questions Board members? (None) I'll
entertain a motion to approve the quote from Great Lakes
5 Landscaping, for MacArthur Miniature Golf Course, in the
amount of \$11,642.12.

6 Motion to approve quote from Great Lakes Landscaping for
7 MacArthur Miniature Golf Course made by Valda Lewis.
Second by Rick Rodriguez.

8 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
9 saying aye?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

12 MS. ACOSTA: Next one is two quotes for
installation of the gazebo at MacArthur Golf Course.
13 Michigan Recreational for installation is \$42,193, just
to install. Ozoh Engineering is offering us a combo
14 deal, installation, concrete pad, and electrical for
\$43,236.

15 MR. SERNA: And so for \$42,000, Michigan
16 Recreational was just doing footings it looks like.

17 MS. ACOSTA: Just the footings and the
shelter itself.

18 MR. SERNA: All right. So which do you
19 recommend?

20 MS. ACOSTA: The Ozoh for the \$43,236.

21 MR. SERNA: Because they will give the
footings, as well as concrete pad and electrical. All
22 right. Any questions Board members? (None) I'll
entertain a motion to approve the purchase and agreement
23 for the work at MacArthur for the gazebo to Ozoh
Engineering Construction LLC, in the amount of \$43,236.

24 Do you have a question, Mr. Cantu?

25 MR. CANTU: You say you want 43,000 --

1 you want to recommend the \$43,000?

2 MR. SERNA: Yes.

3 MR. CANTU: The other one is only
4 \$42,000.

5 MR. SERNA: Mayra, you want to explain
6 again to Mr. Cantu?

7 MS. ACOSTA: The one for \$43,000,
8 installation is 33,000 and then they are including
9 concrete pad and electrical for 43. And Michigan
10 Recreation is 42, just for installation.

11 MR. SERNA: So we are getting the
12 concrete pad and electrical, you are getting more.

13 MS. ACOSTA: \$6,732 more with the
14 concrete pad, plus electrical.

15 MR. SERNA: So no electrical either with
16 Michigan?

17 MS. ACOSTA: No. Michigan is just
18 installation.

19 MR. SERNA: So they are providing
20 electrical work and concrete pad, Ozoh Engineering.

21 MR. CANTU: The other one?

22 MR. SERNA: The other one didn't propose
23 that and theirs is higher just based on construction,
24 just on installation. You get more for your money with
25 the Ozoh Engineering. So, there is a motion on the
26 floor. No? No motion as yet. I'll entertain a motion
27 to accept quote from Ozoh Engineering for installation
28 of gazebo.

29 Motion to approve quote from Ozoh Engineering for Gazebo
30 installation at MacArthur Park made by Rick Rodriguez.
31 Second by Valda Lewis.

32 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
33 saying aye?

34

(All signify aye.)

35

1 MR. SERNA: Motion carries. Last one?

2 MS. ACOSTA: Last one is replacing the
roof of the Koski Park garage. I have two quotes.

3
4 MR. SERNA: Gluth is always a tricky
quote. So their price is 13,788?

5 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. Correct. And the
second quote, G Carpet, is 14,600.

6
7 MR. SERNA: So which do you recommend?

8 MS. ACOSTA: Gluth, the lowest.

9 MR. SERNA: The lower of the two quotes.
And you looked at these apples to apples?

10 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

11 MR. SERNA: Any questions on the Koski
12 Park garage roof, Board members? (None) I'll entertain
a motion to approve the agreement and accept the quote
13 from Gluth Brothers for the Koski Park garage roof, in
the amount of \$13,788.
14 Motion to approve quote from Gluth made by Rick
Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

15
16 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

17 (All signify aye.)

18 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

19 Mayra, I know we have that letter
that we sent. Courtnee, did that letter go out to the
20 School Board in regard to letting them know our
requirements from the last meeting for use of the Unity
Center?

21
22 MS. DINKINS: It was mailed out.

23 MR. SERNA: We have a representative from
School present, Vince Balbo. Come forward, please, Mr.
Balbo, who is Director of Security. I saw him over the
24 weekend and he advised me he hadn't seen the letter.
Did Administration advise if they received the letter?

25

1 MR. BALBO: I got the letter today, as a
2 matter of fact, regarding your consideration for using
3 the Unity Center as an emergency evacuation for Lincoln
4 Elementary. In speaking to the superintendent today,
5 and I have already spoken to the principal, they have
6 agreed, that relative to the floor, we would take all
7 the precautions of students taking their shoes off
8 before entering the gymnasium floor.

9 And in the letter it also requested
10 a deposit. In speaking to the superintendent, we would
11 put together a letter to the Board saying that the
12 School City of East Chicago would be responsible for any
13 remediation repairs as a result of our use at any time
14 for that building.

15 So I just wanted to come speak to
16 you about that. And again, I just want to clarify. The
17 plan would be -- at most -- we do these in other
18 schools -- limited evacuation exercises, in the Spring
19 and the Fall, which may involve 4 to 6 classrooms of
20 students. We walk to the Unity Center and they will be
21 sitting in rows with their teachers. The teachers will
22 take attendance and return. The only time that we would
23 be using the Unity Center, would be in the event of an
24 actual emergency that requires students to evacuate the
25 building and the Unity Center is only temporary. If
26 they are going to be there for an extended period of
27 time, we'd have buses come and move them out of Unity
28 Center and move them to a more permanent location.

29 I primarily wanted to come to
30 assure the Park Board that we understand, and we thank
31 you very much for entertaining our request. It's about
32 the safety and security of the kids. And we also
33 realize this is a responsibility to protect your
34 property and your equipment in those buildings.

35 MR. SERNA: Mayra, did you have a chance
36 to speak with Administration? What was their view on
37 this?

38 MS. ACOSTA: I spoke with Administration,
39 and they are okay with School City using the facility,
40 as long as they remove the shoes. And, you know, you
41 are going to be responsible for the damage, that's
42 acceptable.

43 MR. SERNA: And with regards to the
44 deposit, what would you recommend?

45 MS. ACOSTA: I think if they are going to

1 write a letter stating they are going be responsible,
2 the security deposit isn't required. Administration
3 felt the say way, the security deposit wouldn't be
4 required.

5 MR. SERNA: Any questions of Mr. Balbo or
6 any questions about the Agreement itself?

7 MS. LEWIS: What would you do about the
8 wheelchair students?

9 MR. BALBO: Well, in this particular
10 case, even with the wheelchairs -- again speaking to
11 that -- normally in any school we have one to two
12 students in wheelchair situations. Those students would
13 be evacuated along with the rest of the students. And
14 again, we'd only do this in the event that we have no
15 choice but to leave the school. And frankly, by using
16 the Unity Center, we wouldn't be required to cross any
17 major streets and it's the closest structure near
18 Lincoln Elementary. It's really the safest location
19 obviously, outstanding location to assist the school.
20 We have approximately 275 to 300 students. This size
21 would be more than sufficient to accommodate the
22 students we need to put in there.

23 MS. LEWIS: I guess that wasn't the gist
24 of my question. The wheelchairs could not be wheeled on
25 that floor at all.

MR. BALBO: The staff members showed us
there are some meetings rooms in there. We don't have
to put everybody in that particular area. I am just
saying, worse case scenario to use the gymnasium. We
would take all precautions to insure that floor does not
get damaged. But also there are some ancillary rooms in
that building that would possibly be sufficient for the
children to be in with those wheelchairs. We wouldn't
even put the wheelchairs on that floor at all.

MR. SERNA: Any other questions, Board
members? (None) I'll entertain a motion to approve the
request by School City of East Chicago, to allow Lincoln
School to use the Unity Center as their emergency
evacuation site.

Motion to approve request of School City for use of the
Unity Center made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda
Lewis.

1 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

4 MR. BALBO: Thank you very much.

5 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to public
6 comments. Any Public Comments? (None)

Our next meeting date is Tuesday,
7 November 12, 2019, at Riley. Monday is a holiday, so
the Council Chambers will not be available. So, we are
8 going to be meeting at Riley Hall, Board members, on
Tuesday, November 12th -- mark your calendars --
9 5:00 p.m. same start time.

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Rick Rodriguez.
11 Second by Valda Lewis.

12 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

13 (All signify aye.)

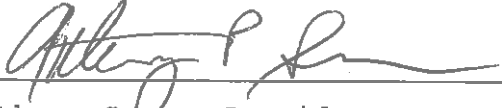
14 MR. SERNA: Motion carries. Meeting
15 adjourned.

16 ***** Meeting Adjourned *****
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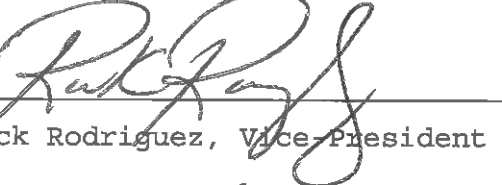
Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday

October 22, 2019

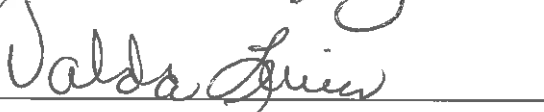
Approved and signed November 12th, 2019



Anthony Serina, President

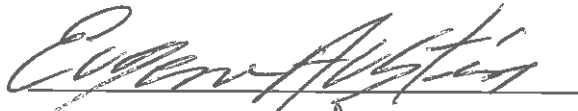


Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

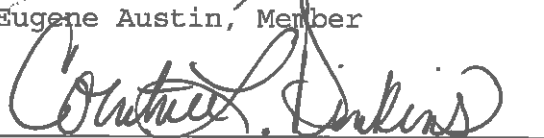


Valda Lewis, Secretary

Gilberto Cantu, Member



Eugene Austin, Member



Courtnee Dinkins, Recording Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly
4 qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did
5 report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings
6 and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and
7 place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 personal direction.

9
10 I further certify that the foregoing
11 typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said
12 proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to
13 be transcribed.

14
15 Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 24th day
16 of October, 2019.

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20
21 _____
Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
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