

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.
Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: Anthony Serna, Gilberto Cantu and Eugene Austin.

MR. SERNA: As I said Miss Lewis did call me and said she wouldn't be able to make it. Board Member Vice President Rick Rodriguez did not contact me. So he may just be running late.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 28, 2020.

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to approve January 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Eugene Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL: February 7, 2020

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to approve February 7, 2020 Payroll made by Eugene Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

2 APPROVAL OF WARRANT: Warrant Number 013020PB in the
3 amount of \$55.46.

4 Questions/Comments: None.

5 Motion to approve Warrant Number 013020PB in the amount of
\$55.46 made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

6 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
7 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

8 APPROVAL OF WARRANT: Warrant Number 021120PB in the
amount of \$10,753.83.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

10 Motion to approve Warrant Number 021120PB in the amount of
11 \$10,753.83 made by Eugene Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

12 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 OLD BUSINESS:

14 MR. SERNA: I believe there is one item of Old Business
15 we can talk about. Our attorney, Dawn Dawkins, is here with
16 us. That one item would be the NIPSCO claim, the claim we
made against NIPSCO hopefully to get reimbursed for the fish
that we lost.

17 Oh, my goodness was it 2018? It might have been
18 even 2018 when we lost the fish?

19 MS. DAWKINS: The beginning of 2019.

20 MR. SERNA: Beginning of 2019. We did hear back from
NIPSCO. And Attorney Dawkins can give us that update
21 regarding our claim.

22 MS. DAWKINS: What a bummer. Anyway they denied our
claim.

23 MR. SERNA: So NIPSCO did deny our claim?

24 MS. DAWKINS: But it's still open with them if I can
25 find anything more to prove it was their fault. So I might

1 do a little research if I have some spare time just to see
2 what the quality of their delivery has to be. If 50 percent
3 is what they can do, then yes. But if not, they would
4 probably have to give us more.

5 MR. SERNA: Well, they deliver 50 percent electricity.
6 That is why the generator never kicked on. We had a backup
7 generator that would have kicked on had the power gone
8 completely out. But because it only went half out the
9 generator never kicked on. And that's why the fish died.

10 MS. DAWKINS: Right. I am not going to just leave it
11 alone at this time. Actually Statute of Limitations gives us
12 two years to file an action.

13 MR. SERNA: That's fine.

14 NEW BUSINESS:

15 MR. SERNA: Amy Aguilera, Manager of Parks and
16 Recreation.

17 MS. AGUILERA: The first one I have is the Report for
18 PMB Consulting who occupy Roxana right now. This is the
19 Report basically showing the last six months in which they
20 have not met 80 percent enrollment that they are to meet
21 every month.

22 MR. SERNA: And what is the recommendation of yourself
23 and of Mayra for our action?

24 MS. AGUILERA: Well, in their Report they are asking to
25 waive the \$500 fee. Which we want to treat everybody
equally. I believe she was in contact with Dawn as far as
the letter goes to send to Pamela as far as them paying that
fine of \$500.

MR. SERNA: I was in contact with the Administration.
And the Administration is encouraging us to hold fast and be
fair to all those that we have MOUs with as far as them
meeting the percentages required in the MOU.

An MOU is basically a contract. And this is our
MOU. And the understanding is that they are to meet 80
percent register of East Chicago residents that they're
serving.

So is there any discussion, Board Members?

1 I believe, Attorney Dawkins, you have prepared a
2 letter to send to them.

3 MS. DAWKINS: Yes. And we sent a letter. I can't
4 remember what organization it was. But we sent a letter.
5 They paid the \$500 already. So it wouldn't be right for us
6 not to charge this group.

7 MR. SERNA: All right. Has that letter gone out yet to
8 PMB?

9 MS. DAWKINS: No. I was waiting.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

11 Motion to approve Letter to PMB Consulting Requiring \$500
12 Fine made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
14 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 MS. AGUILERA: Are we wrapping that along with the
16 second one?

17 MR. SERNA: Yes.

18 MS. AGUILERA: The next one is the Contract for
19 Wisniewski & Associates. They are the installers. And they
20 actually tear down for the ice rink. So this is for the
21 beginning of the season and the closing of the 2020 season.

22 It's same Contract, same pricing as last year.

23 Questions/Comments: None.

24 Motion to approve Wisniewski & Associates 2020/2021 Ice
25 Skating Rink Contract made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by
Eugene Austin.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MS. AGUILERA: So the next one I have is the new 2020
Price List for the Greenhouse. Some of these prices are the
same. There's additional items that were added.

If you flip the page to the fruit and tree
products, those were added as well as the plants in the back.
For example like aloe, agave and the banana trees. Those

1 plants were added new that we will be selling this year.

2 MR. SERNA: Is this what you're selling to the vendors
3 that buy from you or is this general public?

4 MS. AGUILERA: General public.

5 MR. SERNA: When do you start sales for example on your
6 fruit or the back page of your plants? When does all that
7 start?

8 MS. AGUILERA: So if you will take a look, some of them
9 can only be sold in the summertime. I believe there's a
10 column here that shows you exactly when they will be sold.

11 MR. SERNA: Where it says how product is grown?

12 MS. AGUILERA: Yeah. So like here in the fruit section
13 it says late summer. It just depends on the fruit again.
14 And then summer all throughout the summertime.

15 MR. SERNA: Are you going to post this on your page of
16 the website?

17 MS. AGUILERA: We sure will.

18 MR. SERNA: This is awesome.

19 MS. AGUILERA: But those like the plants and agave and
20 aloe, those are ready to be sold at this moment.

21 MR. SERNA: Any questions on the Price List for 2020?

22 MR. CANTU: I just have a question. I wonder. We paid
23 so much money on this thing down there. Are we making any
24 profit, any money coming in? How much money is coming in
25 versus whatever we spent? Can you tell me?

MS. AGUILERA: Right now we're not making any. The
vendors that we have are only two vendors. That's something
that we're working on for 2020, going to different
restaurants, businesses that would kind of benefit from
purchasing our produce.

One vendor we have is like Keith's which is a
restaurant that's in Whiting. We have Ameristar. This is
something that we have to revisit.

But all this general stuff will be able to be sold

1 to the public. And then on Fridays we actually offer our
2 produce to the residents of East Chicago for free. So a lot
3 of it is just being able to provide products to our residents
4 at a decent price or free.

5 MR. SERNA: Or free. So on Fridays you say that it's
6 free. So like the way the lines are at some of these
7 churches for the Food Bank do we get people that come on
8 Friday?

9 MS. AGUILERA: We do.

10 MR. SERNA: Nice. Any further questions?

11 MR. AUSTIN: I would like to know a little bit more
12 about how much are we going to have to spend for this to get
13 moving. I mean if somebody is coming in to skate, do we have
14 to invest before we get this started?

15 MS. AGUILERA: No. I mean for the most part it's
16 already started. We have the greenhouse staff that's there.

17 Really what it is we purchased the seeds. But once
18 you get seeds you take from what you grow and keep regrowing
19 from that. So it's not necessary that we have to keep buying
20 and purchasing and purchasing. As it produces we can
21 replant. And that is how you get the process going.

22 MR. AUSTIN: Well, may I ask you another question about
23 that? With the operation out there how many people do we
24 have to have you think so we can make a profit off this?

25 MS. AGUILERA: That's all financial. And I would have
to actually sit down with Mayra and my greenhouse staff and
see what the numbers are and what we would have to produce in
order to just make profit off of it.

MR. AUSTIN: Well, can you let us know a little bit more
about this at the next meeting?

MS. AGUILERA: Yeah. I can definitely make a note of
it.

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to approve Greenhouse 2020 Price List made by Gilberto
Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

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3 MS. AGUILERA: The next one that I have are three
quotes. The Parks Department is wanting to get murals
4 created on the greenhouse.

5 With these murals it's basically another attraction
for the greenhouse for residents or even outsiders to see.
6 Washington is in the middle of the Harbor. So we really want
to start attracting more people to come in to greenhouse and
7 see exactly what we have to offer.

8 One of the quotes that we have is from Felix
Maldonado. If you take a look, his pricing is based off of
9 square footage in which he will be covering about six walls
on the greenhouse. And that is roughly around \$9,636 for his
quote.

10 The second quote is for OM Studios in which he
11 quoted us for the same square footage. However he was
pricier. We did eliminate the very last item on his quote
12 which was an American Flag which did bring his price down
from \$10,545 to \$9,745.

13 And then the very last quote that we got was from
14 Chicago Public Art Group. For them they priced us for 120
square foot wall which is \$10,000. It's very expensive.

15 So what we were asking for is approval of the very
16 first quote from Felix Maldonado.

17 MR. SERNA: So the two quotes for OM Studio and Felix
Maldonado, those were the closest because that last one
18 wanted to 10,000 just for 120 square foot.

19 MS. AGUILERA: Yes. That's crazy.

20 MR. SERNA: So it's between the first two. And 10,545
minus 800 puts him at 10,745. Excuse me. Puts him at 9,745.
21 And so he was just 100 or little over 100 more than the first
quote. So you're asking for the lowest which was the first
22 one, Felix Maldonado?

23 MS. AGUILERA: Correct.

24 Questions/Comments: None.

25

1 Motion to approve Felix Maldonado Greenhouse Mural Agreement
made by Eugene Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 MS. AGUILERA: So the last one I have is a proposal from
We Care From the Heart. They occupy Martin Luther King right
5 now. I believe they did well this last year. And we have an
MOU that we would like to get resigned for the 2020 year
6 going into 2021.

7 MR. SERNA: So you're looking for us to motion to
approve the MOU with We Care From the Heart?

8 MS. AGUILERA: Correct.

9 MR. SERNA: And they will remain at the MLK Center?

10 MS. AGUILERA: That's correct, yes.

11 MR. SERNA: Any questions on this, Board Members?

12 MR. CANTU: I think it's good down there because they've
13 been doing a good job down there for some time. And they
have a good relationship with a people down there in the
14 Calumet area down there.

15 MR. SERNA: Yes, they have.

16 Questions/Comments: None.

17 Motion to approve We Care from the Heart Social Services MOU
made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
19 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 MR. SERNA: Anything further?

21 MS. AGUILERA: No. That's it.

22 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

23 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, February
24 25, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

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1 Motion to adjourn was made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by
2 Eugene Austin.

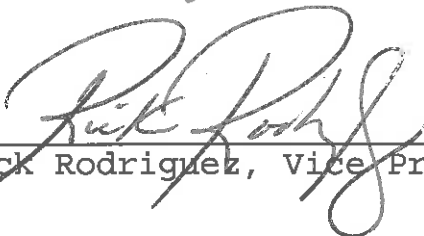
3 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
4 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

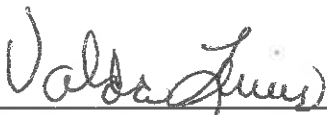
5 * Meeting ended at 5:17 p.m.

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1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Tuesday, February 11, 2020
3 Approved and Signed February 25th, 2020


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6 Anthony Serna, President

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9 Rick Rodriguez, Vice President

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12 Valda Lewis, Secretary

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15 Gilberto Cantu, Member

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18 Eugene Austin, Member

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21 Courtnee Dinkins, Recording Secretary

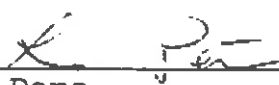
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

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

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 17th day of February, 2020.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483



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