

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
February 26, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Loretta Parker  
Dawn Dawkins-Legal  
Mayra Acosta

Reported by: Susan M. Pudlo, 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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

MR. SERNA: The first item under Administrative  
Matters is the approval of a previous meetings  
minutes from February 12, 2019. I'll entertain a  
motion to approve those minutes.

Motion to approve minutes of February 12, 2019, was  
made by Gilberto Cantu. Seconded by Valda Lewis.

Comments/Questions: None

Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion carries.

MR. SERNA: Next we have an approval of the payroll  
for 02-22-2019. I'll entertain to approve the  
payroll of 02-22-2019.

Motion to approve payroll report of 2-22-2019 was  
made by Valda Lewis. Seconded by Eugene Austin.

Comments/Questions: None.

1 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion carries.

2 MR. SERNA: Next we have approval of the warrant  
3 report 022619PB. I'll entertain a motion to approve  
warrant report number 022619PB.

4 Motion was made to approve warrant report number  
5 022619PB by Gilberto Cantu. Seconded by Valda  
Lewis.

6 Comments/Questions: None

7 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
8 Opposed: None Motion carries.

9 OLD BUSINESS:

10 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to the next item on the  
agenda which is Old Business. The first thing we  
11 have under Old Business is the Community Health  
Initiative Manager, NICA. Mayra?

12 MS. ACOSTA: They're out of town until March, so  
13 we're just waiting on signature.

14 MR. SERNA: All right. We'll continue to keep that  
under Old Business.

15 We also have under Old Business, and welcome  
16 Counselor, I did you see you downstairs, I told  
everybody you were coming, you were right behind me.  
17 Next under Old Business we have the NIPSCO, Northern  
Indiana Public Service Company, that item has to do  
18 with the issue we had at the greenhouse, and they  
gave us -- they assigned us a claim number, and have  
19 we heard anything yet from NIPSCO?

20 MS. DAWKINS: No, not yet. So I will make contact  
before the next meeting to see what they're saying.

21 MR. SERNA: Okay, we'll keep that on the agenda  
22 under Old Business.

23 Next we have the MOU for the School City.  
Counselor, we're still waiting to see if have we had  
24 any movement on that?

25 MS. DAWKINS: Well, I met privately with a member, I

1 not even heard about it, so I'm going to the next  
meeting.

2  
3 MR. SERNA: Okay, you will be attending the next  
School Board meeting?

4 MS. DAWKINS: I will for public comment.

5 MR. SERNA: On that note, Loretta, at the last  
6 meeting -- because I read the minutes that were  
typed up and sent to us now, at the last meeting we  
7 were going to ask -- you were going to call or  
contact somebody, Loretta, to get the calendar,  
their meeting calendar the School Board.

8  
9 MS. PARKER: I didn't get it. I didn't hear back.  
I left a message, I think it was for -- I forget the  
name. It was a Jewel something.

10  
11 MR. SERNA: Because I think that's like public  
record, they have to, just like we have to, announce  
12 our calendar of meetings, so it's something -- I'll  
do that. I'll go to the School City, I'll go to  
13 their administration building and I'll get their  
calendar of meetings. And the purpose of that is  
14 for instances like this where we're not getting any  
feedback from them, at least we know when their  
15 meetings are and they probably have deadlines to get  
correspondence in like the way we have deadlines to  
16 get our agenda set, so we need to know their meeting  
dates, so that way we can get them letters and they  
17 can't tell us, well, you know, it had to be in the  
Friday before, whatever, so I'll make that contact.  
I'll go to the admin building and get that.

18  
19 NEW BUSINESS:

20 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to New Business. That's  
the next item on the agenda, New Business. Mayra?

21 MS. ACOSTA: So HealthLinc reached out to us, and  
22 they would like to purchase or donate \$500 to the  
Park Department in exchange of 100 vouchers to ice  
23 skate. 50 of them they're going to donate the Boys  
& Girls Club here in East Chicago, and 50 of them  
they're going to hand out to their customers.

24  
25 MR. SERNA: Okay. I did see the letter that's dated  
today, February 26th, and on the bullet point

1 distribute 50 to their own HealthLinc patients and  
2 at the time of the printing of this letter, they  
3 said 50 vouchers donated to an East Chicago  
4 Childrens charity, so they decided it would be the  
5 Boys & Girls Club?

6 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

7 MR. SERNA: Okay. All right. And, Board members,  
8 did you get a chance to take a look at the letter  
9 from HealthLinc? And so they're asking the Park  
10 Board for 100 of those vouchers, and they're paying  
11 for them, they're not asking for them for free,  
12 they're paying \$5 each. So they are asking for 100  
13 vouchers, they're asking for a HealthLinc banner  
14 that they would provide.

15 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

16 MR. SERNA: That would be placed in a prominent  
17 location during ice skating sessions, and they're  
18 asking to contact the cafe that we have inside there  
19 to explore the possibility of using cup covers for  
20 refreshments during ice skating sessions. Mayra,  
21 what is your input? What do you think about this?

22 MS. ACOSTA: So they are paying full price, so then  
23 my recommendation is to accept them; however, the  
24 issue is that the ice skating rink is almost at the  
25 end of the season now, so I know they mentioned that  
26 since we're going to be closing in a few weeks, that  
27 if they could maybe extend the voucher to expire at  
28 the end of the year, so that they have at least  
29 until November and December of this year to be able  
30 to redeem them.

31 MR. SERNA: Okay, so that would be -- they don't  
32 have -- I don't think they have that in there.  
33 Well, no, they put the end of 2019 season, so I  
34 don't know what would be considered the end of the  
35 2019 season. So maybe as long as we make a note  
36 when we entertain a motion that we will agree to  
37 extend this offer to them through the end of  
38 calendar year 2019.

39 MS. ACOSTA: Right, right.

40 MR. SERNA: Okay, any questions on this, Board  
41 Members?

1 MR. AUSTIN: Did they say what day they want to  
2 start this, what month they were going to start  
3 these vouchers? When is it going to start, you  
4 know, do you have a date yet?

5 MS. ACOSTA: So they're just going to hand them out,  
6 and people will just come when they come.

7 MR. AUSTIN: Oh, okay. Then there will not an  
8 expire date on the vouchers?

9 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, it will be at the end of December  
10 of 2019.

11 MR. SERNA: So they'll expire December 31st, 2019  
12 and they can start giving them out as early as  
13 tomorrow because we're voting on this today.

14 Any other questions? All right. I'll entertain a  
15 motion to accept the request by HealthLinc for the  
16 purchase of 100 vouchers for a total donation of  
17 \$500 with the understanding that the vouchers will  
18 not expire until December 31, 2019. I'll entertain  
19 that motion.

20 Motion was made to accept the request by HealthLinc  
21 for the purchase of 100 vouchers for a total  
22 donation of \$500 with an expiration date of December  
23 31, 2019 by Valda Lewis. Seconded by Eugene Austin.

24 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
25 Opposed: None Motion carries.

MS. ACOSTA: The next one are the rates for  
H.E.C.C., which is what the Board of Works already  
approved, and we're just hoping that the Park Board  
will also approve so that in case we need an  
electrician, we already have these rates approved by  
our Board as well.

MR. SERNA: Yes. And just for your information,  
Board Members, these rate schedules, you've seen  
them before with Mechanical Concepts and with  
different companies. The Board of Works does this  
quite often, and they do this in January. They  
approve rates for different services, whether it be  
legal, whether it be electrical contractors, and so  
on and so forth. The Park Department, Mayra, and  
for all of her parks and buildings and like that,

1 under our jurisdiction and billing is under our  
2 jurisdiction, the Board of Works needs us to also  
3 approve these rate schedules. And, again, this is  
4 done usually in January for all of these services,  
5 like I said, legal and different types of things, so  
6 this is just basically agreeing to the prices that  
7 they have set here, and whenever the Park Department  
8 needs some electrical work, they would be able to  
9 contact H.E.C.C., the electrical company here,  
10 Hernandez Electric Construction & Communications,  
11 and be able to get work done. Are there any  
12 questions on this? All right. I'll entertain  
13 motion to accept and approve the agreement, the rate  
14 schedule with Hernandez Electric Construction &  
15 Communications for 2019.

9 Motion was made to approve the rate schedule with  
10 Hernandez Electric Construction & Communications for  
11 2019 was made by Valda Lewis. Seconded by Gilberto  
12 Cantu.

11 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
12 Opposed: None Motion carries.

13 MS. ACOSTA: So as you know, last year I traveled to  
14 Canada to meet with Heavy Industries, and we had  
15 discussed the possibility of getting some sculptures  
16 made for different parks, and I had submitted the  
17 report to you with kind of ideas of what parks we  
18 were going to do these art sculptures in, and these  
19 are permanent and these are designs based on ideas  
20 that we have as a group, so it's myself, Rena,  
21 Sandra, Milton, we all meet up and have ideas and  
22 this is how these are developed.

18 So these two next proposals, C and D, these are the  
19 actual final drawings of two of the sculptures that  
20 we have selected for the parks. So one is for  
21 Washington Park and one is for Veterans Park, so  
22 this is going to come out of gaming, so not out of  
23 the Park budget. I guess I do need your final  
24 approval for them to be placed in those parks.

22 MR. SERNA: And, again, Board Members, we're  
23 familiar with how this process works: Gaming funds  
24 that are able to purchase things such as the  
25 shelters and in this case the sculptures, the Board  
of Works is the first approval on that, and because  
it's park property that these sculptures are going

1 our jurisdiction to approve the sculptures. So,  
2 Mayra, if I'm correct, at Washington Park it will be  
3 a zoo, is that the one that has zoo-like sculptures?

4 MS. ACOSTA: Correct, correct.

5 MR. SERNA: Zoo animals?

6 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, there are zoo animals, there are a  
7 total of five, and it's also going to have letters  
8 that say Washington Park Zoo, and it's going to be  
9 placed right in front of the pool on the Parish side  
10 of the street.

11 MR. SERNA: And the other one is for -- that's the  
12 only one you're doing or do you want approval for  
13 Veterans Park also?

14 MS. ACOSTA: Correct, for Veterans Park as well.  
15 That's going to be a memorial to the veterans, and  
16 it's going to be placed here by the gazebo.

17 MR. SERNA: Now that one, when I looked at those for  
18 Veterans, there was still options, a lot of options.  
19 Has there been a final decision made on what you  
20 want?

21 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, these are the final ones.

22 MR. SERNA: Okay.

23 MS. ACOSTA: The ones with the soldiers. However,  
24 the location might not be the location that's there.  
25 It might be moved over a little bit, but it is going  
to be in this park.

MR. SERNA: Right, I think the location that I saw  
that seemed the best was closer to the gazebo rather  
than closer to City Hall.

MS. ACOSTA: Yes, that's right.

MR. SERNA: Okay. Any questions, Board Members?

MS. LEWIS: The animals, what material are they made  
of?

MS. ACOSTA: COR-TEN, it's like a really hard metal.

25

1 it won't --

2 MS. ACOSTA: No, they will not be able to.

3 MR. SERNA: Yes, that's a good point.

4 MS. ACOSTA: They're large pieces of metal.

5 MR. SERNA: People may want to take a picture on top  
of a giraffe or something like that.

6 MS. ACOSTA: They will be able to sit on the  
7 letters. We want them to be benches in a way that  
people will sit there, and they will have lights, so  
8 at night they will have lights pointing at them.  
They have a picture of the night view.

9 MS. LEWIS: Oh, okay.

10 MR. SERNA: All right, I'll entertain a motion to  
11 approve the agreement between Park & Recreation and  
Heavy Industries for the Washington Park zoo  
12 proposal and the Veterans Park screen proposal.

13 MS. LEWIS: And you saying the money is coming from  
14 gaming?

15 MS. ACOSTA: Correct, yes.

16 Motion was made for approval of the agreement  
between Park & Recreation and Heavy Industries for  
17 the Washington Park zoo proposal and the Veterans  
Park screen proposal.

18 MR. SERNA: Is there a second? Motion is on the  
19 floor to approve the agreement with Heavy Industries  
Washington Park zoo, the sculptures there and the  
20 Veterans Park screen sculpture. Is there a second?

21 MR. CANTU: I have a question.

22 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, Mr. Cantu?

23 MR. CANTU: All of these things, they're going to  
come from Canada?

24 MR. SERNA: Where are they coming from?  
25



1 Canada and shipped, yes.

2 MR. CANTU: Why do we have to go out of the United  
3 States to buy things for our parks? Why don't we  
4 buy things that they're making here in the United  
States, so the money stays here instead of sending  
it out there?

5 MS. ACOSTA: This is the same company that did the  
6 beach ball and the umbrella over at the marina.

7 MR. CANTU: Yeah, but that doesn't make a  
8 difference. Why you have to go outside? You know,  
9 we buy American, we give jobs to people living here  
10 in the United States and the money stays here. Now  
11 you're talking about \$630,000 and then you're  
12 talking about the other one, 300-some-thousand  
dollars, so it's a million dollars. It's no chicken  
13 feed. Why we have to go outside? You went down  
14 there for not free, right, and why do you have to go  
15 down there? We don't make it here in the United  
States?

16 MS. ACOSTA: That's the company that administration  
17 selected.

18 MR. CANTU: Are you telling me that there is no one  
19 in the United States that they make ice rinks and  
20 all this stuff?

21 MR. SERNA: Well, let me --

22 MR. CANTU: I mean, we started with a little thing  
23 down there going outside of this country --

24 MR. SERNA: Now that is a legitimate question,  
25 Mayra, do we know if there's any other companies  
that could have done the sculptures there are  
American, American-made?

MR. CANTU: I'm sure that there's a lot in the  
United States.

MS. ACOSTA: I'm sure there is, but that was out of  
my hands.

MR. CANTU: They do sculptures right here in  
Chicago, you brought those people down here from  
Chicago to do some things for you. You're telling

1 States?

2 MS. ACOSTA: No, it I said it wasn't my decision to  
make.

3 MR. CANTU: I'm hearing down there, I know that the  
4 Board of Works is paying the money, right?

5 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

6 MR. CANTU: But that doesn't mean that you have to  
go out of the house. How about creating jobs here,  
7 okay? All those grants, they come down here for the  
park, they come from the United States. This money,  
8 they're coming from the Board of Works. Where is  
the money coming from? From the funds from the  
9 casino?

10 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

11 MR. CANTU: But still, it's their money that people  
that gamble and they lose the money, the casino is  
12 getting rich and they lose pennies, okay. But I  
don't like for us to go out of the country down  
13 there so that we can implement other things. I'm  
sure that there -- I mean we have beautiful and  
14 greatest engineers and all that stuff, and we have  
to go out to Canada for a million dollars? I don't  
15 agree with that, even if it's already approved by  
the Board of Works because they've got the money,  
16 okay, but I --

17 MR. SERNA: Your point is well taken.

18 MR. CANTU: For us to go outside the country to get  
things done --

19 MR. SERNA: As that's how we express our  
20 disagreement. There's a motion on the floor. I  
would need a second, and then everybody would vote  
21 and then that's how -- if you were, you know, so  
inclined to express your disagreement, you would  
22 vote no.

23 So there's a motion on the floor to accept. Is  
there a second? Do you have a question Mr. Austin?

24 MR. AUSTIN: Yes, I'm going to -- one thing I would  
25 like to ask, we should see some - just like one of

1 some kind of slide or something to show the Board  
2 members because this is -- I go along with, you  
3 know, what he's saying 100 percent. I don't believe  
4 in going out of the country getting stuff that we  
5 never -- we just heard of and we don't have no  
6 slides showing us nothing. They should come here  
7 and show us how this or whatever we intend to get  
8 from them but --

9 MS. ACOSTA: They have come here.

10 MR. AUSTIN: They have been here?

11 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, and we have gone there as well,  
12 but they have met with administration and the group  
13 that's actually helping to select the images, so the  
14 only thing we're asking the Park Board is permission  
15 to place them in the parks.

16 MR. SERNA: So those decisions, Mayra, have been  
17 made by the committee that you mentioned --

18 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

19 MR. SERNA: -- that is working on the sculptures,  
20 and you mentioned the beach ball and the umbrella  
21 that's at the marina?

22 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, correct.

23 MR. SERNA: So this is the same company that did the  
24 beach ball in the marina, the same company that the  
25 Mayor and the city administration have selected in  
previous projects, and they have vetted them. They  
have had that company come here and do the slide  
shows and things like that. They have even went --  
our City administration, have even gone out to  
Canada where this company is located to see more  
sculptures, and this is the choice that they've  
made. And as Mayra has said, they're asking for our  
vote for permission to place these sculptures on the  
park property because we're the Park Board and those  
are city parks. Like I said, there's a motion on  
the floor, and it's in need of a second, and then  
you can vote yes or no to allow the sculptures to be  
placed on the park property. So I'm still looking  
for a second on the motion made by Ms. Lewis to  
approve the agreement?

1 sculptures on this -- this is the kind they're going  
to have, may I ask?

2 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

3 MR. AUSTIN: I imagine these structures, it's not  
4 going to have no look off America, we is advertising  
nothing in America, this is coming from, you know --

5 MR. SERNA: It's art.

6 MR. AUSTIN: Do you understand what I'm saying?

7 MR. SERNA: I understand what both you and Mr. Cantu  
8 are saying. What I am going to say is that it's  
art, it's a sculpture, just like the animals, it's  
9 an expression of the artist's view of whatever that  
piece is.

10 Now, the approval of what the design looks like,  
11 whether it was ten soldiers or one soldier or based  
on Vietnam or World War II, that decision has  
12 already been made by the administration, by the  
Mayor, and, again, the staff that he has that does  
13 this. So the decision on the design and what it  
looks like and what company it comes from, what  
14 country it comes from, the Mayor made that decision,  
okay? So what the Mayor is asking now and through  
15 Mayra as Park Director is for our permission to put  
those sculptures in the parks.

16 MR. AUSTIN: Well, I'm for what that man wants, but  
17 like I said, if he didn't get this -- all of this  
was arranged at the last meeting?

18 MR. SERNA: Mayra, can you my explain how the  
19 selection was made?

20 MR. AUSTIN: I mean how long have we been working on  
this?

21 MS. ACOSTA: Well, we had informed the Board last  
22 year, and we even gave you images of possible things  
that we were putting, so you already had approved  
23 the locations, you had already approved the possible  
final art work, so --

24 MR. SERNA: So, again, Ms. Lewis made the motion to  
25 accept the agreement, and we're looking for a second

1 motion, you can second the motion --

2 MR. AUSTIN: Can we table it for the next meeting?

3 MR. SERNA: You could second the motion and then you  
4 can vote it down or you could vote it up or at least  
5 you can make an amendment to the motion to have it  
6 tabled, but I would highly suggest that we second  
7 the motion, and then we vote on it, everybody is  
8 free to choose whether they vote yay or nay on this.

9 MR. AUSTIN: With that said, I will second it. And  
10 then if anything comes behind this, I'm going to say  
11 that, you know, because we're not going to argue  
12 here. We're supposed to be working together.

13 MR. SERNA: Right, the motion was made by Ms. Lewis,  
14 seconded by Mr. Austin to approve the agreement  
15 between Heavy Industries and the East Chicago Park  
16 Department for the Washington Park zoo proposal and  
17 the Veterans Park screen proposal.

18 MR. AUSTIN: And make sure you put on the end of it  
19 that's just for, you know, that's what the Mayor had  
20 looked over.

21 MR. SERNA: Yes, these are the sculptures that the  
22 Mayor has approved that we are voting on. The  
23 motion was made and properly second to approve the  
24 agreement between Heavy Industries and the East  
25 Chicago Park Board.

Roll Call: "All in favor": 3 Abstain: 1  
Opposed: None Motion carries.

MR. SERNA: So to have further discussion on that, I  
would suggest, Board Members, that you speak with  
Mayra after the meeting and to get a more clear  
picture of how and why when it comes to presentation  
of the product, how we see it at the tail end. I  
understand, I totally understand what you're talking  
about, Mr. Austin, and as far as you, Mr. Cantu, I  
couldn't agree with you more that, you know, there's  
probably companies in the United States that would  
make a product such as this, so, again, you did  
right, Mr. Cantu, you expressed your opinion here  
and abstained from the vote, so if you would like  
anything further, I would suggest you speak with  
Mayra after the meeting to get any further --

1 MR. AUSTIN: Why do we speak with her?

2 MR. SERNA: The reason I said to speak with her is  
3 because she's on the committee that helps to make  
4 those decisions with the Mayor, her, the chief of  
5 staff, and a couple others. Is that your Special  
6 Events Committee or --

7 MS. ACOSTA: No.

8 MR. SERNA: -- is it a different committee?

9 MS. ACOSTA: Right.

10 MR. SERNA: So as a member of that committee, she  
11 would be able to give you insight on the who, what,  
12 where, when and why, more detail on that, okay?

13 Do you have any others to report?

14 MS. ACOSTA: We had an MOU done for the library, and  
15 I just got an e-mail from the director of the  
16 library requesting that if we could extend the MOU  
17 to read either for five years or that it will  
18 automatically renew because she needs this for her  
19 Comcast contract she has.

20 MS. DAWKINS: I spoke with her about that, I'm  
21 sorry, I didn't have that on my list of things to  
22 do, sorry, but I did speak with the director. The  
23 way she explained it to me, it made perfect sense,  
24 and it shouldn't be a problem because I think that's  
25 also how we did PME -- there was another entity that  
we modified the contract.

MR. SERNA: Could we do an automatic renewal year  
after year because to me that mirrors more of our  
other MOUs which are annual?

MS. DAWKINS: Right.

MR. SERNA: Now, in that an automatic renewal, have  
you written the language on that yet?

MS. DAWKINS: No, but the way she explained it to me  
is that there's something in their contract, the  
fact they're getting the funding if we add it the  
way we had it.

25

1 Library Board also -- most likely what that is is  
2 that when the director has to do a five-year plan,  
3 and when you incorporate technology into your  
4 five-year plan, they call that portion the  
5 technology plan, you have to show that you're doing  
6 something in the building or whatever and it's going  
7 to be for a term of five years, so that way when you  
8 go get your prices, government prices or whatever  
9 you do, you have to show that your plan, your  
10 five-year plan is matched up from your leases to  
11 your library mission statement, everything has to  
12 show that you're working on this five years, and so  
13 the technology portion of that, that's what -- when  
14 she mentioned Comcast to you and things like that,  
15 the MOUs, they're looking for it to reflect that it  
16 has the ability to run the full five years. And so  
17 with it being an automatic renewal, my only question  
18 would be that if things changed on our end, the  
19 building -- we got a great offer and we're selling,  
20 whatever, whatever might change on our end, could  
21 you write language in there to say as long as we  
22 give 30 days or --

23 MS. DAWKINS: Right. She asked for more time also  
24 as you brought up the 30 days because she said that  
25 the shelving and all of their equipment that they  
26 have, they couldn't get it out in 30 days because  
27 it's not the Parks' property, it is all the  
28 library's property.

29 MR. SERNA: Right.

30 MS. DAWKINS: So she had asked me about 90 days, and  
31 I told her that that would be something that the  
32 Board would have to make a decision on. I couldn't  
33 tell her that. But I told her that I thought that  
34 her request was reasonable to make modifications to  
35 the contract.

36 MR. SERNA: And I agree because I have a little  
37 insight in knowing that it has to -- the MOU and any  
38 agreement that she has when it comes to technology  
39 and the five-year plan of the library, if she has a  
40 MOU to run a program or actually do the outreach and  
41 the satellite library basically is what she's doing,  
42 when she's talking about a five-year plan to put in  
43 her technology plan, she can't have an agreement  
44 that says you could possibly only have this for a  
45 year.

1 MS. DAWKINS: Right.

2 MR. SERNA: That's why she asked for five, but if we  
3 do an automatic renewal and at least if we have  
4 language in there that the only way we would change  
5 that would be a 90-day notice, that would suffice  
6 because she can explain to us -- well, to the  
7 Library Board, she can explain to where she's  
8 getting her approvals and funding and everything  
9 that, in essence, it is a five-year agreement, it's  
10 an unlimited agreement because it has an automatic  
11 renewal but that the Park needs to have a way out.  
12 The Park needs to have that 90-day exit clause or  
13 whatever the terminology is for that.

14 So if she did, in fact, mention that, an annual  
15 renewal would suffice, that would be -- so we just  
16 still need to type that out and get that, okay.

17 MS. DAWKINS: I was talking to her on my cell phone  
18 instead of my office phone, so the note, I didn't  
19 make notes of that conversation, but those are the  
20 two things that I remember most distinctly was the  
21 30 days and the five years.

22 MR. SERNA: Yeah, I would be inclined to suggest  
23 that we do an automatic renewal which gives them the  
24 comfort of knowing that it will probably be five  
25 years.

26 MS. DAWKINS: And I could put some five years in  
27 there some kind of way with an automatic renewal and  
28 with some kind of emergency from our end, and I'd  
29 have to define what emergency would be, okay.

30 MR. SERNA: All right. Was there anything else,  
31 Mayra?

32 MS. ACOSTA: I'm not should if we need to do  
33 anything with the Carnegie MOU?

34 MS. DAWKINS: I made those changes. I thought they  
35 had been voted on before. You said they had not --

36 MS. LEWIS: I thought they had

37 MS. DAWKINS: I thought they had too.

38 MS. PARKER: I think they were, we just didn't sign



1 be made.

2 MR. SERNA: So Carnegie, the MOU for Carnegie, we  
voted on and approved already?

3 MS. DAWKINS: The language that I put in there was  
4 not voted on. To me it's already in the contract  
anyway, but I just for the sake of those that were  
5 concerned, I included it.

6 MR. SERNA: Would it hurt us to have another motion  
on this updated agreement?

7 MS. DAWKINS: No, I don't think so. I think you  
8 need to move to, you know, set aside the prior  
agreement because they haven't signed it, only the  
9 Board signed it.

10 MR. SERNA: So then we would need all new  
signatures.

11 MS. DAWKINS: No, it wasn't everyone's signature on  
12 it.

13 MR. SERNA: Oh, just myself and -- okay.

14 MS. DAWKINS: It was not the entire -- does that one  
have the entire Board?

15 MS. ACOSTA: No.

16 MS. DAWKINS: That's it, right.

17 MS. LEWIS: I have it. I have the one to be signed.

18 MS. PARKER: Ms. Lewis has the one to be signed.

19 MS. LEWIS: Mr. President, I have the one to sign.

20 MR. SERNA: Okay, but I'm just saying it's for my  
21 signature and your signature.

22 MS. LEWIS: Right.

23 MR. SERNA: And then -- so you have two of the MOUs,  
the other one you have, PMD Consulting?

24 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

25

1 Consulting, Counselor, in the same way that we would  
on Carnegie?

2

MS. DAWKINS: Right, because it really was  
3 typographical. It was more where the site was  
located, we used the center, Roxanna Center instead  
4 of Roxanna Senior Citizen Building.

5

MR. SERNA: So then we'll motion to set aside the  
previous MOUs and the previous approval that we gave  
6 to the MOU with Carnegie Performing Arts Center and  
with the PMD Consulting, we'll set those aside.

7

We'll motion to set those aside, and then we'll move  
to accept these new agreements as written.

8

MS. DAWKINS: Yes.

9

MR. SERNA: New MOUs as written with PMD Consulting  
10 and Carnegie

11

MS. DAWKINS: Right.

12

MR. SERNA: Any other questions, Board Members, on  
these?

13

MS. DAWKINS: And the Carnegie is really more of a  
14 management agreement than an MOU. It's the same  
thing.

15

MR. SERNA: Oh, I see, you even put that, Management  
16 Agreement, all right. I'll make sure to put that in  
the wording.

17

Okay. Any other questions, Board Members?

18

All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the  
19 management agreement between the City of East  
Chicago and the Carnegie Performing Arts Center and  
20 the memorandum of understanding between the City of  
East Chicago and PMB Consulting, these new  
21 agreements while setting aside the previous  
agreements that we had voted on. Is there a motion?

22

23

Motion was made to approve the management agreement  
between the City of East Chicago and the Carnegie  
24 Performing Arts Center and the memorandum of  
understanding between the City of East Chicago and  
25 PMB Consulting and set aside the previous agreements

1 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion carries.

2 MR. SERNA: Do you have anything else for us?

3 MS. ACOSTA: I just want to kind of remind you that  
4 PMB, she's the one who needed the MOU kind of  
5 quickly so she could get her grant going, then she  
6 left on vacation, so at the next meeting she's  
probably going to come and talk to the about the  
program.

7 MR. SERNA: Okay.

8 MS. ACOSTA: That's all I have.

9 MR. SERNA: Also, question for you, Mayra, one, at  
10 the last meeting we tabled items C, D, E and F which  
11 had to do with the flooring at Roxanna. Did you  
want those brought off the table yet for approval?  
Maybe next meeting?

12 MS. ACOSTA: Wait until next meeting.

13 MR. SERNA: All right. Also, at the last meeting we  
14 talked about possibly Ralph Flores with Flores  
Consulting would possibly be attending this meeting  
or future meetings?

15 MS. ACOSTA: He'll be at the next one.

16 MR. SERNA: He'll be at the next meeting. Okay.  
17 Anything else for Mayra? Any questions for Mayra,  
18 Board Members? Thank you, Mayra.

19 MS. ACOSTA: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC INPUT:

21 MR. SERNA: The next item on the agenda is Public  
Input.

22 MS. DAWKINS: Excuse me, I will take this moment to  
23 say I did go online during the meeting, and the  
School Board does not list their -- have a list like  
24 we do to say we're going to meet on these dates with  
exceptions if something happens, we'll give you  
notice.

25

1 date?

2 MS. DAWKINS: No.

3 MR. SERNA: That's surprising.

4 MS. DAWKINS: They have an executive session that  
5 was -- because they publish through the newspaper  
6 that scheduled for the 28th, which is this Thursday,  
7 but I also noted in some reading that they have  
8 certain rules, but we're not in litigation, so I  
9 don't think it would make a difference. They have  
10 certain rules for their public comments. They just  
11 won't let anybody make a comment.

12 MR. SERNA: Right, and I'm sure that, you know, if  
13 we were to say something -- if you went to a meeting  
14 and said something, you know, as Attorney Dawkins,  
15 attorney for the Park Board, that would perk up  
16 their ears, so it may or may not be -- I mean you're  
17 the attorney.

18 MS. DAWKINS: Right.

19 MR. SERNA: But it may or may not be the best thing  
20 to do like that, but overall somehow we have to be  
21 able -- they could come here today, if they didn't  
22 like anything about that agreement or anything that  
23 we're doing in the parks, they can come here today  
24 and voice their opinion whether they're on the  
25 agenda or not because we have public input. We  
26 should be able to do the same, however, maybe not,  
27 you as an attorney for the Board, either us Board  
28 members, maybe someone with the City administration  
29 could -- maybe even a park director or someone may  
30 be able to say, hey, we're waiting or whatever the  
31 comment would be. I just don't know if you or I as  
32 the attorney or us as board members that would be  
33 wise because it's our names on the agreement, you  
34 know, and just something to think about.

35 MS. ACOSTA: Well, Ralph Flores who is our  
36 consultant that we hired now, he said that he knows  
37 some of the board members personally, and that he  
38 was going to -- if it was okay -- just out of just a  
39 conversation, not as the City, just to find out  
40 where they were at. If you guys feel comfortable  
41 with that, he could do it, I just wasn't sure.

42

1 relationship, that's one thing. Us as a board, him  
2 as a consultant, I don't think we should endorse or  
3 deny either way. Whatever he decides to do with his  
4 personal friendships with anyone on any board or  
5 entity is his own -- I don't want to get into at a  
6 board meeting saying, yes, we encouraged and  
7 endorsed our consultant to speak to them, no,  
8 because I don't want to that later on be any kind of  
9 undue influence that we're placing on the School  
10 Board to make its decision.

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But, you know, Attorney Dawkins, how long has it  
been since we sent that MOU?

MS. DAWKINS: It's been months.

MR. SERNA: Would you say October maybe?

MS. DAWKINS: I would say six months. I would say  
six months, and I think I will make contact with  
Attorney Harris however and let him know my intent  
and then he can let me know if it's that serious or  
not to him because what is serious to us is not  
serious to them because they have an advantage at  
this point. We're already allowing them to use the  
parks, so I will see if can put a little bit more  
pressure.

MR. SERNA: With the attorney. Attorney to  
attorney, I'm comfortable with that, attorney to  
attorney. Okay.

MS. LEWIS: At the school Board meeting, you have to  
go there and sign in to speak, and they only have  
maybe ten slots, so if you aren't there, one of  
those first ten people to sign in, you don't get to  
talk, and they give you a minute, two minutes,  
whatever. That's how they do their public input.

MR. SERNA: I know from past experience public  
comment is sometimes useful and sometimes it's more  
of a rock throwing, and we don't want to appear like  
we're being in any way throwing rocks at them. I  
would hope that -- you know, I personally know that  
the superintendent and the assistant superintendent,  
when I had to deal with them on different levels  
with the fire department or with other things, they  
have been very receptive. Why this here is dragging  
so long, maybe it's not the superintendant and

1 Board that is just not moving quickly enough for us.  
2 So what recourse do we have to deal with board  
3 members, School Board members? I don't know. I  
4 thought we were doing the right thing with sending a  
5 letter and having our attorney talk with their  
6 attorney. I don't know what the -- in other words,  
7 what I'm saying is I could go talk to the assistant  
8 superintendent, and I don't know if it's in her  
9 hands. That's the School Board that has to vote on  
10 that or accept it or reject it, whatever they want  
11 to do. So I think that's the question is how do we  
12 reach that School Board and ask them?

13 We're the Park Board, we sent that MOU, could you  
14 please respond yay or nay. Let us know one way or  
15 the other. How about a letter? Should we send a  
16 letter saying, hey, we're waiting for your answer  
17 and it would come from you as our attorney? How  
18 about that? What do you think about that,  
19 Counselor?

20 MS. DAWKINS: We could send a letter. I can send IT  
21 to the Board and CC the lawyer.

22 MR. SERNA: And how about certified mail, that way  
23 we know somebody has received it.

24 MS. DAWKINS: I'll be happy to send that.

25 MR. SERNA: I mean I don't know. What you think,  
Board Members? What is the best way to get this  
done or move on this?

MS. LEWIS: That sounds good, but I think we also  
need to think about if they don't want to do it,  
what are we going to do? What is our next step if  
they don't want to agree with what we're offering  
them.

MR. SERNA: That's a good point. Mr. Austin?

MR. AUSTIN: Well, one thing I can see like this,  
our attorney is our back, so like I say, if she  
tells us she's here to advise us what not to do and  
do, so that's what I believe in. So if she's going  
to tell us that this, you know, you say you got some  
things to do, check this out and everything before  
we go forth to sign things and send them, I think if  
you would check in.

1 MS. DAWKINS: I was going to talk with Attorney  
2 Harris one more time and let him know I wanted to  
3 come to the meeting to present if that's needed to  
be or does the manager need to come of the Parks  
Department, we may need someone to present.

4 MR. SERNA: Okay, we could wait for Attorney Dawkins  
5 to do that, and then at the next meeting we'll see  
6 how that went. It's just that we've been waiting a  
long time, six months, I believe.

6 MS. LEWIS: It's been six months.

7 MR. AUSTIN: Because we ain't going to change our  
8 rules just -- that's the School Board, we deal with  
the Park Board.

9 MR. SERNA: Yeah, we did our part.

10 MR. AUSTIN: So whatever the attorney says, hey, I'm  
11 100 percent behind that.

12 MS. DAWKINS: Well, thank you.

13 MR. SERNA: Any other public input? All right.

14 Our next meeting day is March 12, 2019 right here at  
the City Hall Council Chambers.

15 Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Valda Lewis.  
16 Second by Gilberto Cantu.

17 Roll Call: "All in favor": All Abstain: None  
18 Opposed: None Motion carries.

19 \*\*\*\*\* Meeting Adjourned \*\*\*\*\*

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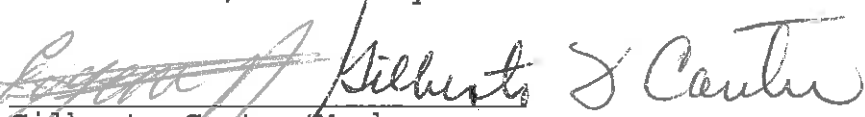
Approval of the Meeting of Minutes  
Of Tuesday, February 26, 2019

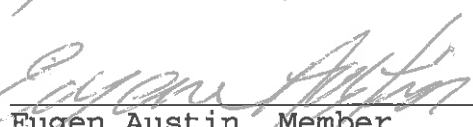
Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Serna, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valda Lewis, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gilberto Cantu, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugen Austin, Member

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Loretta Parker, Recording Secretary

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CERTIFICATE

I, Susan M. Pudlo, 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 the minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Crown Point, Indiana, this 8th day of March, 2019.

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Susan M. Pudlo, CSR, RPR

