

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, March 12, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

MR. RODRIGUEZ: First thing under Administrative Matters would be to approve the previous minutes for February 26, 2019.

Comments/Questions: None.

Motion to approve Minutes of February 26, 2019 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Next thing would be approval for signing of payroll for March 8, 2019.

Comments/Questions: None.

Motion to approve Payroll for March 8, 2019 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Next would be the Warrant Report for
2 March 12, 2019 PB.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Motion to approve Warrant Report for March 12, 2019 PB made
5 by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

8 OLD BUSINESS:

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Under Old Business would be Northwest
10 Indiana Community Action.

11 MS. ACOSTA: We're just waiting on signature on that.
12 Pamela was out on vacation. She is back. So we should
13 have it shortly.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Would you like us to table that?

15 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. We'll need to table that one.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We would like to table this.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

18 Motion to table Northwest Indiana Community Action made by
19 Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The next one is NIPSCO. I read a
23 little bit on it.

24 MS. DAWKINS: I sent an e-mail today just to ask where
25 we were in the process. But I didn't get a response.

26 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we want to just keep that on the
27 Agenda for right now or table that one too?

28 MS. DAWKINS: We can table it. And when I have a
29 response, I will let Mayra know.

30 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have a motion to table the
31 NIPSCO incident?

1 Comments/Questions: None.

2 Motion to table Northern Indiana Public Services Company
made by Eugene Austin. Second by Valda Lewis.

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

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The MOU for the School City.
Miss Dawkins, have you talked to Mr. Harris?

6
7 MS. DAWKINS: I did speak with him today. And he
informed me that because of so many changes that was going
8 on with the School Board that he was definitely going to
present to the Superintendent today.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Today?

10 MS. DAWKINS: Today.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So next meeting we might have an
12 answer?

13 MS. DAWKINS: Hopefully.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's going to be time sensitive now.

15 MS. DAWKINS: Right. It's going to be. My last
e-mail was a little strong. He called me today.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So should we table that too?

17 MS. DAWKINS: I'd rather us not table it. I would
like to be able to report something at the next meeting.
18 So we could add it on I guess.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Or we can table it to the next
meeting.

20 MS. DAWKINS: Okay.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have a motion to table the MOU
22 for School City until the next meeting?

23 Comments/Questions: None.

24 Motion to table MOU for School City made by Valda Lewis.
Second by Eugene Austin.

25

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

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: MOU for PMB Consulting.

3 MS. ACOSTA: She is actually here today to present.
4 We had some changes to make, some minor changes.

5 MS. DAWKINS: Very minor, only one page, on page 6. I
6 think the Board had already approved it. So I just brought
7 additional copies of that one page so you can add it to
8 yours.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think we have it. No. We don't
10 have it.

11 Miss Acosta, do you want us to move on this now?
12 We already did that.

13 MS. ACOSTA: She is going to present additional
14 information regarding the program. She was out on vacation
15 for a few weeks.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll wait for that one. How about
17 Roxana Center MOU.

18 MS. ACOSTA: It's the same thing as the PMB. That is
19 a duplicate.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And how about the Roxana Center Tile?

21 MS. ACOSTA: So we had three quotes previously. And
22 we were going with the lowest quote. But we wanted the
23 contractor to revise his quote and add more detail.

24 I haven't heard from him. It's been over a
25 month. So I think we're just going to move forward with
finding someone else.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So he didn't want to itemize nothing?

MS. ACOSTA: He just hasn't replied. It's been
awhile.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Was he aware that he was awarded it,
but had to itemize it?

MS. ACOSTA: No.

25

1 MS. LEWIS: I don't know that we necessarily awarded
it. I don't think so.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No. We didn't award it because we
3 wanted it itemized. We didn't want hearsay.

4 MS. LEWIS: Right. I remember.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So are we going to go with the next
bid?

6 MS. ACOSTA: I only have one more bid because it was
7 two options. One was vinyl tile and one was epoxy tile.

8 We kind of would prefer to have epoxy tile
because it will take less maintenance regarding
9 replacement. And we only have one quote for that. So I
will have to get another one.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You have to get another one?

11 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So should we table this then?

13 Comments/Questions: None.

14 Motion to table Roxana Center Tile made by Valda Lewis.
15 Second by Eugene Austin.

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

17 NEW BUSINESS:

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Under New Business Ralph Flores,
19 Contractor.

20 MR. FLORES: Hello, everyone. My name is Ralph
Flores, Jr., with Flores Consulting Group. Mayra Acosta
21 asked that I come just to formally introduce myself to you.

22 On January 1 I was awarded a contract to assist
with the oversight of Block Stadium reporting to
23 Mr. Solorio and Mr. Selvie on the progress that's going on
there and doing some general maintenance around Block
24 Stadium.

25 Also we're doing some scheduling for all of the

1 baseball events in town. Working on youth initiatives.

2 Today before I came here I went over to Kosciuzko
3 Park to welcome the East Chicago Central Baseball Team,
4 their first outdoor practice today. Spoke with the coaches
5 there. Got an idea of what their needs are as it pertains
6 to the practice facility and then later that becoming their
7 permanent field for this season until things are done at
8 Block Stadium.

9 Come to find out while I was there that there are
10 only 11 players on the team from 9th grade to 12th grade.
11 So I know I had a pretty big initiative trying to promote
12 some things here. But I didn't realize that there was only
13 11 players in four grades playing baseball at East Chicago
14 Central.

15 It kind of broke my heart. So I got on the phone
16 and I started calling coaches. I called Coach Jason Novak.
17 Asked him if he could recruit some of his football players
18 that may have interest.

19 I understand two of his football players may be
20 the best baseball players in the school. They're not
21 playing. So I asked him if he could push those kids to
22 come out to help this team, they only have 11 players.

23 Actually I knew one of the parents. I called the
24 parent. Asked him if he would help, maybe push his son to
25 play. So there's various initiatives that we're
undertaking.

26 We also started putting a proposal together for
27 Miss Acosta and the Mayor for a youth baseball camp that we
28 hope to have next month along with a coach's clinic to
29 bring some professionals, professional coaches from the
30 area to help coach little league and the kids in their
31 instruction before the season starts.

32 So that gives you some of the initiatives that
33 are going on. There's several others. But if there's any
34 other questions, feel free to ask.

35 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have one. Block Stadium, how long
is that going to take? Is that done for the rest of the
year?

MR. FLORES: Yeah. This season there will be no
baseball played there. But 2020, the spring of 2020 it

1 will be ready. According to Gariup Construction if
2 everything goes as planned that field should be ready for
play 2020.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the dugouts, do they have a sewer
4 in the dugouts?

5 MR. FLORES: Yeah. They've done all the dewatering.
6 That's done now. Now they're actually building out the
dugouts as we speak. There's actually going to be an area
7 from the dugouts that go into a locker room for each team.

8 It's going to be a beautiful facility when it's
9 done. The Mayor has done a great job.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It does look good.

11 MR. FLORES: Any other questions?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

13 MR. FLORES: Thank you.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Next would be Mrs. Pamela, President
15 of PMB Consulting.

16 MS. BUHMAN: Hi, I'm Pamela. And I'm the
17 Nutrition Manager for Roxana Nutrition Meal Site at your
18 Roxana Senior Building. And we feed seniors five days a
19 week Monday through Friday 9:30 to 1:30. And it's through
20 the Division on Aging.

21 I have been awarded the contract. And so I
22 manage it. I hire the site manager who is there. And she
23 makes sure she is there for all the seniors.

24 And so we feed on an average 11 seniors per day.
25 We're approved for 55 per week.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's only for the Roxana area?

MS. BUHMAN: It's actually Division on Aging and the
State. Anybody can come to any nutrition site. So if
people from Hammond wanted to come, they could. We can't
deny, no.

We cannot deny any senior who wants to come and
eat. But because it's located here, the majority of all
your seniors are East Chicago residents.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is it advertised here in East Chicago
that we know of?

2 MS. BUHMAN: I think in the senior, the paper, the
3 senior paper that goes out. I think Northwest Indiana
Community Action advertises where all the locations are at.

4 I manage four locations, two in East Chicago. I
5 do the James Hunter site and I do the Roxana site. And I
6 have two in Gary. I do the Roosevelt Pavilion and the
Genesis Towers.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It would be great to put a flier in
the Nicosia Building, Senior Citizen Home.

8 MS. BUHMAN: I'm not familiar with that building. I
9 heard the name before. But we could do that. I do have
fliers.

10 The issue is that we are on the last four months
11 of our three-year grant cycle. The grant cycle is three
years. But it goes in one year cycles for three years.

12 I only have a batch of money that has been
13 approved actually three years ago. And that will only
allow me to feed 11, average 11 people per day. And we are
14 at our max right now. But we will open it up to anyone
because I will make a way.

15 Since I have four sites if one of my sites is low
16 one month if Roxana needs the meals I will make sure she
orders the meals. I can work my way around it.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Excuse me. Then you confused me. You
18 said you could have 55 people.

19 MS. BUHMAN: That's what they're approved for. That's
in my budget. That's what they're approved for.

20 Now, I have 35 a day at Genesis Towers. You
21 know, it's what the demand has been. But if they get this
huge enrollment, you know, where they get two or three new
22 people, that doesn't mean they're going to come there
everyday. They can eat one day week. They can eat five
23 days a week. They can eat two days a week. So depending
on how they want to eat.

24 Sometimes we have people who pass at other
25 centers. So I can take those meals and transfer them. Do

1 you know what I mean?

2 I start at a base. And the base is 11 meals a
3 day. But I don't deny Roxana any meals. I have never had
4 to at this point.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Mayra, what are we supposed to do?
5 Are we supposed to approve this?

5 MS. BUHMAN: Well, I just need the MOU signed which I
6 guess you have signed already.

7 MS. ACOSTA: So she is already grandfathered in
8 because she's been at the Roxana Senior Center for years.
9 She was one of those. We had to renew the contract.

9 We had given her I guess a temporary MOU because
10 she needed it right away for her grants. And now we
11 actually have the correct MOU.

11 I think the attorney was going to make some
12 changes to it that you requested.

12 MS. DAWKINS: That's what you have. We changed on
13 page 6 the term.

14 MR. CANTU: I have a question. Your agreement is for
15 24 months?

15 MS. BUHMAN: Well, the agreement starts July 1. My
16 temporary one goes through June 30.

17 MR. CANTU: The only reason I question you about 24
18 months is we have never made any contracts for 24 months.
19 We always do it year to year because we don't know what's
20 going to happen next year. And we have never done a two or
21 three-year contract. The MOU that we make we make it every
22 year. Am I am correct?

20 MS. DAWKINS: That is correct. However the reason is
21 that we have a few organizations that based on their grant
22 cycles, how they get money they need the contracts to be
23 for the period of their grants.

23 I think we only have maybe two. Besides her I
24 think it's maybe the library. It may only be the two of
25 them.

25 But we went ahead and provided that change for

1 them because of their grants.

2 MS. LEWIS: We discussed this a couple of meetings
3 ago.

4 MS. DAWKINS: Right.

5 MS. LEWIS: And because of what the attorney said the
6 way that the MOU is worded it's a three-year kind of MOU.
7 But it goes from year to year.

8 MS. BUHMAN: It gets me through my three-year cycle is
9 what it does. This hasn't changed for years and years and
10 years. That has been going on even before I took over
11 management and was awarded the grant.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anymore questions?

13 MR. CANTU: Like I said before we've always been
14 coming back with the other ones too. Every one that we do
15 a contract we do the contract for a year. So why does it
16 have to be 24 months this time?

17 I mean there is no difference down there. For
18 the last ten years you and me we've been here it's only
19 year by year.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We always did it annually. Can you
21 explain it to him again?

22 MS. DAWKINS: Well, the reason is they get money from
23 a source. And that source requires them, the people that
24 give him them the money to run the program that they have,
25 they're able to say that they have three years or two years
or however. The library is five years.

So we modified the contract that we basically
give everybody else. We modified it so that we could -- we
don't want them to leave East Chicago. We want them to
stay here and give our seniors these meals.

21 At least for Miss Buhman --

22 MS. BUHMAN: Buhman.

23 MS. DAWKINS: I have an aunt that her last name is
24 Bowen. And that's where my --

25 MS. BUHMAN: That's okay.

1 MS. DAWKINS: That's the reason why. It's only two
2 organizations. We don't want the libraries to leave and we
3 certainly don't want our seniors not to be fed. So we made
4 an exception for those two organizations so that their
5 funding can be secured. We don't want them to lose their
6 funding.

7 MR. CANTU: So you're going to make a precedent that
8 from now whoever they are down there you make an exception
9 and you accept it?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No.

11 MS. DAWKINS: No.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: They got a grant. They got a grant
13 for three years. So they have to use that money for three
14 years. So we gave them three years.

15 MR. CANTU: We always had grants paying for something.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's not our grant. It's their grant.
17 It has nothing to do with us. That's their grant that they
18 receive.

19 Anymore questions?

20 MS. BUHMAN: Thank you so much.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Mayra, do you want to go
22 next or do you want to go to CDB Care Services?

23 MS. ACOSTA: Do you mind if we do Serrita because
24 she's here so that she can go?

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

MS. ACOSTA: She's from Carnegie Hall.

MS. DAVIS: Hello, my name is Serrita Davis. I'm with
Leon Kendrick, Youth Voices United. And we operate out of
the Carnegie Hall.

And so we are putting a program together to
service the kids at the centers in East Chicago where they
would come to the Carnegie for two hours twice a week, 4:30
to 6:30. And they would learn how to play the piano, the
drums, dance, costume and set design and also some vocal
lessons.

1 At the end of the session we're thinking the very
2 beginning of June or the very end of May they will put
3 together a program, a production like a play or musical to
4 show the things that they have done.

5 We're thinking about doing like it's called the
6 Music History Time Machine. And so the kids would go
7 through the different eras like from the '20s, the '50s,
8 the '60s, the '70s. They will do those types of dances as
9 well as African and Hispanic cultural dances.

10 There will also be acting involved. The students
11 will design their own costumes and the set.

12 So we would begin as soon as we could and end the
13 beginning of June when school let's out. And then start
14 again after the summer and continue the program all the way
15 until December, the end of December.

16 MS. LEWIS: What is it exactly that you're asking us?

17 MS. DAVIS: Well, I'm just explaining our program to
18 you.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you give us a bio of yourself?

20 MS. DAVIS: Well, I don't have a bio of myself. I
21 don't know if you are all familiar with Mr. Kendrick.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 MS. DAVIS: That's my dad. It's his program. And so
24 he is the CEO, the director over the program. I'm just
25 here representing him.

 So did you have any questions for me?

 MS. ACOSTA: So Serrita is here from Carnegie Hall.
 Now that Carnegie Hall is under Parks we wanted her to come
 and kind of tell you what Carnegie Hall is doing and what
 Mr. Kendrick is doing in the facility.

 MS. DAVIS: I can also explain more. I was just
 explaining the programming that we would do with the Parks.
 But on Saturdays, currently every Saturday we meet from
 10:00 to 2:00 o'clock.

 And the kids come in and they rotate through
 classes. And they learn how to play the piano, the drums.

1 They paint. They draw, sing, dance.

2 We even started a modeling troop. And that goes
3 from 2:00 to 3:00.

4 In the summertime we meet three times
5 out of the week. Actually four. So it's like Monday
6 through Thursday. And the kids come from 9:00 until 2:00
7 o'clock. We provide breakfast and lunch. And they do the
8 same thing.

9 The students that come they just don't pick one
10 thing to do like piano. They actually rotate in and out of
11 all the classes. And then they present, they put on a big
12 production at the end of the summer.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And this is all free?

14 MS. DAVIS: In the summertime it's \$4 a day. And then
15 on Saturdays it's \$5.

16 If we have families that come in sometimes that
17 want to register three kids, we would say the one child
18 could come free and then the other child would just pay
19 half. So that would be like \$2 a day.

20 But we've never turned anyone away because they
21 did not have the money. So in some cases it is free.

22 If I have space open and someone shows an
23 interest that wanted to come, we do allow them to be a part
24 of our program.

25 MR. AUSTIN: I have one question I'd like to ask.
26 What age group is this? What is the age group?

27 MS. DAVIS: Age 3 to 18.

28 MR. AUSTIN: 3 to 18?

29 MS. DAVIS: Yes. This past summer we started
30 servicing children 3 and 4. So we have like little
31 preschool aged children that come.

32 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anymore questions? Thank you.

33 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

34 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Next would be Mayra. You're up next.

1 MS. ACOSTA: So we received a CDBG Grant from
2 Redevelopment of \$40,000 to use for the Art Program. And
3 that's going to be over at Carnegie Hall. And that's what
4 she was explaining.

5 So I need the Board to please approve the
6 accepting of \$40,000 from Redevelopment so that we could
7 have this program.

8 MS. LEWIS: That's this?

9 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, ma'am.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Members, did you have a chance
11 to look over this?

12 MS. DAWKINS: I'd just like to say this is the
13 standard Redevelopment Interdepartmental Agreement that we
14 have used for years even when we employed children during
15 the summer to work the program.

16 The basketball coaches, I'm calling them
17 children. Some of them are young adults. But for the most
18 part they're not older than like 25 for sure.

19 MS. LEWIS: Is Mr. Kendrick going to be over this
20 program?

21 MS. ACOSTA: So the way it works is that the Parks
22 cannot hire Voices, that's his organization, to run the
23 program because we cannot subcontract another contractor.
24 We are going to hire Mr. Kendrick and a few of his staff as
25 individuals to run the program for us.

MS. LEWIS: But you can't hire them as a group?

MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So they will be doing the
program at their facility.

MS. DAWKINS: I'd just like to add right now we do
have a Management Agreement which is different from the
Memorandums of Understanding that we had with other
organizations which basically gives them the
responsibility. I think it's already been approved by the
Board, the management for Carnegie Hall.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think we did.

MS. DAWKINS: So this is over and above. The young

1 lady that was presenting was basically presenting so that
2 the money that the Parks Department received is going to be
3 utilized based on what she just described to you with the
4 extra people coming over from the centers to get taught
5 music basically.

6 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. The plan is to bus all the kids
7 from all the four different community centers. Bus them to
8 Carnegie Hall.

9 And they're going to be learning drama. They're
10 going to be learning music. They're going to be learning
11 drums, piano, sewing. And that's going to be free of
12 charge to the members or to the children.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Funded through this grant?

14 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other questions?

16 MR. AUSTIN: I'd like to know the accident part of
17 this, what you're putting together here, who is going to be
18 responsible for that, the insurance? Who is taking care of
19 that? I mean how does that go? Explain it to the Board.

20 MS. ACOSTA: So we are going to have a registration in
21 each of the centers where the parents are going to select
22 if their children are allowed to be transported to Carnegie
23 to take these classes and for them to select which classes
24 they would like to take. And then they will have to sign a
25 waiver.

MR. AUSTIN: I think we need to see some paperwork on
that.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anymore questions?

MS. LEWIS: Has this program started or will it start
in the summer?

MS. ACOSTA: No. It will start as soon as possible as
soon as the background checks come and as soon as we get
the grant approved.

And it will not be for the summer. It will be
before the summer and after the summer. So during the
school year.

1 MS. LEWIS: So any summer program there will be
different?

2 MS. ACOSTA: It will be separate, yes. I will bring
3 another Redevelopment once I get that approved for the
summer specifically.

4 MS. LEWIS: I move that we accept the grant for the
5 Carnegie Hall Program.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Interdepartmental Agreement is what
it's called.

7 Comments/Questions: None.

8 Motion to approve Interdepartmental Agreement made by Valda
9 Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

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

11 MS. ACOSTA: The next one, Legacy Foundation contacted
12 us. They would like to do a farmer's market here in the
City of East Chicago.

13 They will be recruiting all the farmers. They
14 will be supplying them with tents, with tables, with
coolers, whatever they need. All they are asking for us to
15 do is allow them to use a parking lot or a facility for
them to do it.

16 So they're requesting to do it for three days on
17 July 13, August 9 and September 6. So they would like two
of those days to be at the Washington Park parking lot
18 right in front of the Park Office.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: By the greenhouse you said?

20 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. And then they actually came over
last week and asked if maybe one of those days could be at
21 Kosciuzko Park inside the pool house so they could be able
to reach both sides of the City.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But Kosciuzko is not on --

23 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So you want us to approve this?

25

1 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. The three days for the farmer's
market.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anymore questions?

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Motion to approve Farmer's Market Program made by Valda
5 Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

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

7
8 MS. ACOSTA: The next one, I was contacted by Gift of
Hope, a not-for-profit organization regarding Mr. David
9 Anderson who was a young boy who was killed at Nunez Park
last year. They would like to donate a bench to place at
10 Callahan Park. There's pictures of the bench.

11 They would donate the bench. And all they're
asking us is to be able to place it at Callahan Park. And
12 then they want to have a little ceremony.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So you're asking us just to supply the
labor?

14 MS. ACOSTA: No. I'm asking for approval to place the
bench.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just to place the bench?

16 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. They'll be supplying the labor.
17 They'll be supplying the bench. They'll be taking care of
everything.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: How many benches?

19 MS. ACOSTA: Just one.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And this is open to anybody? I mean
21 we see a lot of benches popping up.

22 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. The bench will be there for anyone
to sit on. Is that what you're asking?

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No. I'm asking if another family
24 wants to do a bench or any other family also wants to put a
bench in the park.

25

1 MS. ACOSTA: I think it would depend on the reason why
they're doing it.

2 This one specifically is because he was a victim.
3 And he actually donated all of his organs. And he was able
4 to save seven lives. And because of that we wanted to
recognize to him.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Now I have a question for the
counselor. Can we discriminate if somebody else wants to
6 do it?

7 MS. DAWKINS: I think we can set some guidelines.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think we should.

9 MS. DAWKINS: This is more than just somebody wanting
to put a bench out there. I mean this is something where
10 he was killed here in the park.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I understand. What I'm saying is
suppose it was a gang member, a gang wants to put a bench
12 for that friend there. You know what I'm saying?

13 MS. DAWKINS: Right. I understand.

14 MS. LEWIS: It's not the family that's placing the
bench. It's this organization. I understand what you're
15 saying. But it's not his family. It's this organization.

16 MS. DAWKINS. Well, we can make guidelines that it has
to be an organization and whatever else you want to include
17 in it.

18 If you want the guidelines to be more or less
based on the approval of this letter so that we can
19 determine in the future. We could maybe have it where it
could be a family.

20 If it was a family foundation and they wanted to
21 do it or give a donation, we can make the guidelines in
advance so that anyone that comes up after the fact we can
22 already say we have these guidelines in place. I think
that's an excellent idea to do that so we won't have 20
23 park benches.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right. So what I would do is make a
motion to accept this, but then pending guidelines for
25 future ones.

1 MS. ACOSTA: Also I don't know if you noticed, but
2 Mr. Davidson (sic) was murdered in Nunez and they're
3 requesting for the bench to be put in Callahan.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What's the reason? Is that where he
5 lived at?

6 MS. ACOSTA: That's just the parked they picked.

7 MS. LEWIS: He played in that park.

8 MS. ACOSTA: He played basketball, yes. And that's
9 why they want the bench by the basketball court.

10 MS. DAWKINS: These are two different benches?

11 MS. ACOSTA: No. It's one bunch.

12 MS. DAWKINS: This is just a sample?

13 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. Those are pictures of what the
14 bench will look like.

15 MR. AUSTIN: The one thing about this is this is a
16 nice idea. But I think is this going to be into some kind
17 of gang? Gangs, they would be at the place and they see
18 some things. We should study this here before we --

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to set guidelines after we
20 pass these two right now.

21 MR. AUSTIN: Right. Because too much is going on with
22 these young people now. They go into churches and
23 everywhere and start stuff because once they see something
24 like this -- we older people we don't quite understand
25 these young people.

26 So this should be studied and see what can happen
27 and we'll try to look at it.

28 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's what we're doing. Counselor,
29 can you come up with guidelines?

30 MS. DAWKINS: I can come up with something. And then
31 if there's something you want to add or take off, we can do
32 that.

33 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

1 MS. DAWKINS: But I want to be clear on this. Their
2 letter is for David Anderson, correct? And this is just a
sample. Timmy Davidson is just a sample.

3 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

4 MS. DAWKINS: And this one is a sample?

5 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

6 MS. DAWKINS: Of the bench and how it looks. One is
7 on a platform. One is on a concrete platform and the other
one is not.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are they all going to be on concrete?

9 MS. ACOSTA: It will be up us to select whatever we
10 want. And also we get to select the color.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That also has to be in the guidelines
too, we determine what's going to be on that.

12 So you want us to make a motion to pass this
13 right now pending guidelines for additional benches?

14 MS. ACOSTA: Or we can do the guidelines and then talk
to them. It's up to the Board.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Counselor, should we just start with
16 the guidelines first and then come back and pass this?
It's going to be summertime. So they could do it in the
17 summer.

18 MS. DAWKINS: That's at the pleasure of the Board. If
19 you want me to do that, then I could have something ready
for you at the next meeting. And then table this until the
next meeting.

20 MR. AUSTIN: I would say table it.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Should we agree on that to almost
22 table this until we get the guidelines.

23 MR. AUSTIN: I make a motion.

24 MS. DAWKINS: Is this the first request we've had?

25 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a motion to table this until
2 counsel comes up with guidelines and we pass the
3 guidelines?

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Motion to table Bench Donations made by Eugene Austin.
5 Second by Valda Lewis.

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

7 MS ACOSTA: The next one is actually an invoice for
8 the stove over at Riley Park. I don't know if the Board
9 remembers last time we had a meeting it smelled like gas.
10 It was very a strong smell. So we actually called a repair
11 person to come and fix it.

10 We thought it was an emergency. And when it's an
11 emergency, we don't need a second quote. We just need
12 someone to come out and repair it.

12 So we did it as emergency work that was needed.
13 So I just need the Board to approve it.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is it an estimate or is the actual
14 work done already?

15 MS. ACOSTA: It's an estimate. They were waiting on
16 parts.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But they did shut off the gas?

17 MS. ACOSTA: No. They actually came and they cleaned
18 the whole thing. And they stopped it from, yes, smelling
19 like gas. So now it's actually safe. But they need some
20 repairs to be done. So they had to order some parts.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The estimate is \$1,594.27.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

22 Motion to approve Major Appliance Service, Inc. made by
23 Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

25 MS. ACOSTA: I don't have anything else unless you

1 have questions.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have one question. In my
3 neighborhood, Riley Park, everybody likes what you did so
4 far especially the trails. Now they're asking can you put
5 like boulders on the side of the trails.

6 It serves two purposes. As they walk around they
7 get tired. It's going to beautify it. But also they can
8 use it as a sit-down.

9 So put boulders on the side of the track and also
10 if you can put shrubs. They want to make it look a little
11 nicer.

12 That's all I have. Especially the seniors,
13 they're the ones asking that we put shrubs there or bushes
14 or something if you can do that.

15 MS. ACOSTA: Okay.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's it.

17 MS. ACOSTA: We are waiting on our Gaming Fund to come
18 in. If we get enough funds, then we'll be able to buy
19 benches and picnic tables for different parks that they're
20 waiting on.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's it. Anymore questions?

22 MS. LEWIS: I have a question. It was stated sometime
23 ago that the nameplate plaque that was removed from Block
24 Stadium is not going to be put back at Block Stadium. Is
25 there a reason why?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I guess we should have asked --

MS. ACOSTA: Yeah.

MS. LEWIS: Ralph.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: We should have asked Mr. Flores when
he was here. Mayra, can you ask him?

MS. ACOSTA: I will find out.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And have an answer next week?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anymore questions?

2 PUBLIC INPUT: None

3 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019
4 @ 5:00 p.m.

5 Motion to adjourn was made by Valda Lewis. Second by
6 Gilberto Cantu.

7 * The Meeting ended at 5:52 p.m.

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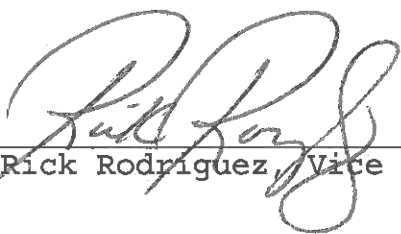
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1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Tuesday, March 12, 2019
3 Approved and signed _____

4 
5 _____
6 Anthony Serna, President

7 
8 _____
9 Rick Rodriguez, Vice President

10 
11 _____
12 Valda Lewis, Secretary

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14 _____
15 Gilberto Cantu, Member

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17 _____
18 Eugene Austin, Member

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20 _____
21 Loretta Parker, 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 22nd day of March 2019.

LISA PENA
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003484

