

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, April 23, 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: Anthony Serna, Rick Rodriguez, Valda Lewis, Gilberto Cantu and Eugene Austin.

MR. SERNA: Before we hit Administrative Matters I would like to ask the Board Members if we could please entertain a motion to add to the Agenda, just received in the mail today, the polling locations for the City of East Chicago. And specifically there's five locations that are going to be used on election day, Tuesday, May 7.

That is EC 11 Roxana Recreation Center at 900 Shell Street, EC 13 is the MLK Center at 4802 Melville, EC 17 Riley Park Pavilion at 1005 East Chicago Avenue, EC 33 Sunnyside Park, the Hothouse at 141st and Grace Street and EC 35 the Clemente Unity Center at 3623 Guthrie.

Questions/Comments: None.

Motion to add City of East Chicago Polling Locations to the Agenda made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2019.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

2 Motion to approve April 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes made by Valda
Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

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

5 MR. SERNA: Next we'll move on to approval of the
payroll for 4/12/2019.

6 Questions/Comments: None.

7 Motion to approve 4/12/19 Payroll made by Eugene Austin.
8 Second by Valda Lewis.

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

11 MR. SERNA: Next we have approval of the payroll for
4/18/2019.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

13 Motion to approve 4/18/19 Payroll made by Valda Lewis.
14 Second by Eugene Austin.

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

16 MR. SERNA: Madam Secretary, for the record if you will
17 please note that Board Members Rick Rodriguez and Mr. Cantu
are here with us now.

18 Next we have on Administrative Matters the approval
and signing of the warrant, Warrant Number 04-23-19PB.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

20 Motion to approve Warrant Number 04-23-19PB made by Rick
21 Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

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

23 MR. SERNA: Next we have a late invoice -- no. This
24 is not a late invoice. This is an invoice that needs
approval.

25

1 Mayra, I thought it was a late invoice. I'm sorry,
I see the invoice date of 4/11/2019.

2 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So we were contacted by Little
3 Apple which is the company who originally installed the
4 batting cages at the golf course. They haven't been back
5 since the original installation. And so the batting cages
6 have been maintained by someone from Public Works.

7 We've had multiple issues throughout the years with
8 the machines. Little Apple contacted me a couple weeks ago
9 saying that they were in town in East Chicago doing a
10 different job. And we wanted them to stop by our machines
11 and do maintenance that they hadn't done for multiple years.

12 So we assumed that it was an emergency job that we
13 really needed to get done so they could level everything,
14 make sure everything was properly done throughout these
15 entire years. So that's what the invoice is for.

16 MR. SERNA: This is an invoice of 4/11. Did they
17 already do the work?

18 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, they did.

19 MR. SERNA: Board members, do you have any other
20 questions for Mayra regarding this invoice?

21 Questions/Comments: None.

22 Motion to approve Little Apple Invoice Number 1287 dated
23 4/11/2019 made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

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

26 MR. SERNA: Next we added to the Agenda, Mr. Cantu and
27 Rick Rodriguez, Item F under Administrative Matters, East
28 Chicago Polling Locations. The letter was received today in
29 regards to five locations that are under our jurisdiction.

30 So we're looking for a motion to approve the use of
31 Roxana Recreation Center, Martin Luther King Center, Riley
32 Park Pavilion, Sunnyside Park Hothouse and the Clemente Unity
33 Center.

34 Questions/Comments: None.

35

1 Motion to approve East Chicago Polling Locations for Election
2 Day, May 7, 2019 made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Eugene
Austin.

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

5 OLD BUSINESS:

6 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to Old Business. Under Old
7 Business we have Item A which is NIPSCO, Northern Indiana
8 Public Services Company. Counselor, any movement?

9 MS. DAWKINS: None.

10 MR. SERNA: I will say this, Board Members, that I spoke
11 with the Engineering Department. The Engineering Department
12 had a meeting with NIPSCO. And I believe there were other
13 city officials present. And there is talk of possibly adding
14 our issue to the litany of issues that the City brought up
15 with NIPSCO.

16 I don't know if those issues were related to
17 service or to building or what have you. But when I spoke to
18 Engineering, they said it was worthy. Our issue of losing
19 the fish that we lost because of that electrical situation,
20 that it would be worthy of noting and adding to their like I
21 said litany of issues they have with NIPSCO.

22 So at least I can say that there's a little bit of
23 movement in that direction. NIPSCO has had a meeting with
24 the City in regards to other issues.

25 So basically what I can say is hopefully we'll hit
26 them from one end and another end with a left right and
27 maybe, maybe we can get something because it just doesn't
28 make sense that we had a system in place to backup the power.
29 And it just doesn't make sense that they can't do something
30 for us in regards to that loss.

31 We'll keep that on the Agenda, Madam Secretary, for
32 the next meeting, NIPSCO.

33 We'll move on to the next item under Old Business,
34 the MOU for School City. Counselor?

35 MS. DAWKINS: Nothing.

MR. SERNA: I did see an e-mail that you sent, you

1 included Leon, in regards to reaching out to Attorney
2 Allegretti asking if he was going to be taking over. I
3 didn't get a response. I don't know if he responded to you.

3 MS. DAWKINS: No.

4 MR. SERNA: So at the last meeting when we talked our
5 counsel, Attorney Dawkins, said that -- well, I'll let you
6 say it after this.

6 You were informed or there was an e-mail that said
7 possibly Mr. Allegretti, Corporation Counsel, was going to be
8 taking over.

8 MS. DAWKINS: Well, he met with Attorney Harris. That's
9 all I know.

9 MR. SERNA: So they did meet. Was it regarding our MOU?
10

10 MS. DAWKINS: It was my understanding that it was.
11

11 MR. SERNA: It may have been other things that they met
12 about. But we know our MOU was probably one of the topics
13 that they discussed?

13 MS. DAWKINS: Correct.
14

14 MR. SERNA: Board Members, do you want to leave this
15 under Old Business or just take it off the Agenda and address
16 it as it comes? What do you think?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think address it as it comes because
17 it's been on for awhile now.

18 MS. LEWIS: I agree.

19 MR. SERNA: Madam Secretary, please remove the MOU for
20 School City from the Agenda for the next meeting.

20 Next up under Old Business we have the School City
21 of East Chicago, letters. If you can refresh my memory,
22 Madam Secretary or Mayra, which letters those were?

22 MS. ACOSTA: It was the letter requesting the usage of
23 the gym at Unity Center as an emergency evacuation.

24 MR. SERNA: Right. And that's what was tied into the
25 MOU. We were looking for a response for the MOU.

1 Have you received any follow up phone calls or
2 letters from the School City regarding that?

3 MS. ACOSTA: I received an e-mail from I guess the
4 security guard at the school asking what the status was.

5 MR. SERNA: That would be a gentleman by the name of
6 Vince?

7 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

8 MR. SERNA: He is the head of their security, Director
9 of Security. I have had a little bit of a relationship with
10 him from a Fire Department standpoint. Vince Balbo is his
11 name. And he is their Director or Head of Security.

12 MS. ACOSTA: I did talk to him about it. I told him
13 that the Board had not made a decision yet. But if there was
14 another facility that was available around the same location
15 that they would be able to use in case they were not able to
16 get Unity. He said he was looking into the Guadalupe Church.
17 That's the second option. But he hadn't received a response
18 from them either.

19 MR. SERNA: Well, Board Members, what do you think? We
20 took the MOU for the School City off the Agenda. Do you
21 think we should leave this on the Agenda or remove it from
22 the Agenda and just address that maybe possibly when we hear
23 from the School City or Attorney Allegretti about the MOU?

24 MS. LEWIS: I think since it's tied in with the MOU that
25 we take it off Agenda.

MR. AUSTIN: I agree with that. Then if they want to go
further with it they just have to put it on another meeting.

MR. SERNA: Request then to put it on the Agenda?
Sounds like a plan.

Madam Secretary, please remove that from the Agenda
as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. SERNA: We'll move on to New Business. Mayra, do
you have a report for us? If not I see we have Athletic
Field Use Guidelines here under New Business.

MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So this is the guidelines for

1 rental of the baseball fields. And there's also the
2 application for rental of the fields, the rate you previously
approved.

3 MR. SERNA: I was able to print that from my e-mail, the
4 Athletic Field Use Guidelines. I looked it over. I had a
5 question in regards to the second page where the signature
page, signature line is at the bottom.

6 Under insurance it's highlighted in yellow, "renter
7 shall provide proof of liability insurance coverage for the
event in the minimum amount of \$1,000. The City of East
Chicago should be listed as additional insured."

8 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. And Ralph Flores who is now the
9 manager of the rental of the fields said that that's
standard, that all the parks ask for that insurance.

10 MR. SERNA: I was just wondering why it was highlighted.
11 If there was something you wanted us to change or amend or
anything like that?

12 MS. ACOSTA: No. I just thought maybe that was
13 something that would pop that you would question.

14 MR. SERNA: Just from my experience with just baseball,
15 Little League and Babe Ruth Leagues, they travel with that
insurance. That's the price you pay when you get what's
16 called a charter, whether it's a charter from Little League
or a charter from a Babe Ruth Organization.

17 Part of your charter fees is the players that you
18 have chartered under your league are all covered by a big
blanket policy whether it's Little League Baseball and a
19 company that insures them or Babe Ruth Baseball and a company
that insures them. So I know for those two organizations
they come with that insurance.

20 Now, any kind of other organization they would have
21 to go to maybe a Crowel Insurance Agency or some kind of
insurance broker and get that. But I know with baseball in
22 particular and with Babe Ruth and Little League that's part
of their fees that they pay to their parent organization.
23 They're covered. They travel with insurance. And Ralph
knows. He knows that.

24 As far as let's say a travel team, a team that
25 someone would start, if they're not affiliated with those
major organizations like Babe Ruth or Little League, they

1 would definitely have to have some kind of insurance policy
2 from some broker on some agent or something.

3 Did everyone have a chance to look over the
4 Athletic Field Use Guidelines that were in your packets? Any
5 questions?

6 Did you need us to approve the guidelines?

7 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. The attorney reviewed them and she
8 was okay with all the wording I believe.

9 MS. DAWKINS: Yes.

10 MR. SERNA: Any questions?

11 Questions/Comments: None.

12 Motion to approve Athletic Field Use Guidelines made by Valda
13 Lewis. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

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

16 MR. SERNA: Next on the Agenda under New Business,
17 Mayra, you have the Baseball Field Rental Organization
18 Application.

19 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. That should be in there too.

20 MR. SERNA: Yes. I have it. And again I printed it
21 out. And I had a chance to look at it. Again just a
22 question this is also something that Mr. Flores had a hand
23 in?

24 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. He created the original one. I
25 made some revisions. And then I sent it to the attorney to
also review and give us feedback.

MS. SERNA: Counsel, you're comfortable with this
version?

MS. DAWKINS: Yes. It's okay.

MR. SERNA: Board Members, do you have any questions on
the Baseball Field Rental Organization Application?

Questions/Comments: None.

25

1 Motion to approve Baseball Field Rental Organization
Application made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Valda Lewis.

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

4 MR. SERNA: Mayra, do you have anything else for us?

5 MS. ACOSTA: I just wanted to remind everyone that Arbor
Day is this Friday at Marktown. We'll be planting 50 trees.
6 Everyone is welcome to attend either to volunteer or at least
to be present at the ceremony. It starts at 10:00 o'clock.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's planting trees?

8 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. We're planting 50 trees at
9 Marktown in the park. We have 14 organizations that already
RSVP'd that will be attending the event.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What about the other parks where the
11 trees are dying?

12 MS. ACOSTA: So we do one big event every year. And
then we have them do small planting for small parks. So like
13 Edward Valve they planted about 30 trees this Saturday.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's a small park for a lot of trees.

15 MS. ACOSTA: Right. But a lot of them were bad. So
they were cut down.

16 Marktown we're doing 50 trees. Last year we did
17 MacArthur Golf Course. We planted 30. Next year we're going
to do Roxana. But in between we do the smaller parks.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

19 MS. ACOSTA: We also have the Flower Show. That's
20 completely full. That's coming on May 8. We have three
senior trips already planned. I will hand this out if anyone
21 is interested.

22 And then I think the President asked me a question
last meeting regarding Ace information and rates. I did get
23 an answer from them. So I will hand this out.

24 MS. LEWIS: That's regarding what?

25 MS. ACOSTA: The rates for pest control.

1 MR. SERNA: Ace.

2 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. And they replied and I have their
3 answer for you.

4 That's all I have unless you have questions.

5 MR. SERNA: Question or comment. I still have those
6 bunny feet. I've got to get those to you from your bunnies
7 for the Easter Egg Hunt.

8 Excellent Easter Egg Hunt. I am sure the Community
9 appreciated it. Do you have any numbers or any data
10 collected from that date about how many you served or how
11 many participated?

12 MS. ACOSTA: We had 500 bags, give away bags that were
13 given away, goody bags. Those were all gone. They were all
14 gone. We ran out. So we didn't have any for everyone else.
15 So over 500 people came.

16 MR. SERNA: Board Members, I was there. The Fire
17 Department, the fire engine delivered the bunnies, the Easter
18 Bunnies. They had three Easter Bunnies. And they hopped out
19 of the fire truck.

20 I was there giving a hand. Tremendous turnout.
21 Last year it was cold and rainy. So we were begging to give
22 away baskets I guess at the end of the event. This year as
23 you heard Mayra say they just totally ran out.

24 Everything was free. Everything was free for the
25 kids. And it was a gorgeous day. So good work by everyone
there.

26 I know you had volunteers there from the Citizen's
27 Police Academy that helped out. And everyone, the Chief of
28 Staff was there and the Police Chief was there. Everyone was
29 helping out because it was a big crowd. It was a big crowd.
30 So that was a great event.

31 Good work by you and your staff. And all the
32 volunteers should be thanked for getting through that day
33 because there was a lot of kids there.

34 Anybody have any questions for Mayra?

35 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a question. Mayra, what about
the water fountains in the park?

1 MS. ACOSTA: So I actually went in front of the Council
2 on Monday to get approved for funding for Phase 1.

3 Phase 1 will be to install water fountains or
4 drinking fountains in the existing buildings. So whatever
5 park has a building we would attach a drinking fountain to
6 that.

7 Phase 2 would be to actually check all the lines
8 underground because some might not be able to be used. Some
9 might have led, et cetera. So we can't just turn on the
10 water and let it be. So we have to get that checked
11 underground to make sure and replace the ones that need to be
12 replaced. But that's Phase 2.

13 So the first meeting for that was Monday. And then
14 I have two more meetings because I guess there's three
15 meetings before I actually get the funding for it.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So do you think that it will be done by
17 summer?

18 MS. ACOSTA: Probably not because I think it's two more
19 meetings. So that's the end of May. So then we're in June
20 already. And I still got to get the plumbers to go and get
21 the estimates.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's it.

23 MR. SERNA: Any other questions? Thank you, Mayra.

24 PUBLIC INPUT: None.

25 * Next Regular Meeting Date: May 14, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

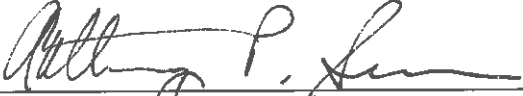
Motion to adjourn was made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by
Valda Lewis.

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

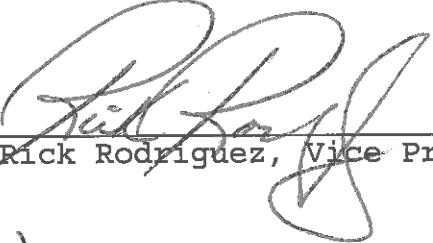
* Meeting ended at 5:21 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Approved and Signed _____

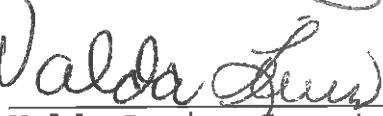
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Anthony Serna, President



Rick Rodriguez, Vice President



Valda Lewis, Secretary



Gilberto Cantu, Member



Eugene Austin, Member

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 9th day of May, 2019.

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

