

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

June 11, 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: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

MR. SERNA: I would entertain a motion to
approve meeting minutes of May 28, 2019.
Motion to approve minutes of May 28, 2019 made by
Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

Comments/Questions: None

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

MR. SERNA: Motion for approval of
payroll dated May 31, 2019.

Motion to approve payroll dates May 31, 2019 made by
Eugene Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

Comments/Questions: None

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

1 MR. SERNA: Entertain a motion to approve
Warrant 061119PB.

2
3 Motion to approve Warrant 061119PB made by Gilberto
Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.
4 Comments/Questions: None
5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion carries.

6
7 MR. SERNA: Entertain a motion to approve
Warrant 053019PB.
8 Motion to approve Warrant 053019PB made by Eugene
Austin. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

9
10 Comments/Questions: None
11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion carries.

12 MR. SERNA: Old Business. We're Popp'in
13 concession stand, snowshack, lemonade, popcorn. I
believe this was concerning an MOU, Mayra; is that
correct?

14 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, all three, and she did
15 e-mail them. The pool opens next Tuesday, so we have to
start cleaning up.

16 MR. SERNA: The MOU is in your Board
17 packet. If you all are comfortable with moving on the
MOU, I'll entertain a motion.

18 Motion to approve MOU for concession stand at the pool
19 made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.
20 Comments/Questions: None
21 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion carries.

22 MR. SERNA: Next, MOU of Romano's
23 Hessville. Mayra?

24 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. He would be leasing
the Tod Park concession

25

1 MR. SERNA: For the record, Miss Lewis
has arrived.

2
3 You have the MOU in your packet, and
I believe that just needs to be signed by Miss Lewis
yet.

4
5 Motion to approve MOU for Romano's at Tod Park made by
Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene Austin.

6 Comments/Questions: None

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

8
9 MR. SERNA: Next, Chicago Sculpture
Agreement.

10 MS. ACOSTA: So, this is the same one
that Attorney Dawkins created last year for us. So last
11 meeting you approved the actual number of traveling
sculptures that were coming, and she was going to reuse
12 the one last year and just change dates.

13 MR. SERNA: I would entertain a motion to
approve agreement between Park Board and the Chicago
14 Sculptor.

15 Motion to approve agreement between Park Board and the
Chicago Sculptor made by Valda Lewis. Second by
16 Gilberto Cantu.

17 Comments/Questions: None

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

19
20 MR. SERNA: 2019 First Quarter Agreement,
that has to do with?

21 MS. ACOSTA: This is what the
Controller's Office put together for Mr. Cantu.

22
23 MR. SERNA: At Mr. Cantu's request, that
was placed in the packet.

24 MS. ACOSTA: These are all the expenses
from Public Works that you were asking for.

25

1 MR. CANTU: Thank you. Now we can see
and not writing just a blank check not knowing.

2 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to Work One.
3 This was the agreement to have those -- not intern --
4 shadowing at no cost to the City. Work One would be
5 paying their salaries and they will be shadowing. Again
6 where?

7 MS. ACOSTA: The golf course, the two new
8 centers, and the office, the park office. So, our
9 Attorney was going to review the agreement.

10 MR. SERNA: It was to your satisfaction?

11 MS. DAWKINS: I just wanted to make sure
12 that the Board understood it was a reimbursement
13 agreement. They are going to reimburse the City for
14 payment.

15 MR. SERNA: Okay. So the City does have
16 to pay?

17 MS. DAWKINS: That's the way it reads to
18 me. I think we need to be sure about that. To me it
19 reads that way, I made a note.

20 MR. SERNA: If that's the case, is that
21 something we need to have the Controller's Office review
22 further, because they would be cutting a check?

23 MS. ACOSTA: Well, I think we could maybe
24 let them know they need to take that off their
25 agreement. That's not what they told me. Or maybe I
could give Miss Dawkins his phone number and she could
talk to him directly.

MR. SERNA: We'll table it until the next
meeting. Entertain a motion to table Work One agreement
to next meeting.

Motion to table Work One Agreement to next meeting made
by Eugene Austin. Second by Valda Lewis.

Comments/Questions: None

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None

Opposed: None Motion carries

1 MR. SERNA: New business. Mayra, do you
2 have anything you want to report before we hit the
3 agenda items?

4 MS. ACOSTA: Well, I have Ralph Flores
5 here. The Board requested for him to come, so I'm not
6 sure where you want to put him on the agenda.

7 MR. SERNA: We can start with him. If
8 you can come up and introduce yourself. This is not
9 your first Board meeting, but my first time seeing you
10 here. If you could introduce yourself again and your
11 role here with the City.

12 MR. FLORES: Ralph Flores, Junior. I'm a
13 consultant for the city of East Chicago as pertains to
14 all baseball related matters in the City.

15 MR. SERNA: I believe at the last Park
16 Board meeting there was questions that came up with
17 regards to Block Stadium, and we said the best one to
18 answer them, would be you. One of those questions I do
19 recall was the progress, where we are at with Block
20 Stadium.

21 MR. FLORES: I had an extensive
22 conversation this morning with the consultant, the
23 engineering consultant, Mr. Doug Cunningham. They have
24 had a change of plans as pertains to the phases.
25 Originally suppose to go Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3.
Now it's going to -- Phase 1 is complete. Then instead
of going directly to Phase 2, which is more the brick
and mortar build out, concession stands and bathrooms,
and things of that. They are going to go to the
utilities, to the electrical, plumbing and things of
that nature, and get all that done. And then once that
is done, then double back to Phase 2.

 Mr. Cunningham stated the funds are
there, which he says -- by all indications -- he's been
told the funds are there to continue moving on this
project. That it should be done by next spring.

 The one thing that has always been
on my mind -- and I call it the elephant in the room is
-- we are doing all this work for this ballpark, and if
things go as planned as it pertains to bringing in a
team, we have no parking. And I would like to have some
type of information from you, if anybody has anything on
parking, because ---

1 MR. SERNA: As a matter of fact we do,
2 Mr. Flores. As I say, timing is everything. On Friday
3 we received an e-mail from our Attorney, who received an
4 e-mail from Attorney Joel Harris, from the School Board
5 and they presented an MOU of their own writing. I
6 looked it over. It's not as close, our MOU is little
7 bit different. This MOU is more succinct and to the
8 point, and it's something that we are probably going to
9 vote on today, if Board members are comfortable with
10 voting on it. But it does include use of the parking at
11 the administration office, which is all Washington
12 Elementary, adjacent to Block Stadium.

13 So all of the efforts of Park Board,
14 Attorney Dawkins, and School Board, Attorney Harris, are
15 coming to fruition now. The MOU, Interloper Agreement,
16 between the School City of East Chicago and City of East
17 Chicago we have in our hands, and that's something
18 possibly we can vote on today.

19 And just to describe one of the
20 points, the parties agree to exchange of services for
21 benefit of citizens of the community they serve in the
22 interest of celebration and/or athletic training of
23 children through the use of the Parks stadiums,
24 gymnasiums, pools, golf courses, and other real
25 property, inclusive of parking lots, as generally
describe herein.

So it touches on all the things that
are important between School City and the civil city.
And so this is something we possibly will vote on today,
and at the very latest will be next meeting.

MR. FLORES: Good news.

MR. SERNA: Super awesome news that we
have this agreement now. Like I said, through the work
of our Attorney and Attorney Harris, the School Board
and this Board, we are finally going to be able to move
forward.

MR. FLORES: Thank you all. It was
starting to get a bit concerning. There are commitments
to be made very soon and that was definitely a stumbling
block.

MR. SERNA: Was there anything else you
wanted to report or any questions from the Board for Mr.
Flores, in regards to the baseball -- what is Block
Stadium -- or any of the other fields?

1 MS. LEWIS: I have a question. The old
2 sign that was there, is it going to be placed somewhere
3 at the new stadium?

4 MR. FLORES: I'm not familiar with that.
5 I can ask. I don't even know where that sign is
6 presently, to be honest with you. That was taken down
7 long before I started. But I will definitely inquire
8 and get back with you on that.

9 MS. LEWIS: There's going to be a new
10 sign, I'm sure.

11 MR. FLORES: There is one presently on
12 the interior. There is one at the scoreboard, but I
13 believe there is plans to have one on the exterior, so
14 when you are driving by 144th, you will see it.

15 MR. SERNA: If you could, please,
16 especially here in the summer, if you could attend
17 either the first meeting of the month or the last
18 meeting of the month; and even if you can't make the
19 meeting, maybe send a report, and then we can just maybe
20 actively ask questions that we can give them to Mayra.
21 If you could report or attend one meeting a month, that
22 would be great.

23 MR. FLORES: Sure. I'd like to add a
24 couple things, if time permits. Yesterday we the
25 Arizona Diamondbacks, major league baseball, they rented
Kenny Lofton's field, for a camp for free agents. There
were about 45 free agents, some came as far as State of
California, and other surroundings states, to
participate in this camp. So there is a lot of good
things going on now as pertains to baseball.

The Little League just completed a
tournament and it's the two largest tournaments in the
District. We are considered District 1 in Little
League. And they had a tournament there, the two
biggest tournaments of the summer and they run at the
same time. And preliminary rounds, first couple of
rounds are at various locations throughout the First
District. And the Commissioner of the District would
travel to every site to get an evaluations of how things
were going. And I'm proud to tell you, that the folks
at the Little League did a heck of a good job. When he
went around, he came back after the 2 or 3-days and
called the Board members and all the folks that worked
there and stated, that the championship rounds --

1 typically the championship rounds are at two different
2 locations, because it's at two different tournaments.
3 We're bringing both championship rounds to East Chicago.

4 So the last 3 or 4 days of the
5 tournament are usually at Lakes of the Four Seasons,
6 Munster, Dyer, Portage, all over. But now they are
7 coming into East Chicago for like six, seven straight
8 days. So they are doing great things with the Little
9 League. We have 75 to 125 kids this year, and our goal
10 is 200 next year. And I think they made everyone really
11 proud if you would have been out there and seen what was
12 going on.

13 MR. SERNA: Thank you, Mr. Flores.

14 Mayra, sticking with the agenda,
15 we'll move on to the Professional Service Agreements. I
16 believe there is three of them, three professional
17 service agreements.

18 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

19 MR. SERNA: Those agreements were in
20 regards to some of the classes and things that you are
21 doing.

22 MS. ACOSTA: So these agreements are for
23 the Christmas lights. So one is for Christmas lights
24 over at Heritage and Unity Centers this year. And it
25 has the total, which includes their service to take down
and put up the lights, the purchase of the lights and
any custom made -- like the train that we were going to
get in front -- she included one agreement for the total
project.

MR. SERNA: So all three agreements are
in your Board packet. I just want to make sure you have
had time to review them. So can we vote on all three at
once or do they need to be separate?

MS. DAWKINS: Same contractors?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

MS. DAWKINS: You can do them all
together.

MR. SERNA: I'll entertain a motion to
approve the three service agreements, and that is with
Christmas Decor by Servicescape as outlined.

1 Motion to approve all three service agreements for eh
2 total cost of \$108,258.01 made by Valda Lewis. Second
3 by Gilberto Cantu.

4 Comments/Questions: None

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

7 MR. SERNA: Next, we have the rate
8 schedule for Calumet Waste. So you have that rate
9 schedule in your packets and I will entertain a motion
10 to approve the rate schedule with Calumet Waste and
11 Recycling.

12 Motion to approve 2019 rate sheet for Calumet Waste and
13 Recycling made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene
14 Austin.

15 Comments/Questions: None

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

18 MR. SERNA: Rate schedule for Mechanical
19 Concepts. I'll entertain a motion to approve the rate
20 schedule with Mechanical Concepts. Mayra, they do what?

21 MS. ACOSTA: We do HVAC. If any of our
22 furnaces or air conditioners went out in any of our
23 facilities, then they would be the ones that we call.
24 So those are the ones that Public Works -- the Board of
25 Public Works already approved the rates. We are
requesting your approval as well for the Parks
Department, in case we need those services.

Motion to approve 2019 rate schedule for Mechanical
Concepts made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Eugene
Austin.

Comments/Questions: None

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

MR. SERNA: And then Dream Builders of
America, their standard rate schedule for 2019. They do
IT work, all the computer work. They are a contractor
that comes out on-site and fix computers. I'll

1 entertain a motion to approve that rate schedule.
2 Motion to approve rate schedule for 2019 for Dream
3 Builders of America made by Valda Lewis. Second by
4 Eugene Austin.
5 Comments/Questions: None
6 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
7 Opposed: None Motion carries.

8
9 MR. SERNA: Next, we have Request for
10 Greenhouse Bench Space for the Salvation Army Seeding
11 Production.

12
13 MS. ACOSTA: So Purdue University has
14 reached out to us, they are trying to help the Salvation
15 Army, here, in East Chicago, for their community garden.
16 What they are requesting is the ability to store some
17 seeds in the greenhouse for a few months, and then plant
18 them over at the Salvation Army Community Garden.

19 MR. SERNA: You are fine with that? You
20 have the place for it?

21
22 MS. ACOSTA: I don't know if the Attorney
23 wants to also add that we are not responsible for
24 maintaining, watering, if anything dies; then it's at
25 their own risk to store it there.

MR. SERNA: So we'll table this to the
next meeting, so you can write that up.

MS. DAWKINS: Certainly, if you want
something written.

MR. SERNA: I'll entertain a motion to
table the request from Purdue University.

Motion to table request for Greenhouse Bench Space for
Salvation Army made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugen
Austin.

Comments/Questions: None

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

MR. SERNA: 2019 Summer Schedule Revised

1 for East Chicago Parks. This is the bus contract.

2 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So a couple
3 meetings ago you approved a rate for a bus company in
4 Chicago. We usually use RSI as our, I guess, the best
5 company that we have always used. However, this year
6 they cannot accommodate most of the dates that we have
7 for our summer program. The only dates are the ones
8 here and the rates are much cheaper. Unfortunately we
9 can't use them the whole summer, but we do want to use
10 them at least for these dates.

11 MR. SERNA: I would entertain a motion to
12 approve bus schedule with RSI.

13 Motion to approve RSI bus schedule made by Gilberto
14 Cantu. Second by Valda Lewis.

15 Comments/Questions: None

16 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None

17 Opposed: None Motion carries.

18 MR. SERNA: Events alcoholic price,
19 that's for the golf course events.

20 MS. ACOSTA: Only for the golf course
21 events, correct.

22 MR. SERNA: You are looking for us to
23 approve the prices, not your menu or your fee schedule,
24 or fees for alcohol at your event?

25 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

MR. SERNA: And that's the June 21st
event that you have at the golf course?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes

MR. SERNA: I would entertain a motion to
approve the pricing for alcohol at the June 21st event
at the golf course.

Motion to approve pricing for alcohol at the June 21st
event at the golf course made by Eugene Austin. Second
by Gilberto Cantu.

Comments/Questions: None

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

2

3 MR. SERNA: There is two items that we
4 need to add under new business. One of them is HDW
5 Interior quotes. These are included in your packet.
6 Those are for which location?

7 MS. ACOSTA: This is for the second floor
8 of the Park Office, furniture for the second floor of
9 the Park Office. A layout of what it's going to look
10 like is attached.

11

12 MR. SERNA: Furniture only?

13

14 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

15

16 MR. SERNA: Entertain a motion to approve
17 the agreement with HDW Interior.
18 Motion to approve the agreement with HDW Interior made
19 by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

20

21 Comments/Questions: None

22

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

25 MR. SERNA: Next item is School City MOU.
As we said earlier, Mr. Flores said, we did receive this
on Friday, correct, Attorney Dawkins; that was Friday we
got that?

26

27 MS. DAWKINS: Yes.

28

29 MR. SERNA: It was a good Friday. We
30 have the Interloper Agreement between the School City of
31 East Chicago and the City of East Chicago. If Board
32 members are comfortable, it was in your packet, so if
33 you had a chance to look it over. What would you say,
34 Counsel, how does this agreement look?

35

36 MS. DAWKINS: The bottom line, we want
37 the parking lot for the baseball field. And so other
38 than that, we are going to be going back and forth with
39 them trying to negotiate something and fine tune it.
40 This is sufficient for what we really want.

41

42 MR. SERNA: It's for a term of five

1 years?

2 MS. DAWKINS: Yes.

3 MR. SERNA: Does it have where you can
4 break it -- where you can terminate, as long as you give
5 30 days. And any events that are scheduled, will be
6 carried out. But if there is a termination, you can't
7 schedule anything after that. So I think everybody is
8 covered in this. And the other writing that's in here,
9 if everybody has had a chance to look it over, it's
10 written pretty well. And so Board members I will
11 entertain a motion to approve the Interloper Agreement
12 between the School City of East Chicago and the City of
13 East Chicago as presented to us and it was in your
14 packet.

15
16 Motion to approve Interloper Agreement between the
17 School City of East Chicago and the City of East Chicago
18 Park Board made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto
19 Cantu.

20 Comments/Questions:

21 MR. SERNA: Only discussion, for the
22 record, is that it was a long and arduous process, and
23 I'd like to say thank you to our counsel, Attorney
24 Dawkins, and their counsel, Attorney Harris. And we
25 look forward to this being successful.

Any further questions or discussion
on this?

26 MS. DAWKINS: I'd like to add, I will be
27 preparing a resolution because the statute does require
28 a resolution from the Park Board. And it also requires
29 it being filed with the County Recorder's
30 Office.

31 MR. SERNA: So there will be a resolution
32 forth coming at the next meeting?

33 MS. DAWKINS: Correct

34 MR. SERNA: All favor of the motion?

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

36 MR. SERNA: Anything else for us, Mayra?

37

1 MS. ACOSTA: No.
 2 MR. SERNA: All right. Public input?
 (None) Next meeting date is Tuesday, June 25th, right
 3 here at City Hall, the Council Chambers.
 4 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Valda Lewis. Second
 by Eugene Austin.

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

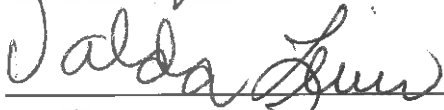
7
 8 ***** Meeting Adjourned *****
 9

10 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
 June 11, 2019

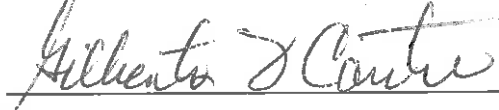
11 Approved and signed _____

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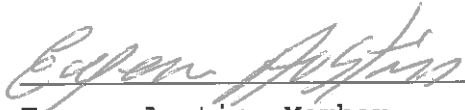
14 Anthony Serna, President

15 

16 Valda Lewis, Secretary

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18 Gilberto Cantu, Member

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20 Eugene Austin, Member

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 22 Loretta Parker, Recording Secretary
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 24
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, 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 the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 17th day of June, 2019.

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

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