

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Tuesday, July 28, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:	STAFF:
Anthony Serna, President	Ateria Allen
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President	Dawn Dawkins, Legal
Valda Lewis, Secretary	Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
Gilberto Cantu	
Eugene Austin	

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Staff Present: Dawn Dawkins, Legal Counsel
Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, Director

CHIEF SERNA: We have a quorum.

Vice-president Rick Rodriguez did text me and won't be able to make it, he's working; but we do have a quorum.

Let's move on. The next item is Administrative Matters. We have approval of July 14, 2020 meeting minutes. I'll entertain a motion to approve minutes from July 14, 2020 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of July 14, 2020, made by Eugene Austin. Second by Valda Lewis.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

Next, we have approval of the payroll dated July 24, 2020. I will entertain a motion to approve the payroll.

Motion to approve payroll of July 24, 2020 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by

1 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

2 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

3 Next, we have approval of Warrant
4 Report 071020 PB, in the amount of \$250,001.62.
5 Entertain a motion to approve warrant report.

6 Motion to approve Warrant 071020 PB, in the amount of
7 \$250.001.62 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene
8 Austin.

9 CHIEF SERNA: Any question or comments?

10 MR. CANTU: A part of the payment to the
11 Marina for this year?

12 CHIEF SERNA: We have our new director,
13 Vanessa Hernandez-Orange here, who may be able to answer
14 that question. If you wouldn't mind coming to the
15 podium, Vanessa.

16 MR. CANTU: May I say something?

17 CHIEF SERNA: Mr. Cantu, she looking for
18 the figures, but go ahead, Mr. Cantu.

19 MR. CANTU: We previously paid the Marina
20 this year, and this is 250,000 for the Marina, is this
21 going to be partial payment for this year or is going to
22 be only \$250,000.00 for this year? That's my question.

23 MRS. HERNANEZ-ORANGE: Mr. Cantu, it's a
24 partial payment. We are still continuing with the
25 \$500,000 to the Marina -- as well as what we pay the
Public Works -- that figure also. At this point, this
is the partial payment to the Marina.

CHIEF SERNA: So, Mr. Cantu, that is the
answer to the question. This is a partial payment
towards the whole entire payment.

MR. CANTU: Okay.

CHIEF SERNA: Any further questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

Next, approval of Warrant Report
072820 PB, in the amount of \$37,282.41. I will

1 entertain a motion to approve.

2 Motion to approve Warrant 072820 PB, in the amount of
3 \$37,282.41 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene
4 Austin.

4 Questions/Comments: None

5 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
6 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

6 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

7 We'll move to Old Business. Madame
8 Secretary, do we have any old business?

8 MS. ALLEN: No, we do not.

9 CHIEF SERNA: Move on to New Business.
10 Vanessa?

11 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Today our first
12 item that I would like to have approved is a quote
13 regarding the Greenhouse fountain repair. The two
14 quotes we have, the first one is from Inova Design
Development, and the amount for the project would be
\$1,634. The second quote, for the exact same project,
would be 1,750.

15 We would choose to go -- we would
16 like to go with Inova Design Development simply because
17 the project that's being done, we are restructuring the
18 fountain that we have in the middle of our greenhouse.
And with Inova, they have a machine that's able to come
in and they are able to lift it up to move it out. With
the other, they actually have to cut some of our trees
that are in there in order for them to bring in a
different machine to kind of bring it out.

19 So, the fact of the matter is, we
20 would have to do damage to some of our plants and it's
21 not actually a lift, it's a pull. So we are pulling
22 from kind of the top in order for it to actually come
23 out. So this is the reason why we are also going with
24 Inova, and the price difference, obviously. As you can
25 see Inova is the most economical.

23 CHIEF SERNA: All right. Do we have any
24 questions, Board members? (None) I'll entertain a
25 motion to approve the Greenhouse fountain repair with
Inova Design, for \$1,634.00.

1 Motion to approve quote from Inova Design for fountain
2 repair made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

3 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
4 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

4 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.

5 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Next approval
6 that I would like is for Washington and Kosciuszko Parks
7 pool slide and staircase repair. So what we are looking
8 to do is, the staircase that goes up to the pool slide,
9 there is paint that's chipping off; there is items that
10 are kind of sticking out that we'd like to have actually
11 repaired. Also the tube that goes from the bottom to
12 the top, that actually holds up the slide, goes from
13 the bottom to the top, and also brings up water -- it's
14 actually the top portion of them -- the water is
15 squirting out of them.

16 So, we ended up asking for two
17 quotes. The reason why it's taking so long to get this
18 before you, we wanted to make sure that Royalty
19 Construction and Inova actually had the exact same
20 description.

21 Inova, what they are proposing to do
22 is come in and just do repainting. Kind of take away
23 all the sides that are sticking out when it comes to the
24 staircase. But the big difference is that their
25 proposal, we don't have the piping that's there that
holds the staircase up. They won't have to remove it
and caulk from the bottom to the top. It would just be
caulked from the top. And the difference is, that
Royalty Construction has stated that you need to do both
top and bottom, because of the fact that if you caulk
the top part, there is a possibility it will find a way
to seep out, and would also be from the bottom, if you
don't do both areas.

26 Again, with Royalty Construction,
27 they are the most economically priced compared to
28 Inova. So this is another reason why we would like to
29 go with Royalty Construction.

30 CHIEF SERNA: Any questions Board
31 members? (None) There being no questions, I will
32 entertain a motion to approve the Koski Park and
33 Washington Park pool repair with Royalty Construction.
34 The cost amount is 2400 for Washington and 2400 for
35 Koski Park.

1 Motion to approve Royalty Construction's quote for pool
2 repairs made by Valda Lewis. Second by Eugene Austin.

3 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
4 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

5 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries.
6 Anything further, Vanessa?

7 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I did just want
8 to give an update. I know we have been working very
9 diligently to make sure that everyone that comes to our
10 parks stays safe, as well as our recreation centers that
11 are open; but I wanted to give an update on our parks
12 that are getting sprayed down.

13 So, we have been spraying them down.
14 And what has come to our conclusion is that it's best to
15 just spray down everything with sprayers. So my staff
16 has -- actually they average about 15 minutes per
17 location -- with just actual hand sprayers compared to
18 the paint machine because the paint machine runs out too
19 quickly, so they have to stop and fix it. But we are
20 spraying down three times a week. Our staff, we have
21 enough staff, so we are not paying overtime for
22 everyone.

23 So I think we are doing a great job
24 of trying to find ways to keep our community safe. So
25 thank you to our team that put together the solution to
find a way of getting something on to the playgrounds,
because it definitely needs it.

CHIEF SERNA: I have a question, Vanessa,
when it comes to parks. So we are taking reservations
and we are taking money for rentals for our shelters
now?

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. We have
been for about a month, give or take a month. And
people have been coming in and they have been asking.
We also have people just say it's first come first serve
basis, because a lot of the community doesn't know that
we are kind of open. They are doing first come first
serve basis.

We have notices -- I work with
Public Works. We needed more garbage cans within the
parks and we are actually working together to get that
done. I explained to him -- we had recycling bins in
the park at first and we have them switched out. I
explained to him, us as a community, we have been

1 programmed to know recycling bins are for recycling.
2 And people tend -- they rather throw it on the floor
3 than put in a recycling bin, that's not what their eyes
4 are programmed to know. So they actually have been
5 taken out and we are getting more garbage cans in
6 because we did see a problem.

7 CHIEF SERNA: And the reason I ask that
8 is because this past weekend, I did see a lot of
9 activity at our parks. It was a beautiful weekend and I
10 wasn't sure if people were renting or first come first
11 serve. And also at our basketball courts, they are open
12 also?

13 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Our courts are
14 open, yes. And we also have had, I guess, groups of
15 friends come and do Zumba or do other activities within
16 the parks. Like we have posted on our Facebook page and
17 I think I have asked Mr. Segora to pass on the website,
18 nothing is sponsored by the City in the parks. We are
19 not sponsoring any programs. This is at your own risk.
20 They are going to play at their own risk. They are
21 doing Zumba at the parks at their own risk. Has nothing
22 to do with us.

23 I have gone to the Zumba class or
24 that group of friends, from sometimes 7:00 o'clock in
25 the morning at Tod Park and 7:00 o'clock at night at
Roxana, to have a conversation, to see actually what is
going on. I have been asking them to please stay 6 to
8 feet apart when they are doing this. Again, we are
worried about their safety, as well as ours.

If they are using our electricity, I
have told them they have to come in and -- you know --
get a permit for the shelter. I don't see them use
electricity. I also told them that if they are an
actual instructor and they are getting paid, then they
have to come in and get a permit. Because, one, it's a
business license they have to receive. They have to
have their license for the structure, as well as we have
to make sure insurance wise, they are liable and not us.

So we are trying to get the word
out. We are trying to make sure that we have this
conversation with people. Yes, the parks are open. No,
we don't have any programs. Play at your own risk.

CHIEF SERNA: Okay. Any questions for
the Director, Board members?

MS. DAWKINS: I have a question. Are

1 signs posted, "at your own risk"?

2 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I don't know if
3 you've seen our cases. In our cases it says, "play at
4 your own risk". We also try to put them near the
5 playground so they can see that, " play at your own
6 risk". So in the bathrooms, in the public bathrooms, we
7 also have posted about handwashing and stuff like that.

8 MS. DAWKINS: The "play at your own risk"
9 is to me the most important sign that we need to have,
10 to make it clear that we are not liable for anything.
11 So I just was looking for something, but are they big?

12 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: They are maybe
13 the size of 11 by 14 signs. That's probably as big as
14 they get, but I will have my staff go back out and place
15 more. They get taken down because it's taped on at some
16 locations. So on the playgrounds, it's all taped on.
17 And I have seen Public Works has wrapped it around the
18 pole, but, again, it gets taken down. Inside the
19 entranceway for parks, in the cases, those are inside
20 the case, so those stay up. But if it's at the park,
21 it's just taped on.

22 MS. DAWKINS: Can we do some at the
23 entrance, something like we have those other signs? I
24 know it might be a little expensive, but we don't know
25 where we are going with this. Maybe something that is
like drilled in.

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: We could
definitely look into that. Right now the entrances that
have the cases, you cannot take those down. It's a case
that has the flap and you have to have a key to even get
into it. So when it comes to something more permanent,
I would have to see.

MS. DAWKINS: I understand the cost
factor, but I know we do have those kind of signs at the
parks, as long as maybe that sign was included in there.
I think that would be better practice.

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I did put in my
budget for that, just in case, with the thought of where
we are going from now on. So we'll see.

MS. DAWKINS: Okay, very good.

1 CHIEF SERNA: Any other questions for the
Director, Board members? (None) Vanessa, do you have
2 anything else for us?

3 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: That's all.

4 CHIEF SERNA: Next, is Public Comment.
Is there any public comment? (None)
5 Next meeting is Tuesday,
August 11th, right here at the City Council Chambers via
6 telephone or Zoom.

7 I will entertain a motion to
adjourn.

8 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Valda Lewis. Second
by Eugene Austin.

9 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
10 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

11 CHIEF SERNA: Motion carries. Meeting
12 adjourned.

13 ***** Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.*****
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
July 28, 2020

Approved and signed August 11, 2020



Anthony Serna, President

Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

Valda Lewis, Secretary

Gilberto Cantu, Member

Eugene Austin, Member



Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary

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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 29th day of July, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR