

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

September 24, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Courtnee Dinkins  
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

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

MR. SERNA: Rick called, he's working and  
can't make the meeting. Mr. Austin has a doctor's  
appointment, but we still have a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

MR. SERNA: First thing, I would  
entertain a motion to approve meeting minutes of  
September 10, 2019. Entertain a motion to approve.  
Motion to approve minutes of September 10, 2019 made by  
Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries. Next we have  
approval of the payroll dated September 20, 2019.  
Entertain a motion to approve payroll dated  
September 20th. Entertain a motion to approve.

Motion to approve payroll of September 20, 2019 made by  
Gilberto Cantu. Second by Valda Lewis.

1 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

3 Next, approval of Warrant Report  
092419PB, in the amount of \$23,204.62. Entertain a  
4 motion to approve.  
5 Motion to approve Warrant Report 092419PB, in the amount  
of \$23,204.62 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto  
6 Cantu.

7 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

9 Next approval of Warrant Report  
092719PB, in the amount of \$192,327.88. Entertain a  
10 motion to approve.  
11 Motion to approve Warrant Report 092719PB, in the amount  
of \$192,327.88 made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Valda  
12 Lewis.

13 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

14 (All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

15 Next Old Business. Agreement-ATM  
Terminal, I believe that was something that we were  
16 having our Counsel work on. Attorney Dawkins, was she  
able to get you anything?

17 MS. DINKINS: She hasn't been able to  
18 make the necessary adjustments to the agreement as yet.

19 MR. SERNA: Attorney Dawkins, we are at  
the point on the agenda of the Agreement-ATM Terminal.  
20 Madame secretary informed us that you were not able to  
make the necessary changes yet.

21 MS. DAWKINS: Correct.

22 MR. SERNA: We'll keep that on the agenda  
23 for the next meeting.

24 Next, Nipsco Claim. Anything going  
on?

25 MS. DAWKINS: No. I sent him an e-mail,

1 but he hasn't responded to it.

2 MR. SERNA: We'll keep that on the  
agenda.

3 Mayra, we have New Business.

4 MS. ACOSTA: First one is the Golf Cart  
Agreement. I kind of drafted it and the Attorney took a  
5 look. She made a couple of changes, so this is the  
final draft.

6  
7 MR. SERNA: So we have the final draft  
before us?

8 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

9 MR. SERNA: In our packet we have the  
10 Golf Cart Rental Agreement, waiver of assumption of risk  
and indemnity agreement. It's very wordy, so, Counsel,  
you approve of this?

11 MS. DAWKINS: Yes.

12  
13 MR. SERNA: Board members, you have the  
Golf Cart Agreement, rental agreement, waiver of  
14 liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement  
before you. I'll entertain a motion.  
15 Motion to approve Golf Cart Agreement for MacArthur Park  
made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Valda Lewis.

16  
17 MS. LEWIS: I do have a question. Your  
auto insurance will cover you on this golf cart, is that  
the idea?

18  
19 MS. ACOSTA: That's what we are asking  
for, just to make sure. Currently we don't rent it, so  
this is for the future, in case we do. At least we have  
20 something already drafted. We would need a driver's  
license to make sure it's not a minor. Needs to be an  
21 adult with a valid license.

22 MS. LEWIS: If they have no car  
insurance, would you offer insurance?

23 MS. ACOSTA: No.

24  
25 MR. SERNA: Okay. All those in favor  
signify by saying aye?

1 (All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

2 Next item, quotes for fence repairs  
3 for Nunez Park.

4 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. There's two quotes  
5 for repairs over at Nunez Park, the fence.

6 MR. SERNA: One is from Acorn and the  
7 other one is from Royalty. This is not the entire park,  
8 is it?

9 MS. ACOSTA: No just sections. Some are  
10 damaged and some are missing.

11 MR. SERNA: So for missing and damaged  
12 sections in Nunez Park, Royalty Construction proposed a  
13 quote of \$17,225 and Acorn is \$13,900; is that correct?

14 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

15 MR. SERNA: And you looked over both of  
16 these, and they are apples to apples, both quoting the  
17 same thing. So who would you recommend?

18 MS. ACOSTA: The lowest quote.

19 MR. SERNA: Which is Acorn. Any  
20 questions on that Board members? (None) I'll entertain  
21 a motion to approve the quote from Acorn Fence for the  
22 missing and broken sections of fence at Nunez Park, in  
23 the amount of \$13,900.

24 Motion to approve and accept quote of Acorn Fence made  
25 by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

Next past due invoices. First  
is Times Northwest Indiana. The invoice date is  
January 3, 2019, and the amount is \$3.52.

MS. ACOSTA: Correct. This was a special  
meeting notice for Board of Parks, at Riley Park. They  
never got paid for placing the ad.

MR. SERNA: Any questions on this Board

1 members? (None) Entertain a motion to approve payment  
2 of the past due claim dated January 3, 2019, in the  
3 amount of \$3.52 to the Times of Northwest Indiana.  
4 Motion to approve past due payment to Times of Northwest  
5 Indiana made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

6 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
7 saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

10 Request for use, East Chicago Parks  
11 for election polling. We have a letter in front of us  
12 from the Lake County Board of Election and Registration.  
13 Actually we have four letters in front of us. The  
14 Election Board is requesting a polling place for general  
15 election, which is to be held November 5th -- Tuesday,  
16 November 5, 2019. They are asking for Martin Luther  
17 King Center, Riley Park, the Clemente/Unity Center, and  
18 finally, Sunnyside Park. These were the same locations  
19 they used previously.

20 Are you recommending we approve this  
21 request?

22 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

23 MR. SERNA: Any questions on that Board  
24 members? (None) Entertain a motion to approve usage of  
25 Martin Luther King Center, the Riley Park Pavilion,  
26 Clemente Center, and Sunnyside Park to Lake County Board  
27 of Elections, for the November 5, 2019 election.  
28 Motion to approve usage of parks for Election Polling  
29 November 5, 2019 made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by  
30 Valda Lewis.

31 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
32 saying aye?

33 (All signify aye.)

34 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

35 Next, we have quotes for  
36 installation of Roxana Shelter. We have two quotes.  
37 One from Michigan Recreational Construction and one from  
38 Ozoh Engineering & Construction. These are for 24 by 24  
39 shelter at Roxana Park.

40 MS. ACOSTA: The first quote or proposal  
41 from Michigan Recreational is \$30,329 and the second  
42 quote is from Ozoh, the amount is \$23,684.

1 MR. SERNA: Which are you recommending?

2 MS. ACOSTA: The lowest one, Ozoh  
Engineering. They have the concrete work and the  
3 electrical. They have a more detailed quote, so it's  
apples to apples.

4 MR. SERNA: Any questions of Board  
5 members? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the  
quote with Ozoh Engineering, for \$23,684.

6 Motion to approve Ozoh Engineering quote for \$23,684 for  
7 Roxana Shelter made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto  
Cantu.

8 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
9 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

10 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.  
Next, we have prices for park  
11 furniture.

12 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. We need to buy  
garbage cans, benches, picnic tables for multiple parks  
13 that are missing furniture. So these are the same items  
that the parks currently have. It's the same vendor  
14 where we purchased it before.

15 MR. SERNA: So you want us to approve a  
sum total, a grand total, or you're asking for this rate  
16 list, per item pricing?

17 MS. ACOSTA: Per item pricing since we  
are not sure how many we were purchasing yet.

18 MR. SERNA: The vendor is Valison Outdoor  
19 Furniture. Any reason why?

20 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. We want to keep it  
consistent and Valison is the one we purchased the  
21 original furniture from.

22 MR. SERNA: Okay. This is the price  
list, but please note these prices do not include  
23 shipping and freight. So you are asking us to approve  
this pricing from Valison Outdoors?

24 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

25

1 MR. CANTU: So we have only one bid?

2 MR. SERNA: For consistency. She wants  
3 to keep it consistent with the other furniture that has  
4 been bought.

5 MR. CANTU: Is this the same price as  
6 before?

7 MS. ACOSTA: They bought furniture about  
8 three years ago, so it we went a little higher.

9 MS. LEWIS: I just wonder what the total  
10 cost would be?

11 MR. SERNA: We don't know. Mayra, you  
12 said you still have to count how many replacements you  
13 need?

14 MS. ACOSTA: We have to go inspect all  
15 the parks and see what each one needs.

16 MR. SERNA: At this time she is asking us  
17 to approve this per item pricing. Any further  
18 questions? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the  
19 pricing with Valison Outdoor Furniture as listed.

20 Motion to approve pricing list for outdoor furniture  
21 made by Gilberto Cantu. Second by Valda Lewis.

22 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
23 saying aye?

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

Next, we have a letter from School  
City of East Chicago. This letter -- the purpose --  
from the principal -- who was principal at the time,  
Miss Wright, from Central High School. She is  
requesting use of Unity Center for purpose of having a  
Town meeting, in an attempt to develop a positive  
relationship between the Schools and the community.  
Meeting to be held October 8, 6:00 p.m. and they are  
requesting that we waive this one time rental fee.

Mayra, what is your recommendation?

MS. ACOSTA: I would recommend that we  
allow them to use the facility and waive the one time  
rental fee.

25

1 MR. SERNA: Any questions Board members?  
2 MS. LEWIS: Don't you close at a certain  
time?

3 MS. ACOSTA: We close at 8:00 o'clock.

4 MS. LEWIS: They know that?

5 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, ma'am.

6 MR. SERNA: So you wouldn't have to hire  
7 any extra staff or anything to accommodate or pay  
overtime? Would this cost you overtime or anything?

8 MS. ACOSTA: No, we have two staff on  
9 duty till 8:00 o'clock every day.

10 MR. SERNA: Any other questions? (None)  
I will entertain a motion to approve the use of the  
11 Unity Center, on October 8, 2019, for the School City of  
East Chicago, town hall meeting, and approve them  
12 waiving the one time rental fee.

13 MS. LEWIS: So move.

14 MR. CANTU: You know, very seldom do the  
15 parents even go to the PTA meetings. So for them to  
expect people to go to a meeting for the School Board,  
16 when they don't go to their own schools to see what the  
kids are doing. They don't want to go to Unity Center  
to listen to the School Board. They can't get people to  
17 show up at their kids schools, they aren't going to come  
to this meeting.

18 MR. SERNA: I understand. I think that's  
19 what she is trying to outline in her letter. She's  
trying to take the meeting to them and make it make more  
20 convenient by taking the meeting to the Community  
Center.

21 I hear you and I understand. My  
kids went to Central High School and it seemed like the  
22 same people were at the meetings. It was the most  
crowded when the kids were getting awards. The regular  
23 PTA meetings were not always filled.

24 But, I think Principal Wright at the  
time, who is now the superintendent, she's trying to  
bridge that gap and maybe this will get people to come  
25 to a meeting.



1 MR. CANTU: I'm saying, my experience,  
2 because I had a great grandson coming to Washington High  
3 School for last few years and PTA meetings, they are the  
4 same people going. They ain't going to go to the  
5 meeting, that's what I'm saying.

6 MR. SERNA: And I agree with you. But --

7 MR. CANTU: I was very involved with the  
8 School Administration in my years, when I was young and  
9 I used to go to the meetings down there. But, you know,  
10 the parents, they don't take care of their own kids  
11 going down there, so they are not going to go to the  
12 special meeting down there at Unity Center. I mean  
13 that's my own opinion.

14 MR. SERNA: There is a motion on the  
15 floor though to approve.

16 MR. CANTU: I notice that every time  
17 something for the School City, they never reply to us.  
18 They take a long, long time for us to receive their  
19 response. Now they come and say, I need this for next  
20 week. We have to accept everything they say?

21 MR. SERNA: You're right. You're right.

22 MR. CANTU: That's my own opinion.

23 MR. SERNA: I agree with you, but in the  
24 spirit of the olive branch, in trying to extend and  
25 trying to show cooperation. I understand everything you  
are saying because you are right. You are not telling a  
story. You are telling a truth. But at the same time  
they are asking and we want to accommodate because we  
still want to put our best foot forward and still show  
spirit of cooperation.

So, there is a motion on the floor  
to approve and waive the one time fee. Is there a  
second? (No Response) Again, there is a motion on the  
floor to approve. Is there a second? (No Response)  
Once again, there is a motion to approve the use and  
waive the one time fee. Is there a second? (No  
Response) There being no second, the motion dies for  
lack of second.

Mayra, maybe if we can -- I  
understand Mr. Cantu's sentiment -- but can you explain  
it any better than I tried to right now?

1 MS. ACOSTA: So, the School City has a  
2 new superintendent now and we are hoping to start a new  
3 relationship with this person. I know that in the past,  
4 you know, whoever was in charge really didn't cooperate  
5 with us and we had a hard time. But since there is a  
6 new person, I think we need to start over again and try  
7 to work things out.

8 MS. LEWIS: I think we ought to give them  
9 a chance. We have new people in the area. People, you  
10 know, that weren't originally from here. And, you know,  
11 maybe they will go there. I agree they don't come to  
12 the PTA meetings, but this is something new.

13 MR. SERNA: This is a town meeting. They  
14 are calling it like a town hall meeting. So this is  
15 something -- as she put in her letter -- a positive move  
16 for a relationship with the community.

17 MR. CANTU: I say to myself, I am very  
18 disappointed with the people because every time we ask  
19 them for something, it takes months before we have a  
20 response, if at all. We are waiting and waiting and  
21 waiting. And now they come and want this right now. As  
22 far as I am concerned, I say no.

23 MS. LEWIS: Miss Wright had nothing to do  
24 with what happened before.

25 MR. SERNA: Because she wrote this as  
Principal of Central High School and she is now  
superintendent. So we want to try and give her a  
chance. I think this would be a bad move to deny this.

MR. CANTU: No, it is not. It is just  
because of the past experience that we have with the  
school system. Okay. This is my own opinion, okay.  
And I know what I am talking about because if a person  
is concerned, the parent would go to the school when  
they have things down there. I was very disappointed  
when I was going down there to Washington High School.  
I see only the same parents going to see the kids. It's  
not like before, you know, back in '70's and '80's, it's  
different down there. I used to attend a lot of  
meetings down there, many times. But I don't see any  
movement down there and people think they take  
everything for granted. They just gimme, gimme, that's  
all they want.

1 MR. SERNA: You can still --

2 MR. CANTU: They don't care to go and see  
3 what is going on in the school with the children. I  
4 ain't going to support the other ones, that's what I'm  
5 saying.

6 MR. SERNA: I agree with you. I don't  
7 disagree with you and your feeling -- your sentiment. I  
8 am asking for a second to the motion. I would ask for  
9 the motion again. I'll entertain a motion to approve  
10 the use of the Unity Center for the School City, on  
11 October 8th, for their town hall meeting and waiving the  
12 rental fee. Is there a motion on the floor?

13 MS. LEWIS: So move.

14 MR. SERNA: I'm asking a second, Mr.  
15 Cantu, so we can vote on it. You can still vote how you  
16 feel.

17 MR. CANTU: I'll give you second on one  
18 condition, that they report how many people attended  
19 that meeting at our next meeting?

20 MR. SERNA: Can you give us that report,  
21 Mayra?

22 MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

23 MR. SERNA: Is there a second?

24 MR. CANTU: I second.

25 MR. SERNA: Moved and properly second.  
We have had discussion, and that is with the fact that  
we'll have a report of how many parents attended at the  
Unity Center. All in favor signify by saying aye?

MS. LEWIS: Aye.

MR. SERNA: Aye. All opposed?

MR. CANTU: Opposed.

MR. SERNA: Motion carries two to one.  
Thank you, Mr. Cantu.

Next, we have quotes on electrical  
work for Veterans, Callahan, Sunnyside and Todd Park.

1 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, correct. And some of  
2 these are combination, some are for our Christmas lights  
3 and some are for just the park signs that need lighting.  
4 The first one is for Veterans Park, we have two quotes.  
5 One from A & D Construction for \$14,749.20. One from  
6 Royalty Construction for \$18,000. And I have included a  
7 map of where the electrical is going to be added for  
8 Veterans for Christmas.

9 MR. SERNA: So then the first motion  
10 would be for Veterans Park. There are two quotes,  
11 Royalty for \$18,000 and R & D Construction for  
12 \$14,748.20.

13 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. My recommendation  
14 would be the lowest bid.

15 MR. SERNA: Which would be R & D for  
16 Veterans Park for Christmas lighting?

17 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. Correct.

18 MR. SERNA: So I'll entertain a motion to  
19 approve.

20 MS. LEWIS: Can I ask a question? Since  
21 we have had lighting before, do we have to do this every  
22 year, this running of the electrical work?

23 MS. ACOSTA: What happens is that as we  
24 grow and extend the lights, we do need to add more  
25 outlets.

MS. LEWIS: So this is in addition to?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes, ma'am.

Motion to approve R & D proposal, in the amount of  
\$14,749.20 made by Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto  
Cantu.

MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

MS. ACOSTA: Next is Callahan Park from  
Royalty -- now this is for electrical as well.

1 MR. SERNA: All for Christmas lighting?

2 MS. ACOSTA: We are going to light up the  
3 four park signs in the corners and run extension cords  
4 to one of the evergreens in the corner.

5 MR. SERNA: Is the extension cord going  
6 to run for Christmas lighting to the evergreens?

7 MS. ACOSTA: Yes. Correct.

8 MR. SERNA: So R & D, this is -- we are  
9 talking about Callahan Park.

10 MS. ACOSTA: R & D is \$5,200 and Royalty  
11 is \$7,500.

12 MR. SERNA: And your recommendation,  
13 Mayra?

14 MS. ACOSTA: The lowest bid.

15 MR. SERNA: Which is R & D. I'll  
16 entertain a motion to approve R & D for the electrical  
17 work at Callahan, in the amount of \$5,200.  
18 Motion to approve R & D quote for \$5,200 made by Valda  
19 Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

20 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
21 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

22 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

23 MS. ACOSTA: Next is Sunnyside.

24 MR. SERNA: So I see that Sunnyside is  
25 more electrical work and is this the same like Callahan,  
lighting signs?

MS. ACOSTA: We are going to light up two  
signs, but next to the community sign we were going to  
light up the tree that's there.

MR. SERNA: All right. So again, two  
quotes, Royalty 7200 and R & D for 4,860. Which do you  
recommend?

MS. ACOSTA: The lowest.

1 MR. SERNA: Any questions Board members?  
2 (None) Entertain a motion to approve the quote from R &  
3 D Construction for Sunnyside Park.  
4 Motion to approve quote for Sunnyside Park made by Valda  
5 Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

6 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
7 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.  
9 Todd Park is your last one.

10 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. And this is the  
11 same thing, we are going to light up the park sign, but  
12 we are also going to light up all the light poles that  
13 are in the walking area.

14 MR. SERNA: Okay. When you say light up,  
15 with Christmas lights, right?

16 MS. ACOSTA: Yes, that is correct.

17 MR. SERNA: So you have two quotes,  
18 Royalty for Todd Park is \$11,250; R & D is 4,340. You  
19 are recommending the lowest quote?

20 MS. ACOSTA: Correct.

21 MR. SERNA: That's R & D. Any questions  
22 Board members?

23 MS. LEWIS: There's a big difference.  
24 Have you had R & D do work for you before? Have they  
25 ever surprised you with change orders?

MS. ACOSTA: No.

MR. SERNA: That's usually what the  
problem is. I know from my job too, somebody will come  
in with a low quote, but hit you with a change order.  
After the change order, it brings them up to the other  
quote or tops the other quote. You haven't run into  
that with R & D?

MS. ACOSTA: No.

MR. SERNA: I'll entertain a motion to  
approve R & D Construction for the work at Todd Park, in

1 the amount of \$4,340.  
2 Motion to approve R & D Construction proposal for the  
3 work at Todd Park made by Valda Lewis. Second by  
4 Gilberto Cantu.

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

7 (All signify aye.)

8 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

9 Next, next we have Greenhouse fees.

10 MS. ACOSTA: Correct. So the reason why  
11 we want to implement fees for the Greenhouse services  
12 because we have a lot of departments inside the City  
13 that are requesting Hilda, which is our Greenhouse  
14 supervisor, to do certain things for them. Asking for  
15 pots or landscaping or the soil or things like that. So  
16 it's taking away from her work and she is usually  
17 running around for other departments. So just like  
18 Public Works charges for their services, and every other  
19 department charges, I think we should also charge them  
20 for her services.

21 MR. SERNA: So that might be referring to  
22 me because I did ask Hilda, when I was asked to beautify  
23 the office, to put flower pots outside the fire station.  
24 I thought out of the kindness of her heart she was  
25 helping me with the arrangements. I see now there is a  
cost in her kindness.

MS. ACOSTA: It's not only the Fire  
Department, the Health Department, the Marina,  
Sanitation Department. Just everyone is always calling  
and having her run around and do things.

MR. SERNA: For example, if flowers are  
not picked up on the scheduled date, an additional \$10  
per day for holding?

MS. ACOSTA: That because if an agency,  
say the Health Department, is doing a large planting in  
front of their facility. They have those flowers  
delivered to the Greenhouse and then Hilda is  
responsible for watering them and making sure they stay  
alive until this department feels that it is time for  
them to remove them. So, you know, her time with  
watering and making sure they stay alive, that's time  
consuming.

1 MR. SERNA: I think one thing for sure, I  
2 can't disagree with you for wanting to be compensated  
3 because it's taken her time. I get it. I thought when  
4 I asked her, I thought it was part of her job. I  
5 understand that. The \$10.00 fee for holding flowers, I  
6 mean it's a greenhouse. Where else are we going to hold  
7 them? I think the best thing to come out of this is the  
timeliness of department heads and departments who are  
asking for your help, and will now be paying for your  
help, to get in and out. Get their things done timely.  
If they are saying we'll pick it up on Tuesday; pick it  
up on Tuesday. You have got to get this message to all  
department heads.

8 If Administration wants us to  
9 beautify our offices with flowers, this needs to be  
10 really explained, or at least passed out to the  
11 department heads. So that's all I would ask. Any  
12 questions?

13 MS. LEWIS: Does Hilda do the designing  
14 as well?

15 MS. ACOSTA: She does the designing as  
16 well.

17 MR. SERNA: So, entertain a motion to  
18 approve these fees by the Greenhouse for Hilda's  
19 services.

20 Motion to approve Greenhouse fees for services made by  
21 Valda Lewis. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

22 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
23 saying aye?

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.

Next, past due invoice from Service  
Sanitation. We have got an invoice for \$350 from  
July 29th. So any questions on the past due invoice --  
and Mayra, we'll be seeing less and less of the past due  
invoices, right?

MS. ACOSTA: Yes.

MR. SERNA: Was this when they billed it  
late?

MS. ACOSTA: No.



1 MR. SERNA: All right. So entertain a  
2 motion to approve the past due invoice of Service  
3 Sanitation dated July 29, 2019, amount of \$350.  
4 Motion to approve invoice made by Gilberto Cantu.  
5 Second by Valda Lewis.

6 MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
7 saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. SERNA: Motion carries.  
10 Do you have anything else for  
11 us, Mayra?

12 MS. ACOSTA: No.

13 MR. SERNA: Next, Public Comments. Have  
14 any Public comments? Please state your name and  
15 address, for the record.

16 MS. WINFIELD: Stacy Winfield, 4106  
17 Dearborn, East Chicago, Indiana. I am here for two  
18 items and have a question on couple items.

19 September 16th, I did a public  
20 request at the Controller's office asking about the  
21 rental of the parks versus me renting the park on  
22 August 24th. Have not received reply.

23 For 15 years I have rented Sunnyside  
24 Park and for eight years I paid the fee. Don't have a  
25 problem if that's what everybody is suppose to do. But,  
26 on September 15th, it was Mexican Independence Parade.  
27 This is not the first year. As we rolled passed the  
28 park, there were over 50 families in the park with  
29 grills, tents. Two years ago there were horses riding  
30 through the park. I'm sure you all heard of that. I am  
31 not sure if you were on the Board then, but horses  
32 riding through the park. Not ponies, horses. This year  
33 it was ponies in the park.

34 So, what I am trying to understand  
35 is the difference. If we are renting out the park, rent  
36 out the park. And I know to reserve the gazebo, you put  
37 your deposit down. It used to be \$100 deposit, now it's  
38 \$274 for deposit for the gazebo, which is what I pay for  
39 my picnic.

40 When I have my picnic, I have to  
41 clean up in the park before I have the picnic and the  
42 area where I have my tables set up because I give a gift  
43 bag. I have been the precinct committee person for  
44 15 years, but I give back to the community. I always

1 make the deposit. But since we have to pay, I don't  
2 have no problem. Do I have a problem with the price of  
3 the deposit? Yes, I do. \$274.00 is a lot, because I  
4 have to clean up.

5 Now, the building where the garage  
6 is, the paint is scraped off the wall. I have to cover  
7 that with a sign so that people that come, if they come  
8 from out of the area, come to the picnic, they don't  
9 have to look at that. Look how you all are living.  
10 Look at how your park is kept up.

11 There was a big branch that I took  
12 down and put in the back of the garage. Councilman  
13 Garcia came to my picnic. Why is this branch back here?  
14 Because I had to pull it out of the tree so none of the  
15 children would grab on it and get hurt, because I am not  
16 trying to pay a medical bill. That should be taken care  
17 of by Public Works, which I know Park Department might  
18 have their employees, like they used to, take care of  
19 it.

20 When I have to sweep up before I  
21 have a picnic -- every time I have an event in the park,  
22 the park is cleaner than it was before I rented it. I  
23 pay people to help me clean up. I give the kids chores  
24 before we do our give away. I need you to clean up the  
25 park so it could be better than what it was before we  
came here. I have a concern about that.

1 I came before -- I think you were  
2 here when I asked -- if you all could have pricing for  
3 East Chicago residents, non-residents, non-profit and  
4 for-profit. When you go to City of Hammond any time to  
5 rent a park, or in Griffith, there is a non-resident --  
6 whatever their city is, that pricing is laid out,  
7 residential pricing or profit and not-for-profit.

8 I made that request maybe three  
9 years ago. Nothing has happened. So I am asking that  
10 you once again consider that, because I know you want  
11 everything that's going on in the City, everybody have  
12 to pay for everything. But when you are giving back to  
13 the City, and you have to put out \$274.00. Do you have  
14 a problem with it? I do.

15 And then I turn around and I look  
16 and go to the parade, the park is full of people. And I  
17 know they didn't go with the mix.

18 With this public request being  
19 turned in on the 16th, I haven't got a response yet. I  
20 do a public request in the Building Department where I  
21 work and we answer within 2 to 3 days. Why haven't I  
22 got a response in writing? I don't know.

23 But I am also listening to you

1 talking about what you are doing in different parks.  
2 Asked for electricity for Sunnyside Park. I'm happy  
3 that you are going to light up the Christmas tree  
4 because not only Callahan Park, every park should have  
5 lights in the trees. You don't know how many residents  
6 of Sunnyside will come out and help decorate that park.  
7 Do we have a bad park? No, we don't. We have so many  
8 kids from out of the area come to the park and we don't  
9 have any problems in our park. We are proud of where we  
10 live. So I ask that.

11 We do not have a community center in  
12 Sunnyside. That building is not a community center and  
13 that's the problem that we have had for a long time. We  
14 have a building that you only clean up and fix up for  
15 election day. I have asked before you all were here,  
16 that it be fixed up so the residents, if they would like  
17 to rent that building, to hold a meeting, if someone  
18 would like to have a little party. Let the residents  
19 come in and do that. If you have to hire the workers,  
20 they have to pay for workers.

21 I realize the policy is first come  
22 first serve basis. You can go into the park and you  
23 don't have to rent unless you want the gazebo. I  
24 wouldn't have never represented -- because I know what I  
25 do and how we take care. We don't have a problem and  
haven't had a problem in our park for our picnics. For  
me to pay and consistently be in this parade and see the  
families there. Sometimes it was like 2:00 o'clock in  
the morning and some of the residents complained about  
the music, people being in the park later, after 12, and  
nothing was done. But when the ponies was brought up, I  
said I seen the horses for myself, and that was during  
the parade.

So I ask that we want to keep our  
park beautified and going to have some type of animals  
in the park, the Park Department should be notified.  
And if the police is riding, they should go in the park.

MR. SERNA: Thank you. Normally on  
public comments there is no response from the Board, but  
out of respect for a precinct person, I will respond to  
some of the things that you brought up.

First, I just want to say, I am  
aware of the work that you do in your precinct and I am  
aware of the give backs that you give. I know recently  
I sent a fire truck there to help augment and make  
special your event, so I know what you do there, and you  
are to be commended for that. Because there is a whole  
lot of other precinct committee people that don't do as

1 much as you do. So thank you for that.

2 And on that same note, with the give  
3 back and paying for things, the reason anyone would pay  
4 for shelter or anything is so that way nobody beats you  
5 to it. Because everything is on first come first serve  
6 basis. And even on holidays, we don't take applications  
7 for rental of the gazebo or shelter on a holiday. It's  
8 first come first serve thing, so maybe that is the best  
9 way for you to go. But you are rolling the dice a  
10 little bit if somebody else wants to try and just spoil  
11 it for you, which you are a pillar in the community,  
12 nobody is going to do that, unless from outside. That's  
13 why you get a permit, so nobody can take the spot you  
14 rented.

15 And as far as your request, that  
16 request for information, we'll get it to you. I'll make  
17 sure we get that to you at the end of the week. I'll  
18 find out what it is and personally make sure I get that  
19 request to you by the end of the week.

20 MS. WINFIELD: Because we have had two  
21 picnic tables bolted in the park that have been removed.

22 MR. SERNA: Removed?

23 MS. WINFIELD: Not under the gazebo, two  
24 picnic tables in the park bolted down in the grass that  
25 were removed.

MR. SERNA: By Public Works?

MS. WINFIELD: I'm assuming. I'm pretty  
sure probably so. But for me to have to rent, and then  
I have to go and ask someone else to bring picnic tables  
to the park for the picnic. The thing is, I have to go  
outside and ask someone to bring me picnic tables. I  
rent the park, but I don't have no tables. So when my  
people come, they've got to sit on the ground. I have  
to provide tables. When my organization has a picnic,  
have our festival, we have had to rent picnic tables.  
When we pay a thousand dollars deposit and thousand  
dollars for the park, electricity -- the electricity is  
not the issue. Electricity is on every day. I can go  
out there and the electricity is on in the park. It's  
not about what am I renting it for, you are not  
providing me anything. You are not providing the  
electricity because it's there on a daily basis. So  
what is the rental actually for.

But I understand what you are

1 saying, it's first come first serve, but I do have  
2 people that ask and I always recommend to them to rent  
3 the park. Shall I continue to do so? No, I will not.

4 MR. SERNA: Like I said, you don't  
5 have --

6 MS. WINFIELD: You take a chance.

7 MR. SERNA: You take a chance.  
8 If you have got family coming or whatever organization  
9 you have there, and somebody did rent it, now you have  
10 egg on your face and have to try to move it to another  
11 area. That is the purpose of renting.

12 MS. WINFIELD: We have a park that no one  
13 uses. Callahan, Sunnyside, no one uses the park. We  
14 don't have a problem with that. I just question what  
15 the rule is actually going to be. So when people tell  
16 me, first come first serve, if you want to make sure you  
17 have a spot, then reserve it. \$200 is a lot to put down  
18 for deposit when you are not getting nothing for the  
19 \$200.

20 MR. SERNA: I would tell people that.  
21 But at the same time I would tell them, unless you going  
22 to be there at 3:00 o'clock in the morning and put your  
23 cooler down, there's no guarantee.

24 MS. WINFIELD: They were there at  
25 5:00 o'clock, believe me.

26 MR. SERNA: That's what I mean. So  
27 people might be already aware of it, but that's the  
28 whole thing. You get there at five in the morning, take  
29 that spot, and I show up at ten in the morning with my  
30 piece of paper --

31 MS. WINFIELD: You've got to move.

32 MR. SERNA: We are moving in the  
33 direction of getting a park ranger because it's been a  
34 long time -- I have been on this Board about four years  
35 -- and you try to tell people to get their cars out and  
36 get the music off, that should never have to happen.  
37 That should fall on law enforcement officials. We are  
38 moving to get park rangers for our parks to enforce  
39 those certain hours during the week. So we are moving  
40 in that direction.

1                   Horses and ponies, I know that on  
2 Calumet Day, they had things like that. I remember  
3 seeing that Calumet Day. I don't know if they paid and  
4 cleaned up, issues like that. But we want people to use  
5 our parks. We don't want people to abuse our parks.  
6 Someone like you, who does the community give back and  
7 leaves the park cleaner, we definitely want to work with  
8 somebody like you.

9                   MS. WINFIELD: I normally take before and  
10 after pictures. When Robert came, he took the pictures.  
11 I was glad of that because he did see and this way you  
12 can prove for \$200 deposit. Thank you.

13                   MR. SERNA: Thank you. All right. Next  
14 meeting date is Tuesday, October 8, 2019, right here at  
15 the City Hall, Council Chambers.

16                   I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

17                   Motion to adjourn meeting made by Valda Lewis. Second  
18 by Gilberto Cantu.

19                   MR. SERNA: All in favor signify by  
20 saying aye?

21                   (All signify aye.)


22                   MR. SERNA: Motion carries.


23                   \*\*\*\*\* Meeting Adjourned \*\*\*\*\*  
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday  
September 24, 2019

Approved and signed October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019


  
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Anthony Serna, President

  
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Rick Rodriguez, Vice President

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

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

  
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Eugene Austin, Member

  
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Courtnee Dinkins, 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 30th day of September, 2019.

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Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR