

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS: Anthony Serna, President  
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President  
Valda Lewis, Secretary  
Gilberto Cantu  
Eugene Austin

STAFF: Ateria Allen  
Dawn Dawkins, Legal  
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Rick Rodriguez, Eugene Austin,

Telephonic: Gilberto Cantu, Valda Lewis

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

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'd like to call to order today's Board of Parks and Recreation meeting for Tuesday, February 9, 2021. We do have a quorum. I'll be conducting the meeting in Chief Serna's absence.

We'll move to Administrative matters. First we have approval of meeting minutes of January 21, 2021. I'd like to have a motion.

MS. LEWIS: I move for approval of the minutes.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have minutes for January 26, 2021. Motion to approve.

MS. LEWIS: Move for approval of minutes.

MR. CANTU: Second.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion carries.  
Next approval of Payroll Warrant for  
3 February 5, 2021.

4 MR. CANTU: Move to accept.

5 MS. LEWIS: Second.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion carries.  
Next is Warrant 020921 PB, in the  
8 amount of \$54,982.91.

9 MS. LEWIS: I move for approval of  
warrant report.

10 MR. CANTU: Second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion carries.  
The only thing we have is Small  
13 Purchasing Policy. Mrs. Hernandez-Orange?

14 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Good evening to  
15 everyone. I'm seeking approval for the Small Purchasing  
16 Policy. Previously there was one passed for small  
17 purchases and it's been revised to cover small purchases  
up to \$5,000. Anything over \$5,000 we then would have  
18 to receive two quotes for the item as usual. This needs  
to be ratified at our meeting here. It has already been  
19 approved by the Board of Works. So I am asking for  
approval of this.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a question, Mrs.  
Orange. Is this like new or is this --

21 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: This is new. It  
was passed at the Board of Works on 1-13-2021. And then  
22 obviously it didn't make our last meeting, so we had to  
do it at this meeting.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is for all  
24 departments?

25 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: All departments,

1 yes. So, it was passed by the Board of Works already.  
2 We have projects obviously that go through them to get  
3 approved first, but they are the ones that control all  
4 the funds. So they changed it, so we all have to change  
5 it.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody have any  
7 questions? (None) Need a motion to approve the Small  
8 Purchasing Policy.

9 MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

10 MS. LEWIS: Second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?  
12 (All signify aye.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion carries.  
14 Any other new business?

15

16 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Just that I will  
17 be bringing before you -- I have been working with Miss  
18 Dawkins on a release form for our Little League. We  
19 have improved our Little League field and this year  
20 planning to play some ball. So we did talk to the  
21 Little League East Chicago and we explained that there  
22 would be restrictions. It will look different and we  
23 have to have that written because of the fact that we  
24 want it clear, so the liability doesn't fall on us.

25 So, Miss Dawkins and I are working  
on that, and we should get it done soon. The season  
does not start until April, but I am excited that we'll  
open in just a little bit.

17

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is that for all parks or  
19 just the one?

20 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: That's the only  
21 one that reached out to me is the East Chicago Little  
22 League and they usually use Lofton Field. They did ask  
23 if they could use other fields. I explained to them I  
24 just want to make sure I have the request and I'm okay  
25 with both of them being used. We just want to know  
exactly when.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Who's running it now?

24 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: So the  
25 individual, Maria Rohrman is their spokesperson to us.  
And I guess she's been on their Board, so that's where

1 this is coming from.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we won't do anything  
now until we get everything from you?

3

4 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. I'll  
hopefully have that for the next meeting and we'll have  
it ready for approval.

5

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions for Mrs.  
Orange?

7 MR. AUSTIN: I agree. More insight on  
this is needed for the next meeting.

8

9 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.

10 MS. DAWKINS: I have a question. Are  
there going to be any type of -- because I didn't notice  
it in what you presented to me -- but are they going to  
wear masks or is there going to be any kind of changes  
at the field to prevent any kind of contagious contact?

12

13 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes, ma'am. I'll  
present that next week. I will give you a brief of what  
we are working on. I did have a list that was between  
myself, them, and Miss Diana Burns, from the East  
Chicago Health Department. I wanted to make sure I went  
through her, because as everyone knows, if you get sick,  
you have got to go to the Health Department. So I  
really believe her expertise is needed on this.

17 So, everything that we are working  
on, we'll come to an agreement, which is all based from  
myself, the Health Department, and Mayor. So we made  
sure to keep our community safe, but you will receive  
all that in the next meeting.

19

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anything else, Miss  
Dawkins?

21 MS. DAWKINS: That's fine.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any more questions for  
Mrs. Orange? (None) Okay. Anything else, Mrs. Orange?

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24 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: That's it.

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25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Next is Public Comment.  
Any Public Comment? (None)



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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 10th day of February, 2021.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR