CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
April 9, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:
Grayling Gordon, President
Joseph Fernandez
Eugene Austin, Secretary
Anthony Hopkins
Jaylan Robinson

STAFF:
Genesis Gary
Marino Solorio
Jewell Harris

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Grayling Gordon, Anthony Hopkins, Eugene Austin, Joseph Fernandez, Jaylan Robinson

Staff Present: Genesis Gary, Recording Secretary
Marino Solorio, Director

MR. GORDON: I would call to order the Board of Parks and Recreation meeting for Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

We'll move on to Administrative matters. First on the agenda is approval of the minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting as written. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Make a motion.

MR. AUSTIN: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Approval and signing of payroll dated March 18, 2024. Can I get a motion?

MR. AUSTIN: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)
MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
Approval and signing of Warrant 040924 PB, in the amount of $898.96. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)
MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
The warrant number is incorrect. Can I get a motion to rescind our previous motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion to cancel previous motion.
MR. GORDON: I'll second that motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)
MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
Warrant 090224 PB, in the amount of $898.96. Can I get a motion?
MR. HOPKINS: Motion.
MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.
MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)
MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
Approval and signing of Warrant 040924 PB, in the amount of $15,228.25. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)
MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
Any Old Business? (None) We will move on to New Business with our Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Marino Solorio.
MR. SOLORIS: Good afternoon, Board.

There are couple MOU on your agenda that I want to go over. The first MOU is Green EC. It's an organization that is helping with earth week. They needed a space to have meetings and work with us to kind of bring different projects that relate to planting trees, things like that. And so the MOU shows our commitment to giving them a space to be able to meet to go over programs and projects that we want to do with them or in conjunction with them. So I would ask the Board to approve this.

MR. GORDON: Can I get a motion to approve space for Green EC to have meetings?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. GORDON: Can I a second to the motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Can you real quickly explain what Green EC is?

MR. SOLORIO: Green EC is a new organization. They have been in existence for about three years and they started here in East Chicago. The gentleman that is kind of responsible for the organization also does the Monarch Festival. So their task is to bring more plants, trees, things like to East Chicago. So we are working in conjunction with Parks to kind of figure out a way to work together to bring different programs to teach people how to plant trees and different plants. We have earth week that they are planting, how to create a bee box, different things like that.

MR. AUSTIN: What about in the 3rd District, out there?

MR. SOLORIO: They are planting them all over.

MR. GORDON: Okay, we can move on.

MR. SOLORIO: The next MOU is an MOU that

has existed before. I wanted to bring it before the Board for approval. This is EC Little League. They use the Kenny Lofton field and sometimes Block Stadium. I want to make sure we renew the MOU. They are in existence this year and they are getting registrations and things like that. Their season is starting now actually, and so I just want to make sure that we get this approved so they are able to use our facility.

MR. GORDON: I know I am all for this. Glad to see Little League is back. So in saying that, I'm very excited and I'd like to get a motion for that.

MR. ROBINSON: Make a motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. AUSTIN: The reason I bring this up, I would like to know when people start questioning me about what we are doing for the Martin Luther King Center there in the 3rd District, and I would like to know. Are you going to make sure we get a piece for everybody? You know what I'm saying? If you don't, you are going to get some feedback.

MR. GORDON: Okay. Let's continue on.

MR. SOLORIO: The next MOU is for Marcus Williams, Protecting your Kings and Queens Basketball/Chess Program. This is a mentorship program that's going to be happening in the Summer for kids. It's targeted towards teens. And what it is, you are going to learn how to dribble the ball, shoot, things like that. Learn how to play chess. There is a fitness component. There is an art component and mentorship component. Kind of like a summer school type thing. It's a summer scholar program that I want to partner up with them at the centers for the teens.

MR. GORDON: Is that costing us anything?

MR. SOLORIO: It's costing us, correct. It's a total of -- I don't have that with me right here, but I think 27,000. But we have a grant that's going to pay for that. So the grant has actually been given to

us by Redevelopment.

MR. GORDON: Sounds good. Sounds like another excellent program. Saying that, can I get a motion?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. AUSTIN: I have a question. Is this going to happen in all centers? You don't know if it's a good fit all the time.

MR. SOLORIO: The MOU is for both Heritage and Unity. The program is happening at both the centers. Both of the open centers right now, yes. It's happening there, so both sides of town just, not on one side of town.

MR. AUSTIN: Reason I want to know, like I said, I feel like people when they question me, you know, I like to tell them what's going on. I don't want to tell them a falsehood, that's why I bring it up now because this is in the future we are going to get started, so I want to know what part they are going to have.

MR. GORDON: They are part of it. They got it at both centers. We can move forwards.

MR. SOLORIO: The next MOU is New Mission of Jesus Christ church. This is a Summer program. This is the new one that was added that was suppose to be on the agenda. We apologize we didn't attach it. We did bring it today.

This is a program that already existed. It happened last year and in previous years, so I think it's a good program to continue to do, and so I would like the Board to approve this program. It's a Summer program. It's a Summer tutoring program for the kids.

MR. GORDON: Can we get a motion for the MOU for New Mission Jesus Christ church?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: The last item on the agenda for me is the Service Agreement for Sergio Flores. You already approved this. The difference is that we are making a change and I've highlighted the rate. It was going from $50 to $65 because he brings in these boards that are needed for the program. Originally we were going to have the people buy a board, nobody is really doing that. So He's asking, since he's hauling the stuff back and forth to each center, that he would be compensated for that.

MR. GORDON: That's justifiable.

MR. SOLORIO: So his service amount is going from $50 a session to $65.

MR. GORDON: Can we get a motion for the service agreement amendment for Sergio Flores with Extreme Hip Hop Aerobics?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. HOPKINS: Second.

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

We'll move on to any Public Comments? (None)

Hearing none, our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23rd, right here at City Hall Council Chambers, at the appointed time of 5:00 p.m.

If there is nothing else, can I get a motion for adjournment?

MR. HOPKINS: Motion.

MR. ROBINSON: Second

MR. GORDON: All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

* * * * * Meeting adjourned * * * * *

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
April 9, 2024

Approved and signed _____

Grayling Gordon, President

Eugene Austin, Secretary

Anthony Hopkins, Member

Joseph Fernandez, Member

Jaylan Robinson, Member

Genesis Gary, Recording Secretary

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 Valparaiso, Indiana, this 17th day of April, 2024.



Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR