

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Zoom Conference)
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: Anthony Serna, Rick
Rodriguez, Eugene Austin.

Present Via Zoom: Gilberto Cantu.

STAFF: Present in Chambers: Ateria Allen, Vanessa
Hernandez-Orange.

Present Via Zoom: Dawn Dawkins

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Approval of Minutes: April 27, 2021

Motion to approve April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by
Gilberto Cantu. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

Approval & Signing of Payroll: April 30, 2021

Motion to approve April 30, 2021 Payroll made by Eugene
Austin. Second by Rick Rodriguez.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 Approval & Signing of Warrant: 051121PB \$7,101.74

5 Motion to approve Warrant 051121PB made by Rick Rodriguez.
6 Second by Eugene Austin.

7 Questions/Comments: None.

8 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
9 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

10 OLD BUSINESS: None.

11 NEW BUSINESS:

12 MR. SERNA: We'll move on to New Business. Vanessa
13 Hernandez-Orange, Director of Parks and Recreation.

14 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Good evening, everyone. The
15 first item that we have before you is the Agreement for the
16 MLB Advanced Media.

17 Basically what this Agreement is for is we are
18 actually doing a mural on the Kenny Lofton Baseball Stadium.
19 And I know you have before you the drawing.

20 So basically the insignia of the MLB that's on the
21 right-hand side, that's actually the Major League Baseball --

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Trademark.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. And what happened was
24 that the artist ended up reaching out to the MLB asking if we
25 would be able to use the insignia. They said yes, but this
is what you have to do in order to get to use it.

We're actually in the process getting all the
insurance that's needed that's asked for within the
Agreement. I just need to make sure that the Board approves
that we would be able to use or that you're okay with using
the insignia and the Agreement. And then we'll just move
forward with it.

This agreement was actually looked over by the City
Attorney, Carla Morgan, because she is also involved in the

1 project. Also the insurance was a question because we had to
2 make sure that was actually our building.

3 With that being said this is where we're at now.
4 This is the Agreement before you. We just need your
5 approval.

6 MR. SERNA: Any questions?

7 Motion to approve MLB Advanced Media Agreement made by Rick
8 Rodriguez. Second by Gilberto Cantu.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 MR. SERNA: Vanessa.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Next we have Estimate, Snider
14 Recreation, Inc. for Outdoor Exercise Equipment.

15 Basically I have been given the okay to add another
16 fitness location to Riley Park. So we're actually going with
17 the exact same company that did Tod Park, the exact same
18 company that did Washington Park. That's exactly what the
19 orders were to make sure that it was exactly the same.

20 Before you is Snider. I needed to just get this to
21 the Board, have it approved so I can ask for additional
22 appropriations through the Council. But we wanted to make
23 sure to bring it before you prior to me asking for additional
24 appropriations.

25 The only item that I do not have before you because
everything is kind of fresh a little bit is the top part of
the fitness equipment. And that is actually roughly between
10 and \$12,000. So my total appropriation cost that I'm
asking from the Council would be \$70,000 in hopes that that
covers everything.

As you see the installation is already on here.
And there's no change orders or anything like that.

And I just need approval of the Board here for
Snider Recreation. And I will bring forth the top shades for
the next meeting.

MR. SERNA: Any questions for Vanessa?

1 Motion to approve Snider Recreation, Inc. Outdoor Exercise
2 Equipment made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by Eugene Austin.

3 Questions/Comments:

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just one, Mr. President.

5 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, Mr. Rodriguez.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Where is it going to be located at?

7 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: We have empty land. Well, I
8 guess it used to be the old softball or baseball field. So
9 that area that's there, I'm assuming that's where we're going
10 to put it. Because if not, we'll have take tear down trees.

11 It won't be in the front part of Riley Park. We
12 have other plans for that location.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you? I was going to ask you that.

14 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I don't know if I will see it
15 come to fruition this year. We do have two murals that are
16 actually going in the front. I don't know if you've seen --

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

18 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: So two murals will go there.
19 We're working on the paneling to finish that. Hopefully
20 we'll see that before the summer ends. But I plan on putting
21 like a seating area near there. Other than that nothing else
22 will go up in the front.

23 This will go on the side next to the play ground in
24 front of that shelter in the empty area. So I just don't
25 want to cut down any trees. I think that's the best thing.

26 Plus coming off of Chicago Avenue some people might
27 feel uncomfortable. People could really see them working
28 out. So I think it's just best to go in that area.

29 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's fine. I just wanted to make sure
30 where it was located at. That's it.

31 MR. SERNA: Any further questions?

32 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
33 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

34

1 MR. SERNA: Anything further, Vanessa?

2 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No. Actually maybe yes. Sorry.
3 You have two fliers before. Again one is for the plant sale.
4 I might have given it to you last time. But I think the
5 question was what do we have available. And this is actually
6 all the items that we have available.

7 Like Miss Dawkins, I think she kind of discussed
8 buy four plants you'll be getting one of the trees that we
9 had donated by Representative Earl Harris and the federal --
10 I can't think of where he received it from. But I'll get it
11 to you.

12 I know the State gives all the senators as well as
13 representatives 100 trees that they're able to donate. So
14 they donated it to us. And those who come in to purchase the
15 plants if it's four or more we give them the tree if they
16 would like to have it. So that's along with that.

17 As well as I'm excited to announce that we are set
18 for our summer camp. These are actually going out. I think
19 they have been out in East Chicago on ECTV.

20 Again the summer camps are being offered or taught
21 by high school coaches. So again we're going to bring the
22 feeder program within the City of East Chicago.

23 Again early registration is definitely needed.
24 We're maxing out per session 40 kids total 80 kids per week.
25 And this is just a safe way to give children an opportunity
to participate.

As you see you still have to wear a mask per CDC.
CDC Guidelines outdoor camps should be able or have to wear a
mask. So we'll be doing the same thing. And I think that's
it.

MR. SERNA: Any questions for Vanessa?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, Mr. Rodriguez.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Vanessa, I know earlier in February we
did a lot of things for the Little League, they had to sit so
far or whatever. Because we're opening up more, is that
still in effect?

25

1 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: It's 100 percent still intact.
2 So that's actually been the big issue we've been having.

3 Unfortunately the rules that we passed have not
4 been complied with. I have seen many videos of people not
5 having masks on, people sitting in the stands. We have sent
6 them an e-mail in regards to the situation with a warning.

7 I actually have a meeting with Miss Burns on Friday
8 to discuss the fact that we would like to just put, how
9 should I say, more of like a legal -- so basically we're
10 going to add it to the Executive Order that should probably
11 be going out sooner than later.

12 I know the Little League would like to be able to
13 sell and do this. And she said we could under certain
14 guidelines and everything is prepackaged.

15 So we've been working with them because I know they
16 wanted to receive, I think it was the Little League
17 Tournament, the possibility for them to get gains again.

18 We were working with them. We explained to them
19 what could happen in our City.

20 Our numbers are going up here slowly. Even if
21 you're vaccinated, the numbers are still going up here. And
22 that's a concern.

23 And it's unfortunate to see in the ballpark people
24 without a mask. Our employees are there without a mask. And
25 it's sad because those individuals come. If they have
contact with people, they're going to bring it to us.

I personally know from a different ballpark they
had their Opening Day. Probably about a week later their
child was sick and had Covid.

They were in school for two months nothing. But
after Opening Day that person had Covid.

So again we never know where people are at. We're
trying just to be very cautious. And if people don't follow
the rules, unfortunately it's going to get shut down.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is this also for the high school?

MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes. It's also for the high
school.

1 I know I've been getting the same phone calls.
2 High school hasn't been doing it. I ended up reaching out to
3 currently the Athletic Secretary as well as the
4 Superintendent explaining, hey, these are our rules.

5 There is no Athletic Director at this point in
6 time. So because of that I mean I've talked to the Head
7 Coach personally myself. Went to go talk to him. Explained
8 to him what's supposed to be happening. That's just our
9 regulations. And if not, then we could just again shut it
10 down.

11 I try and make it out there. If I saw it myself, I
12 am okay with letting people know, hey.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is Diana Garcia Burns, is she doing this
14 by CDC Guidelines or are these her own or State?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No. We're definitely doing it.
16 So because we have a Health Department, we're able to see our
17 numbers quicker and differently. So because of that, we set
18 our own kind of rules here.

19 And we should all be grateful of the fact that we
20 have a Health Department because they're kind of taking care
21 of us just a little bit more. Everyone else is kind of like
22 you guys figure it out, do what you want to do.

23 But Miss Burns has been doing a great job of
24 helping us all lead into staying safe and not just on the
25 public side where it comes with like Parks and Recreation.
26 But I know on the school side she's definitely helped to
27 implement some of the things that we have going on.

28 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. Do you have a question,
29 Mr. Austin?

30 MR. AUSTIN: Yes. I would like to know now they're
31 insisting on -- I do the caution guard down there at the
32 library. And one thing that I can see some of the kids, they
33 really don't want to follow what your rules is especially
34 about having the shot they're supposed to.

35 Now they're saying that they can't come back to
36 school until they have a shot. That's what we got to
37 remember.

38 I am just bringing it up here because I looked,
39 they showed us this. So I picked that part that I think

1 fully have to be did. You know what I'm saying.

2 But the way it is it won't be too many coming back
3 because the kids they're not --

4 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I think that's a question I can
5 answer for you after this meeting. That sounds like it's
6 more school side. And I will definitely answer that for you
7 after.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: School City.

9 MR. SERNA: Anything further, Vanessa?

10 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No. That's it.

11 MR. SERNA: Thank you very much.

12 MS. DAWKINS: I do have a question. Excuse me. Are we
13 going to be needing contracts, Community Development Block
14 Grant Contracts for the summer camp?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I actually have my staff member,
16 she is going to reach out to you in regards to those
17 contracts. So it's going to be different from the CDBG since
18 it's solely coming out of our budget.

19 I did review some of the old contracts that we had.
20 And I think there was more CDBG language because of the fact
21 that the CDBG I think we had to wait until possibly the end
22 of the month in order to submit the money. And we weren't
23 sure if the Council was going to accept it and then give it
24 over to us.

25 I went ahead and went within my budget to pay for
coaches. So that's why we're doing it solely from our
budget.

But Genesis will be reaching out to you to generate
and finalize those contracts.

MR. SERNA: Thank you, Attorney Dawkins.

MR. AUSTIN: One more question I would like to ask.

MR. SERNA: Yes, Mr. Austin.

MR. AUSTIN: Why can't we have the ID? I kept my around
with me all the time when I got my shots and all. Now don't

1 you think that we should?

2 People say they have shots they don't have. The
3 kids, you know, because this is one thing, summer camp, we
4 should put some kind of stipulation that they have to show us
because somebody is going to slip in. That's what I'm
saying.

5 MR. SERNA: Is that something you would be interested
in, Vanessa?

6
7 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No, sir. Legally that is not
something that I would like to go into to make requirements
8 for parents to give children shots at this point. And from
the City's aspect I personally don't think that legally we
should do that.

9
10 MR. AUSTIN: But it's just a suggestion. You know what
I'm saying because we don't want to get caught in the middle
of certain things.

11
12 MR. SERNA: Right. Understand. Anything further,
Vanessa?

13 MS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: No.

14 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

15
16 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 25,
2021 @ 5:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers.

17
18 Motion to adjourn was made by Rick Rodriguez. Second by
Eugene Austin.

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
20 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

21 * Meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

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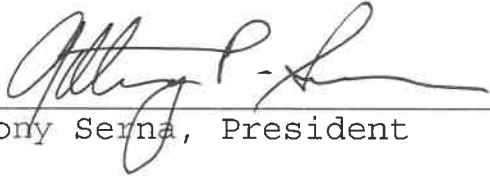
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Approved and Signed May 25, 2021

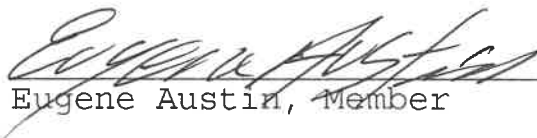


Anthony Serna, President

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, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 19th day of May, 2021.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483

