CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
May 28, 2024

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

Staff Present: Genesis Gary, Recording Secretary
Jewell Harris, Attorney
Marino Solorio, Director

MR. GORDON: I would call to order the Board of Parks and Recreation meeting for Tuesday, May 28th, 2024.

We'll move on to Administrative matters. First on the agenda is approval of the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting as written. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Make a motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.

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

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

Next approval and signing of payroll dated May 24, 2024. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: 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 052824 PB, in the amount of $38,114.78. Can I get a motion?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Second.

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

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

We have no old business. We'll move on to new business with our Director of Parks and Recreation, Marino Solorio.

MR. SOLORIO: Good afternoon, Board. I wanted to bring before the Board here, approval of MaMa Bird Performing Arts Program that we want to do at the Community Center. I'm aware that we did not receive the actual MOU, but it's a pretty standard MOU that we have used with other organizations, but I would like your approval on it. The cost is $10,000.00. The person running it will bring their own staff and create the curriculum for the program at both Unity and Heritage, and this would be a summer program for the kids.

MR. GORDON: Can I get a motion for approval of the MaMa Bird Performing Arts Program service agreement.

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. GORDON: I'll second the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: It's for all ages. It's from 8 to 18 actually.

The second item is the Community in Schools MOU. That is a program that has been happening for the previous, I think, three years. And we are just -- it's something that we renew just on a yearly basis. The space that I am going to put this program in is actually the old senior building by Roxanna Community

Center. There is a building that used to be a library. And so I would like the Board to approve this program also and it's no cost to us.

MR. GORDON: All right. Before we make a motion, I would note for the record that Mr. Austin is now present. Can I get a motion to approve the MOU for the Community in Schools?

MR. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. GORDON: I'll second the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. (All signify aye.)

MR. GORDON: Motion carries.

MR. SOLORIO: Just a quick aside in relation to that MOU. The building itself, Mr. Harris will have to kind of go through the motions of figuring this out, but we technically own that property but it's still under the library. Why that never got transferred over, I don't know.

MR. HARRIS: How long ago would that have happened or should it have happened?

MR. SOLORIO: Like when I left the City the first time, maybe five years ago. It should be transferred over because the Parks -- the parcels that are closer to the gas station are owned by School City and the library owned the separate building, and it was the only thing that did not get transferred over, everything else did. But because it wasn't part of School City, it needed to go through a different process. It never happened. We still maintain it. We still have keys. We have, in essence have taken ownership of the building for however long.

MR. HARRIS: But it's not deeded in your name?

MR. SOLORIO: That is correct. I would like to proceed with getting that all taken care of. We can temporarily work on the MOU with the library that would allow us technically to use our building.

MR. HARRIS: Understood.

MR. SOLORIO: It's a legal standpoint we'll discuss. I wanted to bring it to the Board's

attention.

MR. AUSTIN: You said this was presented five years ago when you were here? What was the problem, lack of communication or what?

MR. SOLORIO: Well, that's what we are saying. Nothing got done is the issue. So the property should have been transferred over to the Park Department or deeded over to the Park Department, but it fell through the cracks obviously because it's still under their name. From what I understand it's still deeded with the library.

MR. HARRIS: Do you know the address offhand?

MR. SOLORIO: I'll e-mail you the address. I believe it's 727 Shell Street.

MR. FERNANDEZ: That building isn't being used?

MR. SOLORIO: When I just was there to clean -- you are talking about the Roxanna Center? I'm talking about there is a building on the side of the Roxanna Center which was the old library. It's a small building, looks like a hut almost, so that's the building I am talking about.

MR. FERNANDEZ: That's been closed for a long time.

MR. SOLORIO: For a very long time. I wanted to make the Board was aware.

MR. HARRIS: One thing, if I could. So on the MOU that we have with the Schools, you know, there is an MOU that allows for sharing of property etcetera with the School, which was mentioned at one of their last meetings. They wanted to revisit that to make sure it was current, nothing was missing. It came up during a regular meeting. And I said I would mention it at our next meeting here. You were at that meeting.

MR. GORDON: I was. And it's over all the things that we do with Parks and Rec, everything.

MR. SOLORIO: So they did -- there was

one gentleman -- Mosley -- he's the one that approached me and told me that.

MR. HARRIS: I know who you are talking about.

MR. SOLORIO: He mentioned something about we should sit down and talk.

MR. HARRIS: The School Board itself brought it up and wanted you to take a look.

MR. SOLORIO: That last time it was approved was 2022, but that was done from the Council. So I'm assuming that's like a standing in perpetuity till either party decides they don't want to continue.

MR. HARRIS: The only thing, we'll make sure if there's anything missing so there is no confusion.

MR. AUSTIN: Who was the mayor five years ago?

MR. GORDON: Maricopa.

MR. SOLORIO: Thank you.

MR. GORDON: Any public comments? (None) Hearing none, our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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. ROBINSON: Motion.

MR. FERNANDEZ: 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
May 28th, 2024

Approved and signed _____

Grayling Gordon, President

Eugene Austin, Secretary

Anthony Hopkins, Member

Joseph Fernandez, Member

Jaylen 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 29th day of May, 2024.



Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR