

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
September 14, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Ateria Allen
Dawn Dawkins-Legal
Genesis Jones-Gary

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Anthony Serna, Eugene Austin
Telephonic: Gilberto Cantu, Valda Lewis

Staff Present: Ateria Allen
Genesis Jones-Gary

Staff Present Telephonic: Attorney Dawn Dawkins

MR. SERNA: We do have a quorum.
First, under Administrative Matters,
we have approval of August 24, 2021, meeting minutes, as
written. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

MS. LEWIS: I move for approval.

MR. CANTU: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)
Motion carries.

Next we have approval of payroll
dated September 3, 2021. Entertain a motion to approve
payroll.

MR. CANTU: I move we accept it.

MS. LEWIS: Second.

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

1 (All signify aye.)
Motion carries.
2 Next approval of Warrant Report
083121 PB, in the amount of \$64.49. Entertain a motion
3 to approve warrant report.

4 MS. LEWIS: I move for approval.

5 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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

7 (All signify aye.)
Motion carries.
8 Approval of Warrant Report 091421
PB, in the amount of \$34,005.81. Entertain a motion to
9 approve warrant report.

10 MR. CANTU: I move we approve.

11 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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

13 (All signify aye.)
Motion carries.
14 Next Old Business. Do we have any
old business?

15 MS. ALLEN: No.

16 MR. SERNA: There is no old business.
17 Any New Business? We have on the agenda Vanessa
Hernandez-Orange, but I believe someone else is here in
18 place. If you could please introduce yourself when you
get up to the microphone.

19 MS. JONES-GARY: Yes, Genesis Gary. I'm
20 the Assistant Park Manager. So new business, we have
Ozoh Engineering for installation of fitness equipment
21 and shade at Riley Park.

22 Ozoh Engineering did the fitness
equipment at Tod and many of the other parks in the
City. So we would like to keep the business with them
23 because they have already faithfully and securely
installed all the equipment and things of that sort.

24 MR. SERNA: And this is for fitness
25 equipment and shade at Riley Park?

1 MRS. JONES-GARY: That is correct.

2 MR. SERNA: And looks like there is two
3 items attached here. One is for \$29,687.50 and the
4 other is for \$24,260.00. So you are looking for
5 approval for both of these items?

6 MRS. JONES-GARY: Yes, sir.

7 MR. SERNA: Okay. Let's see -- you know
8 what, we will do a motion for each instead of trying to
9 total up the money. So we are going to have two
10 motions.

11 First motion I will entertain is for
12 approval of Ozoh Engineering & Construction for the
13 amount of \$29,867.50 for the shade structure for Riley
14 Park.

15 MS. LEWIS: I move for approval for the
16 \$29,687.50.

17 MR. CANTU: Second.

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

20 (All signify aye.)

21 Motion carries.

22 Next I'd entertain a motion for
23 approval of Ozoh Engineering & Construction for the
24 amount of \$24,260.00, for the installation of the
25 fitness equipment at Riley Park.

MS. LEWIS: I move for approval.

MR. CANTU: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

MS. JONES-GARY: All right. Next on the
New Business, East Chicago Little League MOU form. They
would like to use Kenny Lofton Field for Fall, basically
starting September 1st -- I know it's past due -- to
October 24th, for baseball. They would like to use the
field to play baseball and we are seeking approval for
that.

1 MR. SERNA: Just a question that I have.
2 This is just like the summer, where we are letting them
3 use it free of charge?

4 MRS. JONES-GARY: Yes, sir.

5 MR. SERNA: Okay. So we are letting the
6 East Chicago Little League use Kenny Lofton Field for
7 Fall baseball from the 1st of September until
8 October 24, 2021. Everything is the same because this
9 looks like the exact same one.

10 MRS. JONES-GARY: Everything is the same.
11 Nothing has changed.

12 MR. SERNA: Any questions on this Board
13 members? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the MOU
14 between the Board of Parks and Recreation and the East
15 Chicago Little League for use of the Kenny Lofton Field
16 for Fall baseball, September 1st through October 24,
17 2021, free of charge.

18 MRS. DAWKINS: Before you vote, it looks
19 like the dates are already in there. I looked at that
20 and I didn't have a chance to -- I wasn't notified to
21 modify the document, so I don't know if that needs to be
22 corrected. It looks like there is already a date by
23 your signature from the prior time.

24 MR. SERNA: I was going to ask that.
25 That date is February, when we approved for the summer.
So I just assumed that by putting it on the record --
the dates -- and by putting on the record that it is
free of charge, it more or less covers it.

But I think in the spirit of
cooperation and the spirit of they want to use the
field, and they need the MOU. Is there a way we can
approve it in the motion as I read it, and we can clean
up the paperwork and I can sign it some time during the
week, or at least by the next Board meeting?

MRS. DAWKINS: You are saying not
requiring them to resign, is that what you are saying?

MR. SERNA: It looks like they somehow
signed it. The copy that I have has -- it's basically
this copy needs to be redone because there is a lot of
scratching out, a lot of lines and probably white out
used.

1 MRS. DAWKINS: I don't want to get in
2 trouble with Corporation Council in preparing a document
3 like that.

4 MR. SERNA: It does need to be prepared,
5 but I think in the spirit of cooperation, I would like
6 to approve the use of the field for them, pending the
7 proper -- how should I word the motion -- looking for a
8 motion to approve the use. So since I made the motion
9 -- I'd like to amend that motion. That the use of the
10 Kenny Lofton Baseball Field for Fall, from September 1st
11 through October 24th, 2021, pending a properly signed
12 and dated MOU. Is that better? Does that sound better,
13 Counsel?

14 MRS. DAWKINS: Yes. Thank you so much.

15 MR. SERNA: So the motion -- that is my
16 amended motion there on the floor.

17 MS. LEWIS: Motion to approve.

18 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

19 MR. SERNA: Motion and a second. Now we
20 will open up for discussion. Any questions?

21 MR. AUSTIN: I would like to know, these
22 games that we are going to be open for, have we
23 organized some kind of games to fit into these programs?

24 MR. SERNA: As far as I know -- I have
25 been in contact with Vanessa and she advised me that the
league is not as big as they did in the summer. They
have maybe have one or two teams that want to play in
the Fall, but they needed to get this MOU done.

So, they had been planning and put
their team together. They put the cart before the
horse, before they went ahead and got the MOU, that's
why you see the scratch lines on here. That's why
Attorney Dawkins wants to prepare a clean document.
They were putting two carts before the horse. It's East
Chicago teams, East Chicago Little League teams, but
they needed to get the MOU.

In the spirit of cooperation with
them, we are not trying to deny them anything for the
Fall, like the way they enjoyed the summer. So it is
pending this MOU getting cleaned up with proper dates
and proper signatures.

1 But to answer your question, yes, it is
2 East Chicago teams. It's the East Chicago Little
3 League. They just were moving ahead of themselves.
4 They needed this new MOU for the Fall, that's why in the
5 spirit of cooperation, I'm glad that we have the motion
6 on the floor and properly second to approve, pending the
7 clean up of this MOU.

8 MR. AUSTIN: I just asked the question
9 because, like I say, to add to that, where is the money
10 coming from that we get a team? How is the City going
11 to fund this?

12 MR. SERNA: This is with the Little
13 League. I would imagine any funding or anything would
14 be from whatever their fees are. They charge fees for
15 team entry. This is Little League. This is the little
16 kids, so their funding would be whatever their
17 organization fund raises.

18 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. I think that clears
19 it up.

20 MR. SERNA: Any further questions?
21 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
22 (All signify aye.)
23 Motion carries.
24 Anything further?

25 MRS. JONES-GARY: No, thank you.

MRS. DAWKINS: I will have a letter
submitted for next meeting making the corrected MOU
retroactive.

MR. SERNA: Thank you, that would cover
everything then.

Public Comments: Are there any
public comments?

MR. AUSTIN: I have one thing. I had
some friends that they came and played the golf course.
I asked how they liked the field. They said it was nice
and the price was good. So I asked them to promote our
nine holes. They told me they would and they will be
coming back more often.

They did say between 7 and 6 -- I
think -- they said there's tree limbs that need
trimming. So I told them I would go out that way and

1 look at it, but I am bringing it to the meeting because
2 this happened last week.

3 MR. SERNA: Maybe, Genesis, you can look
4 at that, between the 6th and 7th hole.

5 MR. AUSTIN: So now I'm to going to check
6 the holes out, and then I told him to please help us
7 with this. Since you don't have 18 holes in Gary, you
8 can come here now. We don't want the same thing
9 happening and it just caves in.

10 MRS. JONES-GARY: I'll check into that.

11 MR. SERNA: Thank you, Mr. Austin.
12 Any public comments? (None)
13 Next meeting date is Tuesday,
14 September 28th, right here at the City Hall Council
15 Chambers, at 5:00 p.m.

16 Entertain a motion to adjourn.

17 MS. LEWIS: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. CANTU: Second.

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


21 (All signify aye.)

22 Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

23 ***** Meeting Adjourned *****
24
25

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
September 14, 2021

Approved and signed _____



Anthony Serra, 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, 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 20th day of September, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR