

# Morton Grove Park District

6834 Dempster Street • Morton Grove, Illinois 60053 • 847/965-1200

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Minutes of the 762<sup>nd</sup>  
Morton Grove Park District  
Board Meeting Held at  
6834 Dempster  
March 18, 2015

- I. **Roll Call:** President Burdi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Dan Ashta, Eileen Coursey, Rusmir Zec, Betty Fergus and Dominick Burdi

**Staff Present:** Marty O'Brien; Interim Executive Director, Laura Kee; Human Resources Manager, Greg Jayne; Superintendent of Parks & Facilities and Claudia Marren; Executive Administrative Assistant

**Attorney Present:** Jim Rock, Ancel Glink & Associates

**Guests Present:** Eric Poders, the Morton Grove Voice

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- III. **Additions or Deletions/Changes to the Agenda:** None

- IV. **Citizens Comments/Correspondence:** Mr. Poder's apologized for his frequent interruptions at the last Committee Meeting and suggested the Park District develop a policy to limit public comment. He also suggested posting a Committee Meeting packet on the Park District website.

- V. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 9, 2015. **Ayes: Commissioner Ashta, Coursey, Zec, Fergus and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**  
Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on February 9, 2015. **Ayes: Commissioner Coursey, Zec, Fergus, Ashta and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**  
Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held February 18, 2015. **Ayes: Commissioner Zec, Fergus, Ashta, Coursey and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**  
Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on February 18, 2015. **Ayes: Commissioner Fergus, Ashta, Coursey, Zec and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**b. Approval of Financial Reports:**

1. Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the Budget Report and Cash on Hand, dated February 28, 2015 and
2. The voucher listed dated March 18, 2015, in the amount of \$154,845.46, subject to audit.  
**Ayes: Commissioner Ashta, Coursey, Zec, Fergus, and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**VI. Director's Report: None**

**VII. Attorney's Report: None.**

**VIII. Unfinished Business:**

**a. Administration and Finance Committee: Commissioner Zec, Chair**

**Budget Review:** Interim Executive Director, O'Brien reiterated we will review the budget again on April 1<sup>st</sup> and have a public meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 for final approval.

**National Park:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the conversion of the Prairie View Community Center north field to a multi-purpose/soccer field. (This is a revision to the January 14<sup>th</sup> motion to repurpose National Park Field). Commissioner Ashta commented that his comments on the dog park is related to the National Park motion. He is for a dog park, he thinks it would be good for dogs and people and the whole community. He thinks it's an unusual motion that we permit the staff to investigate something 6 months from now. He thinks it's a motion to put things off. His questions is, with all that is going on, hiring staff members and limited resources, and when it comes to the discussion of the dog park we were going to put off anything to do with the dog park because we were so under staffed, so he wonders why we are undertaking a project like National Park. **Ayes: Commissioner Coursey, Zec, Fergus and Burdi. Nays: Ashta. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Board Meeting Calendar:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to approve the 2015-2016 Board Meeting Calendar and for staff to post and publicize the calendar pursuant to Park District Code, Paragraph 120/2.02a. **Ayes: Commissioner Coursey, Zec, Fergus, Ashta and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Interim Executive Director Appointment:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to temporarily appoint Martin O'Brien to the Interim Executive Director position and to include a bi-weekly stipend of \$850.00 to his salary for compensation while he holds the position. **Ayes: Commissioner Zec, Fergus, Ashta, Coursey and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Dog Park:** Commissioner Zec began to make a motion regarding the dog park until we realized it was inadvertently left off the agenda. Commissioner Ashta commented that anything can move the dog park forward he thinks it is a great idea, if it is a step forward for the dog park he will vote for it. However he does think it's peculiar, as long as he has been commissioner there was never a motion to permit staff to do something 6 months out. He thought there was momentum and he doesn't know where it went. He was going to vote for the motion to do a feasibility study in August. He wondered if it was because there is an election coming up. Commissioner Burdi

started to explain why we put this on the agenda, when it was realized that it was not on the agenda. Commissioner Ashta continued, stating that if we want staff to look into a dog park all we have to do is to ask staff to look into a dog park, he doesn't understand the dog and pony show, he has never seen this. Commissioner Coursey, noted that we did have this discussion before and the Board was given a feasibility study several years ago. Commissioner Fergus stated that it's always good to review and refresh and it's always a good idea to set goals at different times and that we always annually set goals and this is one more goal to set and give the dog park a time-line and would rather have it done right, so that nothing is missed in the feasibility study. Commissioner Ashta said, this was discussed a couple weeks ago and at that time only Commissioner Fergus spoke up about it. Commissioner Budi stated that he thought they were sincere about putting the dog park on the agenda, so we don't have to rush into the dog park and we can do it the right way.

**Mission Statement:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to update the Park District Mission Statement to: ***The Morton Grove Park District is committed to enrich the quality of community life and promote recreational activities through creative programming for people of all ages and abilities, while protecting open space and natural resources for future generations.*** **Ayes: Commissioner Fergus, Ashta, Coursey, Zec, and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried**

**Succession Plan:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus, to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to adopt the Employee Succession Plan. **Ayes: Commissioner Ashta, Coursey, Zec, Fergus and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0.**

**Crisis Plan:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey, to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to adopt the updated Crisis Plan. **Ayes: Commissioner Coursey, Zec, Fergus, Ashta and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Personnel Policy Manual:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey, to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to adopt the updated Personnel Policy Manual. **Ayes: Commissioner Zec, Fergus, Ashta, Coursey and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0.**

**Ethics Ordinance:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey, to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to approve the updated Ethics Ordinance #O-02-15 which will replace Ordinance #2004-3, *An Ordinance Regulating the Political Activities of and the Solicitation and acceptance of gifts by the officers and employees of the Morton Grove Park District.* Commissioner Ashta stated that although he believes that the Ethics Ordinance as written spells out conduct that every Commissioner should follow he thinks that under Supreme Court analysis, because it's a speech regulation, it is presumptively unconstitutional and although he thinks everyone should follow it, because of the language, he cannot vote yes. **Ayes: Commissioner Fergus, Coursey, Zec and Burdi. Nays: Ashta. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Ethics Advisor:** Commissioner Zec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to appoint Martin O'Brien as

the Morton Grove Park District Ethics Advisor. **Ayes: Commissioner Ashta, Coursey, Zec, Fergus and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Coursey, Chair**

**Fees and Charges:** Commissioner Coursey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zec to accept the recommendation of the Recreation and Facility Program Committee to approve the proposed summer 2015 Activity Guide fees and charges. **Ayes: Commissioner Coursey, Zec, Fergus, Ashta and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**Parks and Facilities Maintenance Committee – Commissioner Fergus, Chair**

**Ball Field Groomer:** Commissioner Fergus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey, to accept the recommendation of the Recreation and Facilities Maintenance Committee to approve the purchase of a Smithco Groomer from Burriss Equipment of Waukegan, IL in the amount of \$19,994.00. **Ayes: Commissioner Zec, Fergus, Ashta, Coursey and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion Carried.**

**Community Room Tables:** Commissioner Fergus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to accept the recommendation of the Recreation and Facilities Maintenance Committee to approve the purchase of 30 new Community Room tables in the amount of \$8,832.00, from Southern Aluminum of Magnolia, AR. **Ayes: Commissioner Fergus, Ashta, Coursey, Zec and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion Carried.**

**Prairie View Community Center Lower Level Painting:** Commissioner Fergus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to accept the recommendation of the recreation and Facilities Maintenance Committee to approve the bid from Codeco Industries of Hodgkin's, IL in the amount of \$9,970.00 to prep and paint the lower level lobby. **Ayes: Commissioner Ashta, Coursey, Zec, Fergus and Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: 0. Motion carried.**

**IX. New Business: None.**

**X. Commissioner Comments:**

**Commissioner Coursey:** No comment.

**Commissioner Zec:** No comment.

**Commissioner Ashta:** Yes, one of the topics we talked about was placing ads for different positions. I'm still wondering if we are going about it the best way and I apologize to Laura Kee I didn't mean to infer that I didn't have confidence in her.


**Commissioner Fergus:** Thank you to everyone during this difficult time.

**Commissioner Burdi:** I received a campaign letter in the mail, and was disappointed to read the negative things that this person, who is running, is saying about the Park District. The things being said are incorrect and I just want people to know that.

**XI. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Fergus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coursey to adjourn the Board Meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Meeting ended at approximately 6:38 p.m.



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Dominick Burdi, President



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Martin O'Brien, Board Secretary