

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2014
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Plainfield Township Park District, was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at the Plainfield Township Administration Building, 22525 S. Lockport Street, Plainfield.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE

President Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Steinys, Ludemann, Newton, Hurtado

Absent: Silosky

Staff members present: Booth, Calabrese, Coldwater, Crisman, Nugent, Matt Campbell

President Hurtado asked Commissioner Newton to lead the pledge to the flag. There were approximately 60 people in the audience.

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Steinys that the board approve the agenda. Seconded by Ludemann. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Ludemann read the Mission Statement of the Park District and said that the changes and decisions that have taken place since May 8 are not meeting our Mission. Ms. Ludemann said that employee morale is the lowest it has ever been and residents have expressed their dissatisfaction with the new direction of board. Ms. Ludemann asked her fellow board members to make the right decisions and move into the future and if they can't do that for the benefit of the Park District and the community they should consider stepping down.

Commissioner Silosky arrived at 6:08 p.m.

- Commissioner Newton asked if the sheriff deputies could be relieved of their duties since they won't be needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Debra Bostjancic asked for Peter, Peter and Janet to resign and to take Doug Booth with them. Ms. Bostjancic stated that they are only serving themselves and not the community. Ms. Bostjancic said that it is time to start rebuilding the Park District.

- Howard Bruskin recommended that the search committee for the new director be made up of the board, qualified members of the public and at least one outside park and recreation professional from a neighboring district. Mr. Bruskin said he would like the Park District to release all pending legal actions against the District or current employees, the legal fees paid for all attorneys since the new board took over and would like to know if the board is paying the current labor attorney to refile after he missed the date. Mr. Bruskin asked when the RFP for the planning consultant went out and when it was awarded. Mr. Bruskin said he would like to know how much was paid to Government Utilities Technology Services and thanked Commissioner Newton for pointing out those checks last month.

- Vicky Polito asked numerous questions regarding Ms. Silosky's statement about the lighting purchase during the January 29 special meeting and about the pay pal account and credit card used for that purchase. Ms. Polito questioned why Commissioner Steinys' son-in-law has been employed at the District since December 2 and then read a list of hires made since May and said they are associated with Doug Booth, Garrett Peck, Peter Hurtado or Peter Steinys.

- Jayme Alwood read numerous statements made by Peter Hurtado and asked who writes the

statements for him. Mr. Alwood read a list of employees who were let go and said that Mr. Hurtado has messed with their lives.

- Margie Bonuchi stated that most people elected to boards take time to learn and grow into their position. Ms. Bonuchi said that the executive director that was brought in had no experience or skill and the travesty is that there was already someone that was supposed to be in that job. Ms. Bonuchi said the Park District is a life line to the community and the St. John contract was not handled properly. Ms. Bonuchi said the board should take advantage of the services being offered by the Citizen Advocacy Center. Ms. Bonuchi asked for the meeting dates to be changed so Ms. Ludemann could attend without having a conflict with her job.
- Matthew Starr advocated for the resignation of Commissioners Steinys, Hurtado and Silosky. Mr. Starr said that he has never supported Commissioner Silosky and never will and urged her to resign.
- Michelle Kelly said that over the last 9 months 11 staff members have been added and raises have been given. Ms. Kelly said she would like to see the budget updated to reflect those changes. Ms. Kelly said she would like to see 1 year and 3 year budget projections. Ms. Kelly said she expects her questions to be treated as a FOIA request. Ms. Kelly questioned the policy for spending money in the District and said she would like a presentation at a board meeting on how purchasing is done in the District. Ms. Kelly stated that although Hitchcock Design Group does good work this is not the right time to do this type of hiring and said the board should use Cameron Bettin for projects since he has 100 hours of service owed to the District.
- Rob Ayres said he is sick to his stomach at how the Park District staff has been decimated. Mr. Ayres said that he is sorry for what is happening to the employees and hopes they know that the public supports them. Mr. Ayres asked for Commissioners Hurtado and Steinys to resign and for Commissioner Silosky to stand up or resign. Mr. Ayres asked for anyone who agrees with his request for the resignations to stand up in support of the request.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Ludemann that the board approve the consent agenda which included minutes of the January 7, 2014 board of commissioners meeting; minutes of the January 24, 2014 board of commissioners special meeting; minutes of the January 29, 2014 board of commissioners special meeting; interim check numbers 88025-88160 with check numbers 88036, 88057, 88063, 8873, 88076, 88081, 88082, 88098, 88104, 88109, 88144, & 88159 voided; and bills and claims check numbers 88161-88249 with check numbers 88023, 88210, 88211, 88212 & 88213 voided. Seconded by Newton. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Interim Executive Director

Presentation by Steve Konters, Hitchcock Design Group

Steve Konters with Hitchcock Design Group updated the board on projects they are currently assisting the staff with and the status of the projects. Commissioner Steinys thanked Mr. Konters for his straightforward answers. Commissioner Newton asked who decided there would be a cost savings by using a consultant and where is the evidence to support that. Mr. Newton told Mr. Konters that he has a great deal of respect for him professionally and that he has been put in a bad position but feels using a consultant for planning work is the wrong decision. Mr. Newton said we should be using our own planning staff. Commissioner Ludemann thanked Mr. Konters for his

presentation and said that she cannot support using Hitchcock Design Group at this time. Commissioner Ludemann said she would prefer that we had our planning staff back. Commissioner Silosky said she has had discussions with Gene Coldwater regarding planning needs and what Hitchcock can provide for the District. Ms. Silosky said the consultant will be considerably less and right now feels this will work on an hourly basis. Gene Coldwater said that he has a meeting with Cameron Bettin tomorrow to review what projects he can assist with and will be working on a list to bring to the board.

Director of Recreation

Patriotic Picnic Fireworks

Cheryl Crisman asked the board for direction on whether or not to seek quotes for the fireworks display for the Patriotic Picnic. Ms. Crisman said that typically she gets quotes every other year and got quotes last year for the show. The board consensus was for Ms. Crisman to get quotes for the fireworks and bring them back to the board at the next meeting for approval.

DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Newton distributed the 2013-2014 IAPD Legislative Platform to the board. Mr. Newton said it contains a number of bills they have agreed to keep track of and lobby for.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Seeking a Motion to Adopt Resolution 2014-01 (A Resolution Establishing a Social Media Public Policy)

Moved by Steinys that the board adopt resolution 2014-01. Seconded by Silosky. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

B. Seeking a Motion to Consider IAPD Dues

Moved by Silosky that the board approve payment of the 2014 IAPD dues in the amount of \$6,326.90. Seconded by Newton. Roll Call: Steinys-No, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Direction for Future Services with Hitchcock Design Group

Commissioner Silosky said she is in favor of continuing to use Hitchcock Design. Commissioner Ludemann said she would prefer to have at least one planning employee on our staff. Commissioner Steinys had no comment. Commissioner Newton said it is too premature to make a decision because there is no long term plan. The board continued discussion on future services and asked for a scope of work and projects to be done by Hitchcock Design Group and continue the discussion at the next meeting.

B. Discuss Revision of Board Manual in Relation to Terms of Office to be Consistent with the Park District Code

Matt Campbell said that the Park District Code states that where a President of the District is not elected by direct vote of the electors, the Board of the District shall elect a President and Vice President and the term of these offices is for one year until a successor has been elected. Mr. Campbell said that our Board Manual currently states that the terms shall be two years or until the next successor has been elected. Mr. Campbell said it was requested by the president and vice president that our board manual be amended to be consistent with the Park District Code. The board discussed making the change and the consensus was for Matt Campbell to draft a resolution for the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Newton that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel, land acquisition and litigation to reconvene at 6:56 p.m. Seconded by Ludemann. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Newton that the board reconvene in open session at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ludemann. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

ACTION FOR ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Newton that the board approve the January 7, 2014 executive session minutes. Seconded by Steinys. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Silosky that the board approve the minutes of the January 24, 2014 special executive session. Seconded by Newton. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Ludemann that the board approve the minutes of the January 29, 2014 special executive session. Seconded by Newton. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Newton said he feels it might be appropriate to convene an internal audit committee and it could be on the board level.

Commissioner Ludemann asked the board to seriously look at the planning department and consider hiring a full time planner.

PRESIDENT'S RECAP OF BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Get quotes for fireworks for the Patriotic Picnic and bring them back to the board for approval in March - Cheryl
- Put together a project list of what can be done by Hitchcock Design and what can be done by Park District staff for board discussion in March – Gene
- Prepare a Resolution to revise the terms of office in the board manual - Matt

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Newton that the board adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Seconded by Silosky. Roll Call: Steinys-Yes, Ludemann-Yes, Newton-Yes, Silosky-Yes, Hurtado-Yes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendi M. Calabrese, Secretary