



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

A Special Public Meeting of the Elk Grove Park District, Cook County, State of Illinois was held on December 7, 2023 in the Administration Building of the Elk Grove Park District. President Walz called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and upon the roll being called, President Walz, being physically present at such time and place and the following Park Commissioners, also being physically or remotely present at said time and place, answered present:

John R. Walz, President, and Commissioner
Scott Carlson, Secretary, and Commissioner
Thomas E. Cooke, Treasurer, and Commissioner
William B. O'Malley, Commissioner

Absent: Robert R. Biedke, Vice President, and Commissioner

Administrative Staff:

Ben Curcio, Executive Director
Brad Sholes, Director of Business Services
Mark Kosbab, Director of Parks and Planning
Tiffany Greene, Director of Leisure Services
Kelly Carbon, Director of Marketing and Communications

DISCUSSION ON 2024 BUDGET

Executive Director Curcio started off by thanking staff for their hard work and collaboration during the budget process. He stated that he would like to abide by the three commissioner rule to change something in the budget book. Director Curcio touched on three themes throughout the budget, which include the continued impact of minimum wage and impact inflation is having on supplies and contractors.

Director Sholes began the discussion with the 2024 budget summary. He reiterated Director Curcio's sentiments about minimum wage and inflation. The district continues to be in a strong financial position.

Commissioner Cooke questioned why the golf fund was budgeting an increase over the 2023 budget, but a decrease over projections from 2023. Director Sholes stated his philosophy on budgeting conservatively on the revenue, because budgeted expenses are often tied to revenue and it is easier for staff to increase on the expense end as revenues increase, versus cut expenses if revenue targets aren't being met. Staff budget revenue on a three year average, but our target is to exceed 2023 revenue marks.

Commissioner Cooke asked why salaries were budgeted to increase 8% over projections and 5% over the 2023 budget. Director Sholes stated staff's recommended merit increase was included in the budget that was presented and staff openings throughout the year accounted for lower projections than budgeted.

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Commissioner Carlson wanted further explanation of what was included in the miscellaneous category of the 2024 all fund budget summary and why it increased nearly \$300,000. Director Sholes explained that included the sale of property, which includes the trade-in of our current golf cart fleet.

Commissioner Cooke asked what was included in the fixed charges category. Director Sholes said it encompassed the debt payments for the district. He and the other commissioners preferred that it be more clearly stated in the future.

Commissioner Walz inquired about the district's ratio between program and fee revenue compared to taxes with taxes making up 51%. Director Sholes stated this is within the industry standard of 50%-60% and the district's same historical ratio.

Commissioner Cooke and Commissioner Carlson inquired about the district's tax levy and the impact on the retirement of the Midway Court TIF district and the annexation of new property. Director Sholes explained those examples increase the district's EAV, and the district's EAV is a factor in the park district's tax rate, along with the district's tax levy.

Commissioner O'Malley asked how the Sheila Ray adult center planned to grow membership. It is one of their goals, but it doesn't state how? Director Greene stated it tied into another goal of adding an open house event and having a promotional booth at the Elk Grove Farmers market.

President Walz stated Commissioner Biedke wanted to inquire about the relationship between the area high schools and Fox Run. Director Sholes said the course works with three teams between the two area high schools already and he will follow up with Commissioner Biedke for further details.

Commissioner O'Malley inquired about the profit margin for personal training at the fitness center. Director Greene showed the profit margin is at 30%.

Commissioner Cooke questioned the food and beverage operations and the correlation to the hours of operation, noting they may increase if the hours of operation increased. Staff stated that business has been the driving force in the hours of operation and the facility stays open late when demand dictates they do so.

Corporate Fund - Director Sholes gave a brief overview of the Corporate Fund summary.

Commissioner O'Malley noticed the increase in the turf maintenance portion of the budget over the past four years. Director Kosbab explained the increase in contractual labor to provide mowing and chemical applications has increased, along with minimum wage for part-time staff. Commissioner O'Malley expressed to staff to make sure they are considering all aspects of the costs related when considering the contractual services. Director Kosbab stated they are constantly evaluating their operation and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Walz's inquiry regarding the potential addition of a wiffle ball field to one of our parks. Executive Director Curcio expressed interest in exploring the possibility of not only

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adding a wiffle ball field but also incorporating a miracle field into the plans. This combined initiative aligns with our commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities within our community and ensuring inclusivity.

Security Fund - Commissioner O'Malley sought confirmation that additional funds were in the security budget for a presence at Rainbow Falls, special events, music at Fox Run and other areas as needed. Director Greene explained that those factors were considered and a contingency amount if necessary.

IMRF Fund - Director Sholes stated he budgeted funds to make an additional payment to IMRF. The amount proposed is larger than the budgeted amount because of less IMRF positions and staff openings in 2023. The district's contribution rate lowered in 2023 and the impact was significant. Consensus was to make an additional IMRF funding payment in the amount of \$300,000. Director Sholes also budgeted for an additional payment in 2024 of \$150,000. However, the additional payment will not be budgeted in 2025 and beyond.

Recreation Fund - Director Greene gave her summary of the recreation budget. She discussed the impact of minimum wage and increases in supplies and contractual services led to small fee increases programs, but the district does a great job and continues to charge fees on the lower end when compared to surrounding communities.

Commissioner O'Malley pointed out the operating loss at the Pavilion Aquatic Center continues to grow. Director Greene explained the increase in salary and wages should start to stabilize as no minimum wage impact increase is budgeted in 2024 and only merit increases are budgeted for returning staff. Staffing turnover contributed to a missed session of swim lessons impacting program revenue in 2023. The return of that revenue is budgeted in 2024, along with an increased rental revenue that was experienced in 2023. Aquatic program fees were raised across the board and are inline with benchmarking.

Commissioner O'Malley asked if staff has examined the temperature threshold for closing the facility at Rainbow Falls? Director Greene said it is currently at 68 degrees and can research the impact of increasing the temperature. He also questioned if the district had any control over the pricing of the concessions vendor.

Commissioner O'Malley asked about the increase in salaries and wages in the early childhood area. Director Green explained that the increase is caused by an increase in the number of weeks for summer camp being offered. One position was adjusted for minimum wage impacts that were not previously adjusted when adjustments were made to the teaching staff.

Athletic Fund - A number of the commissioners stated the need to discuss the future of the athletics area at an athletic committee meeting or committee of the whole meeting.

Golf Fund - Director Sholes gave an overview of 2023 and the course hitting over 40,000 rounds. Director Carbon explained the marketing plan that will be executed over the next couple of months to increase off-season food and beverage traffic and simulator use.

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Capitals Fund - Director Sholes explained the only changes to the capital plan from the October discussion was the reduction of the irrigation pump station replacement project. Director Sholes stated the budget was lowered based on the bid results, but staff left excess budget room to replace the siding on the pump station building.

Director Sholes stated the district has a number of larger projects on the horizon and has options on how the district funds the projects. Director Sholes explained that it was included in the long term planning for the golf fund to contribute to capitals.

Commissioner O'Malley pointed out that the capital bond issuance has increased over the years. Executive Director Curcio explained the district's philosophy hasn't changed and maintaining our current assets is priority, but cost increases are a major factor. Commissioner Cooke added the focus on elevating certain parks and their amenities versus a standard neighborhood park has contributed costs.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

President Walz moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel per 2(c)(1).

Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Commissioner Carlson	X		
Commissioner Cooke	X		
Commissioner O'Malley	X		
President Walz	X		

Motion carried.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

After discussion on personnel, President Walz moved to reconvene the meeting to Open Session at 8:10 p.m.

Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Commissioner Cooke	X		
Commissioner O'Malley	X		
Commissioner Carlson	X		
President Walz	X		

Motion carried.

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Commissioner O'Malley inquired if Executive Director Curcio was considering any staffing reorganization during 2024. Executive Director Curcio replied he wasn't currently considering any staffing changes.

ADJOURNMENT

President Walz moved to adjourn the Special Public Meeting of December 7, 2023.

Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Commissioner O'Malley	X		
Commissioner Carlson	X		
Commissioner Cooke	X		
President Walz	X		

Motion carried.

The Special Meeting of December 7, 2023 was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Carlson, Secretary