

## APPROVED

In light of the Governor's COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation, it was impractical and imprudent to conduct the monthly meeting of the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners other than electronically. The meeting took place on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The Board President determined that it was not feasible for one member of the Board, the Chief Legal Officer, or Chief Administrative Officer to be present at the regular meeting location. While this was a public meeting, attendance at the Board meeting was solely by means of Zoom. The Zoom meeting was electronically recorded.

Commissioners Present: Diana Anton, Debby Braun, Matthew Mitchell (President), Michael (Mick) Morel (Vice President), Mathew (Matt) Rodgers

Commissioners Absent: none

Also Present: Gerald Gibbs (Treasurer), Julie Larson (Minute Taker), Brian Rosinski (Director of Parks and Recreation), Natalie Sallee (Program Director), Charles Valente (Attorney)

Citizens: "Atonement Chicago," Jacy Herman (REDI Committee), Shawn Jones, "Kjerstine," Ann Rainey, Marlon Rodas (Incoming Director of Parks and Recreation)

President Matthew Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. He noted that Mick Morel will join mid-meeting.

### Roll Call

Diana Anton - present

Debby Braun - present

Matthew Mitchell - present

Mick Morel - (late)

Matt Rodgers - present

### Announcement to Hold Board Meeting through Zoom (Mitchell)

Matthew Mitchell announced the meeting would be occurring through the Zoom platform in light of the Governor's COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation and in consultation with staff and commissioners.

### Citizen Comment Part 1:

Jacy Costa Herman made a statement as a community member and RPD staff person, not representative of the REDI committee. She expressed her opinion that making an Executive Director (ED) change without the input of the community feels wrong. Two commissioners are leaving today and won't be working with the new ED and two other commissioners were just elected into their positions and were not a part of the hiring process. She also felt that making a change in leadership before summer programming feels unsafe. She is hoping to hear more about the logic of the timing of the hiring process.

Approval of Minutes:

**Motion #1:** Matthew Mitchell moved to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023 Board meeting. Debby Braun seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodgers yes, Anton yes, Braun yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

Jung Hower prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Summary April 13, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Detailed Report April 13, 2023." Brian Rosinski noted, among other items: *Bella Consulting* for equity consultant, *Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds* for a 50% deposit on nature based play area, *Chase* for online payment fees for summer enrollment, *Evanston Lumber* for Elks micro plots, *Hanson Roofing* for 908 Seward roof leak, background checks, concrete pads and removal, *National Awards* for Kay Lee Tot Lot sign, *Practice Sports* for a gaga pit, *Russo* for lawn mower repair, and *Sunrise* for removal of a fallen Willow tree at Elks.

**Motion #2:** Matthew Mitchell moved to approve payment of April 2023 bills in the amount of \$40,472.29. Diana Anton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodgers yes, Anton yes, Braun yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:

Jung Hower prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Summary April 13, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Details April 13, 2023." Brian Rosinski noted, among other items: *Amazon* for garden needs, *Canva* for graphic design subscription, *Essence Painting* for a deposit for interior paint job for Community House, *Evanston Organics* for wood chips, *Home Depot* for lumber, *Johnny's Seeds* for Garden2Table, *Red's* for garden supplies, and *Sam's* for camp snacks. We exceeded the petty cash limit but sought pre-approval from President Mitchell.

**Motion #3:** Diana Anton moved to approve payment of April 2023 petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$4,327.29. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodgers yes, Anton yes, Braun yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Report offered by Brian Rosinski, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation:

We have made good progress ordering and completing most of our capital projects as required in our budget, including the 908 Seward front door and frame, Kay Lee Tot Lot sign, gaga pit, and nature-based play equipment. New benches have been installed at various parks. A horseshoe pit will be installed at Elks Park this spring. Gardens are getting ready and the water is turned on at both Ridgeville and Elks parks. Full time staff will be recertified in CPR May 3 and summer staff will have their orientation and CPR training on May 20. Rosinski noted that tonight's meeting will be Debby Braun's and Matt Rodger's last meeting as RPD commissioners. He shared the following sentiment: "I would like to thank them both for their service. I would especially like to acknowledge Debby Braun's many years of service. I estimate she served over twenty years as a commissioner. You will be missed."

Monthly Report offered by Natalie Sallee, Program Director:

- Spring Break Camp: Full capacity for all 5 days. Received a lot of positive feedback from families.
- Repair Cafe: Tues, Apr 18 at Kamen Field House (10 am to noon); folks can stop by at these monthly cafes where volunteers will assist with repairing items.
- Earth Day Concert & Clean-Up: Sat, Apr 22 (10:30 am to 12:30 pm), Girl Scout volunteers will hand out trash bags and lead folks from Elks and Leider Parks back to the Community House for concert, recycled arts and crafts, seed bombs, and snacks.
- Garden Programs: Laura Downey getting Ridgeville and Elks gardens ready for planting. Gwenne Godwin has started the Garden2Table program. Sallee offered a huge thank you to Marcos and Felipe for preparing beds for the season.
- Summer Camps / Sports: Registration is going well, there is still space in the programs.
- Theater on the Ridge / Concerts on the Ridge: We plan to host 2-3 theater shows at the park (Mudlark and Laughing Stock) as well as weekly concerts throughout the summer.

Monthly Report offered by Gerry Gibbs, Treasurer:

Gerry Gibbs discussed the need to increase spending for the remaining months of the fiscal year in order to stay on track with the budget plan. Rosinski assured the board that there are payroll, insurance, and other purchases which will fill out the spending plan as required. Gibbs also discussed the following documents:

1. "Ridgeville Park District (RPD) Treasurer's Board Meeting Report (prepared by Gerry Gibbs) April, 2023,"
2. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT - APPROPRIATIONS LEDGER BY GROUPINGS as of 03/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023,"
3. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT Statement of Revenue and Appropriation Disbursements / Expenditures as of 03/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023,"
4. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT Balance Sheet as of 03/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023,"
5. "RPD Treasury Fund: Reconciliation of Fund Balances to Cash and Investment Accounts Balances as of 03/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023," and
6. "RPD Cash Account Reconciliation: Outstanding / Unresolved Items from 07/01/2022 to 03/31/2023."

Monthly Report offered by Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI) Committee:

Jacy Herman summarized work that the REDI committee is focusing on. Charles Valente will visit with the committee to hear about proposed ordinance changes. They are waiting for receipt of the digitized ordinance. The committee is making a recommendation for creating consistent and inviting language throughout the ordinance. The committee hoped to be involved in the hiring process of the new ED and was not. They are requesting followup about specific Diversity / Equity / Inclusion (DEI)-focused questions asked during the interview process. Matthew Mitchell introduced Marlon Rodas as the final candidate for the ED role. Mitchell addressed the REDI committee's questions as follows...

1. Were the candidates made aware of the extent of the park district's commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization? Yes, it was outlined extensively in the application packet.

2. Have the candidates been educated on the REDI committee and the executive director's responsibilities regarding the committee, as is stated in the Equity Charter? Not sure.
3. Were the candidates brought up to date on REDI's goals and current projects? Yes. Mitchell summarized the interview process: there were 2 rounds of interviews with 7 very qualified candidates. It was narrowed to 3. All candidates were asked the same questions and were made aware of the REDI committee's role and current projects.
4. Were the candidates asked about their experience in DEI, and their intentions for working alongside the REDI committee? Yes.
5. Were the candidates explicitly asked about their support towards and comfort with LGBTQA+ community? (Herman noted that a large portion of our camp families and staff identify with the LGBTQA+ community and are looking for that support.) Yes.
6. Were the candidates asked about how they would address accessibility in the park District? Yes.
7. Were the candidates asked to articulate their vision / commitment to DEI in RPD? Yes.

Marlon Rodas introduced himself and expressed that he looks forward to working with everyone and the REDI committee; he has viewed some of the REDI meetings already. He noted that he has had experience with successful DEI projects in other organizations and is looking forward to participating with the committee and being as involved as possible. The existence of the REDI committee was one of the things that initially attracted him to the ED position; the commitment to equality is notable. He feels it's our job as a park district to be welcoming to all people. He also expressed an interest in joining the REDI committee.

Herman shared a final area of discussion, noting that the REDI committee does not currently have a board member or senior staff member in attendance at their meetings. The committee, consequently, felt left in the dark about the ED hiring process. She asked that the board honor the Equity Charter by having a board member attend each meeting as well as adding REDI committee attendance to the job description of a senior staff member.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

New Business:

**Approve Executive Director Contract (Mitchell)**

Matthew Mitchell shared that after 2 rounds of intensive interviews, the board made a decision they are very happy with, which is to offer the ED position to Marlon Rodas. Charles Valente has already drafted a contract with Rodas. Rodas has signed the contract and it is now in Mitchell's possession.

**Motion #4:** Matthew Mitchell moved to approve the hiring of Marlon Rodas as Ridgeville Park District's new Executive Director and to direct the board President to sign the contract. Matt Rogers seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodgers yes, Anton yes, Braun yes, Morel yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The board congratulated Marlon Rodas and he expressed his excitement in joining the team. Mitchell noted that the training period will start on Monday.

Call of the Commissioners:

- Anton: Diana offered thanks to Debby and Matt for their service to the community, and offered a welcome to Marlon. She noted that he seems ready to cooperate and she is looking forward to working together.
- Braun: Debby shared that she has been here the longest and been through a few boards. She said that she really enjoyed it and loves Ridgeville. She thinks it will be exciting to have a new board and a new ED, and thinks it will be great. She offered thanks to everybody.
- Mitchell: Matthew offered congrats to Diana Anton who was reelected along with Amanda DePalma and also perhaps Shawn Jones as a write-in candidate. He expressed that he was impressed with Marlon during the interview process and is looking forward to working together. He noted it has been a pleasure working with Debby and Matt and thanked them for their efforts, especially Debby who contributed so much over the many years of her service.
- Morel: Mick offered thanks to Matt and Debby. He acknowledged all the work that Matt does for the City of Evanston. He noted that Debby has been a commissioner a long time and it's been incredible what has been accomplished through the years for the district. The community as a whole has appreciated all her efforts. He is looking forward to working with Marlon.
- Rodgers: Matt noted tonight is his last meeting. He thanked RPD, Brian, and Natalie for doing the jobs they do. He offered good luck to Marlon as he assumes his responsibilities and good luck to new commissioners as they work to forward the mission of RPD.

Citizen Comment Part 2:

There were no comments at this time.

Executive Session:

Matthew Mitchell moved to recess into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The meeting was recessed into Executive Session at 7:47 pm.

The board returned from Executive Session at 7:54 pm to make the following motion:

**Motion #5:** Matthew Mitchell moved to increase the Program Director's annual salary from \$48k to \$59k, retroactive to March 15, 2023. Diana Anton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodgers yes, Anton yes, Braun yes, Morel yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

**Motion #6:** Matthew Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Debby Braun seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Larson, Minute Taker