

**MANHATTAN PARK BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Hansen Community Center**  
**397 South State Street, Manhattan IL**  
**Date: December 14, 2023      Time 6:00 pm**

**Regular Scheduled Meeting**

**Call to Order:**

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, Barbara Epps, Secretary and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

**Absent:** Kristy Byers, Vice-President (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

1. **Changes to the Agenda:** None
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Communications:** President Hope read a card from Representative DeLuca congratulating the district on the RTP Grant Award and a card from the Village of Manhattan.
4. **Presidents Report:** President Hope thanked the staff on their efforts in working as a team and stated that staff moral has never been higher. She specifically mentioned efforts towards the HCC project, Central Park Parking Lot, offering a variety of new programs/events, marketing efforts and efforts towards all the collaborative efforts.
5. **Staff and Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Executive Director:** Director Kelly updated the board on the current operations of the district, covering Parks, Recreation, and Administration. Director Kelly included updates on projects, programs, and events. Director Kelly also stated that the 2024 event dates are set and a meeting with the Village is set for early January to discuss. Director Kelly updated the board on the most recent all staff meeting covering the Mission and Pillars of the organization stating the meeting was very productive.
  - b. **L-Way Special Rec:** Director Kelly stated the meeting was next week and that things were good at LWSRA.
  - c. **however, Government Agency Meeting:** Director Kelly attended the last meeting however the updated spreadsheet will be available in January.
  - d. **Foundation Committee:** Foundation hosted their Breakfast with Santa on 12/2/23 with just under one hundred people in attendance. The event was well received.
6. **Action and Motion requested: Move to approve November 2023, Treasurer's Report including the payment of bills in the amount of \$456,350.62 which may include lodging and travel expenses.**

**Motion:** Barbara Epps-First, Kristy Byers-Second  
**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

**7. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Action and Motion requested: Move to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:**

**i. November 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

**8. Old Business**

- a. Stone Gate Park: No update**
- b. Dog Park Update:** Director Kelly updated the board on the status of the project including a quote from Hitchcock Design Group for \$13,000 for a schematic design.
- c. Round Barn Farm Annexation Agreement:** Discussion was held amongst the board regarding the draft of the agreement that was provided. Legal took notes on the board's concerns regarding not limiting district use in the future.
- d. State of Illinois Capital Funds: Grant Applied For**
- e. Round Barn Restoration/Tourism Grant: Application in progress**

**9. New Business:**

- a. Action and Motion requested: Resolution 23-16 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TERMS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DONATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT, AND STEVEN LAWRENCE HANSEN, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY I. HANSEN, DECEASED FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT VACANT S. STATE ST. AND GUSTAFSON ST., MANHATTAN, ILLINOIS 60442 AND VACANT GUSTAFSON ST. AND MCCLURE AVE., MANHATTAN, ILLINOIS**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Barbara Epps-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

- b. Action and Motion requested: Resolution 23-17 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TERMS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE RIDER TO HITCHCOCK DESIGN GROUP STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS MADE TO THAT PARTICULAR ROUND BARN FARM TRAILS FINAL PROPOSAL DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, INCLUDING ITS STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS (THE "AGREEMENT") BY AND BETWEEN HITCHCOCK DESIGN, INC. DBA HITCHCOCK DESIGN GROUP, AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION ("HDG") AND THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT**

**Motion:** Kristy Byers-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

- c. **Action and Motion requested: Resolution 23-19 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AND GRANTING OF A CERTAIN TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT BY THE PARK DISTRICT TO MANHATTAN TOWNSHIP IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS TO BAKER ROAD OVER JACKSON CREEK BRIDGE IN MANHATTAN, ILLINOIS**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Barbara Epps-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

**10. Motion to Adjourn for Executive Session for the following purpose:**

- a. **Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) for the purpose of discussing:  
(1) The employment, discipline, and performance of specific employees.**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Barbara Epps-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0 @ 6:46 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session:**

**Motion:** Kristy Byers-First, Barbara Epps-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0 @ 6:56 p.m.

**11. Closed Session Action Items**

- a. **Action and Motion requested: Resolution 23-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT AND EVERETT JAY KELLY**

No motion, item tabled for future consideration

**12. Action and Motion: Motion to temporarily adjourn Regular Meeting for the purpose of Truth in Taxation Hearing at 7:00 p.m.**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0 @ 7:00 p.m.

## **Truth in Taxation Hearing:**

- 1. Action and Motion Requested: Motion to open Truth in Taxation Hearing pursuant to notice of publication in The Herald News on December 1, 2023.**

**Motion:** Barbara Epps-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0 @ 7:01 p.m.

- 2. Visitors to be Heard:** None

- 3. Motion to adjourn public hearing and resume Regular Meeting:**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Kristy Byers-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0 @ 7:03 p.m.

## **Regular Meeting Resumed:**

- 13. Post Truth in Taxation Hearing Action Items**

- a. Ordinance 23-6, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR CORPORATE, RECREATION AND OTHER PARK PURPOSES OF THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR THE YEAR 2023 PAYABLE IN 2024**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Barbara Epps-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Kristy Byers, Vice-President, Joe Farkas, Secretary, Barbara Epps, Secretary, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 5-0

- 14. Notable Dates:**

- a. Round Barn Lighted Trail: Open from 12/1/23-1/1/24**
- b. Decennial Committee Meeting: January 11, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.**

- 15. Next Meeting:**

- a. Regular meeting held, January 11, 2024, at the Hansen Community Center at 7:00 p.m.**

- 16. Final Adjournment:**

- a. Motion Requested: Barbara Epps, First, Kristy Byers-Second**

- b. Vote: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Motion Passed 5-0**

**Adjournment:** 7:04 p.m.