

**MANHATTAN PARK BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Hansen Community Center**  
**397 South State Street, Manhattan IL**  
Date: January 11, 2024                      Time 7:00 pm

**Regular Scheduled Meeting**

**Call to Order:** 7:04 p.m.

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

**Absent:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Regular Scheduled Meeting**

1. **Changes to the Agenda:** None
  
2. **Public Comment:** None
  
3. **Communications:** Director Kelly provided the Board IAPD's Annual Report for review.
  
4. **Presidents Report:** President Hope thanked staff and the board for the honest and respectful approach to topics of discussion and being welcoming to subjects of discussion regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She stated that she hopes 2024 will be a year of together.
  
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 went into specifics on future projects at Round Barn Farm Park, including the demolition of the 60' Round Barn and the three-sided barns next to it and the 100' Round Barn. In addition, Director Kelly presented the concept of converting an existing shelter into short-term storage, however being constructed for the future Nature Center. Consensus among the board was to continue to move forward with getting more details and quotes, relaying all information to the board before any action to be taken. Director Kelly updated the board on the follow up staff meeting covering the winter session stating the meeting was very productive and hopes it's the start of improved communications and district wide understanding.
  - b. **L-Way Special Rec:** Director Kelly stated the 2024 meeting schedule was approved, preliminary budget has been reviewed and that the Paid Leave Act is being implemented.
  - c. **Village Government Agency Meeting:** Report is in the packet
  - d. **Foundation Committee:** Plans to move forward with the Irish Breakfast on 3/2/24 are underway.

6. **Action and Motion requested: Move to approve the December 2023, Treasurer's Report including the payment of bills in the amount of \$93,078.08 which may include lodging and travel expenses.**

**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

7. **Consent Agenda:**

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

i. **December 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**

ii. **December 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes-Closed 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

8. **Old Business**

- a. **Hansen Community Center Project Update:** Director Kelly provided the Board with an update on the progress of the internal updates to the HCC.
- b. **Dog Park Update:** Director Kelly updated the Board on the progress of the Dog Park development.
- c. **Century East Well House Update:** Director Kelly provided the board updated plans that he received from the Village of Manhattan the previous week. The Board agreed that the location of the new wellhouse is too close in proximity to the playground. Director Kelly will follow up with the Village on alternate plans.
- d. **Round Barn Farm Annexation Agreement Update:** Director Kelly stated that he is working on setting up a meeting with the Village and their legal counsel and that our legal counsel is updating the agreement based on last months comments.

9. **New Business:**

- a. **Action and Motion requested: Motion to approve ORDINANCE 24-1 abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017, of the Manhattan Park District, Will County, Illinois.**

**Motion:** Barbara Epps-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

- b. **Action and Motion requested: Motion to approve ORDINANCE 24-2 abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2019, of the Manhattan Park District, Will County, Illinois.**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-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

- c. **Action and Motion requested: Motion to approve ORDINANCE 24-3 abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2023, of the Manhattan Park District, Will County, Illinois.**

**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

- d. **Discussion: SAQ Consulting Inc.:** Director Kelly reviewed the proposal from SAQ Consulting providing lobbyist services in Springfield for \$3,000/month. Discussion among the members of the board regarding the potential outcomes in Springfield. Director Kelly was asked to see if Mr. Quigley could attend the February meeting for further discussion.

**10. Motion to Adjourn for Executive Session for the following purpose:** Not needed

- a. **Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) for the purpose of discussing:**
- (1) The employment, discipline, and performance of specific employees.**
  - (2) Collective negotiating matters.**
  - (5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired**
  - (6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property.**
  - (11) Pending or probable litigation.**
  - (21) Approval or semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes.**

**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:**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Kristy Byers-Second

**Discussion:** Discussion among the Board and Director Kelly regarding the HR Source Salary Survey and where the pay scale is derived from.

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

Motion approved: 5-0

**12. Notable Dates:**

- a. **Decennial Committee Meeting: February 8, 2024, @ 6:30 p.m.**

**13. Next Meeting: Regular meeting held, February 8, 2024, at the Hansen Community Center at 7:00 p.m.**

**14. Final Adjournment:**

- a. **Motion Requested:** Ed Ludwig, First, Barbara Epps-Second
  - b. **Vote:** Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Motion Passed 5-0
- Adjournment:** 8:26 p.m.