



**Bourbonnais Township Park District  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Exploration Station... a children's museum  
1095 W Perry Street, Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
September 26, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.**

On September 26, 2022, President Zinanni called Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 5:30 pm with the following people present:

**Commissioners Present:** David Zinanni, Anthony Settle, Bill Bukowski.

**Appointees Present:** Ed Piatt- Executive Director, Tom Planera- Board Attorney, Rob Romo- Treasurer

**Staff Present:** Josh Turro, Mike Burke, Jarod Knight, Kelli Brza, Cherie Smolkovich, Allison Waide, Kristi Schu, Frank Cianci, Nicole Jenkins, Mike Crews, Christine Kutz

**Visitors:** Stephan Moulton, Angela Morrey, Valerie Cuddy, Beth Regnier

**Public Comment-** Attorney Tom Planera read the following statement: *The public comment section of the meeting permits the public to comment on the operation of the board and is intended for the benefit of both the public and the board. Generally, comments are to be directed only to items on the agenda. It is not the place to criticize individual members of the board, individual park district employees or individual board agents. Any complaints directed towards individual board members, district employees or agents should be addressed to the park district to the park district HR department or the Executive office.*

Angela Morrey wanted to express to the board that she loves the district and uses it from camps, events to programs. She understands staffing issues, because the whole area is dealing with this. She would like the board to take every opportunity to save this program, with pay, or any other ways. She is a single mother that her child loves the staff and she is hoping we can find staff.

Kelli Brza then spoke and wanted to express to the board that with new leadership comes changes with a new prospective. Safety has been looked at where it has not been looked at before. Seasonal and part time staffing issues has been our challenge before this administration. We are fully staffed as far as full time staff goes. She stated that Josh Turro will be doing our athletics which was be taking our athletics to the next level. And Mike Burke will be planning youth & teen programs, trips and new to the district he will add some Bilingual programs! Jarod Knight has been a seasonal employee since 2015 but has now joined our team full time in the maintenance department!

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Settle and seconded by Bukowski to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call: Mullinax- ABSENT, Bukowski- AYE, Hebert- ABSENT, Settle-AYE, Zinanni-AYE.

Motion carried.

- Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes August 17, 2022
- Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2022

**Staff Reports:**

Executive Director Piatt went gave a brief description of what he has been working on:

- ✓ *Dr. Michael Burke: Recreation Supervisor – Youth/Teen/Bi-lingual/Trips- after teaching at Providence Catholic for 25 years, he did a career change and loves it! He loves the employees and the culture at the district.*
- ✓ *Josh Turro: Recreation Supervisor – Athletics/Adults/Seniors- was an assistant golf pro at the Kankakee Country Club and he is excited to be doing athletics at the district*
- ✓ *Jarod Knight – Parks and Grounds- grew up in Bradley, lives in Manteno, he really enjoys working at the district*
- *New Barn Doors are being installed at Willowhaven.*
- *Awaiting final parking proposal for parking lot expansion at Perry Farm from the engineering firm Mike Gingrich will go out to bid.*
- *The new roof is completed at the Rec Station, and gutters and fascia are installed this week.*
- *Presented at Bourbonnais Village Hall – Bourbonnais – to community partners (Village of Bradley, Bourbonnais, Kankakee County Board Chairman, and Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau (KCCVB)) regarding the BTPD's request for 1 million dollars for Diamond Point Turf for the six ball fields.*
- *Re-presented to the KCCVB as a board member clarifying the need once again for the request of \$500K for Diamond Point and the \$6M generated in tourism dollars from which the BTPD receives no money as it goes to regional partners in tax dollars as well as gas stations, hotels, restaurants and other sundry and commercial businesses.*
- *We are awaiting delivery of roofing composite materials for the new installation of 5 roofs at Perry Farm.*
- *Old partial rotted posts were removed and replaced at the park Pavilion at Perry Farm.*
- *Attended the United Way Community Leadership Breakfast and networked with community partners.*
- *Park patrons installed Scare Crow corn and scarecrows for the scarecrow fest.*
- *Continue to plan and prepare for the Sleepy Hollow event*
- *Continue to rent ball fields at Diamond Point for women's softball fast pitch tournament and local 15-16year old - 5-week baseball showcase tournament.*
- *Continue to review upcoming OSLAD grant opportunities for the district.*
- *Continue to develop new opportunities for usage at Willowhaven.*
- *Tour of BTPD potential benefactor to donate money to the museum and other initiatives*
- *Obtained \$15K worth of signage from KCCVB for the Indian caves at Perry Farm. Awaiting delivery of signage and installation.*
- *Continue to have weekly senior staff meetings to review safety issues, policies and procedures, and programming, and work toward completing this year's comprehensive plan initiatives.*
- *Executed Diamond Point 4-month rental of weekend ball fields to tournament organizer Herb Forckenbrock for 2023.*
- *Removed partial wall and repainted red at Exploration Station/Children's Museum.*
- *We are finalizing signage for Exploration Station and other needed signage in the district.*
- *The old water cistern well was demolished and filled to prevent safety issues at Perry Farm.*
- *Continue to meet with community partners and local mayors/legislators to promote and forge symbiotic relationships between the region and BTPD.*
- *Continue to promote unique and diverse programs in the district, including Spanish-speaking programs and enhanced athletic/teen/senior/youth programs that the community needs following the comprehensive plan.*

Treasurer's Report- Rob Romo stated that the auditors are busy; the feasibility study should be complete next month.

IT- Frank Cianci's report was submitted in the board packet.

Superintendent of Recreation- Nicole Jenkin's report was submitted with the board packet. Jenkins thanked her staff for helping out since we are short staffed. Bukowski suggested she try ONU and KCC but Jenkins said we are already working with them. She also stated that the only programs cut are the ones that have no enrollment or low numbers, we are not cutting programs any other programs at all.

Superintendent of Parks- Mike Crews no report was submitted. Crews did state they are just trying to keep up with work orders and keeping the park looking nice. Zinanni stated that Liz is doing an amazing job!

Marketing- Cherie Smolkovich's report was submitted in the board packet. She then told everyone she just celebrated her 1-year anniversary! Smolkovich will have an intern for Christmas on the farm. She reminded everyone about the new event that is this Thursday September 29, 2022, 5-8 pm, Blues & Brews.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

Special Recreation- no report was submitted.

Living History- no report was submitted

Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau- Piatt covered items in his Executive Director's report.

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:**

Zinanni asked if there was a motion to approve to pay the bills. Settle made the motion and Bukowski seconded. Roll Call: Mullinax- ABSENT, Bukowski- AYE, Hebert- ABSENT, Settle- AYE, Zinanni-AYE. Motion carried.

Zinanni asked if there was a motion to approve to pay the payroll. Bukowski made the motion and Settle seconded. Roll Call: Mullinax- ABSENT, Bukowski- AYE, Hebert- ABSENT, Settle- AYE, Zinanni-AYE. Motion carried.

Zinanni asked if there was a motion to approve to the pavilion roof replacement with gutters at Perry Farm. Bukowski made the motion and Settle seconded. Piatt discussed that we replaced the poles due to deterioration. The nails up there are just hanging there to make it stick. They are looking at the pitch of the roof to see if gutters will be necessary for approx. \$51,000.00. Roll Call: Mullinax- ABSENT, Bukowski- AYE, Hebert- ABSENT, Settle-AYE, Zinanni-AYE. Motion carried.

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Zinanni asked if there was a motion to approve gutters, soffit and fascia at the Recreation Station for \$26,638.00. Bukowski made the motion and Settle seconded. Roll Call: Mullinax- ABSENT, Bukowski- AYE, Hebert- ABSENT, Settle-AYE, Zinanni-AYE. Motion carried.


No closed session.


Settle made the motion at 6:14 pm. to adjourn, Bukowski seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Minutes respectable submitted by Amanda Langlois.

  
Amanda Langlois, Board Secretary

  
Date

  
David Zinanni, President

  
Date

Minutes approved at the board meeting of October 24, 2022