

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on September 14, 2020 at 7:00pm with President Coughlin presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Boland, Buschbach, Callahan, McCauley and Coughlin
A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of August 10, 2020

Callahan moved, Buschbach seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Special Meeting of August 17, 2020

Boland moved, Callahan seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Buschbach moved, Boland seconded to approve payables of \$536,351.47 for the period of August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Authorization to Transfer Funds

Buschbach motioned, McCauley seconded to approve the authorization to transfer funds.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Surplus Property

Callahan motioned, Boland seconded to approve the surplus property.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

LEGAL: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$25,000: None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Kelly stated that tonight is her 363rd Board Meeting and also her last. Kelly reflected back on her 30 years with the District. Kelly stated that she has been fortunate to have worked with such dedicated, creative, talented, compassionate and ethical staff over the years. Kelly said combined with strong Board members the District has been able to accomplish so much over the years.

Kelly stated she would like to congratulate Tom Hartwig, who will be her successor as Director. Kelly said Hartwig is going to do a great job, especially leading the District through the remainder of the pandemic.

Kelly thanked her kids, Jandi and Tommy, and her husband Mike for understanding that her profession was not just a job but rather a passion of hers. Kelly said that although the passion took away from the family at times they always made it work.

Kelly stated that you could not have a position like the Director without having some special individuals to confide in, get advice from, and trust. Kelly thanked Julie Ryan, Donna McCauley, Dawn Duslak, Tracey Gallik and former Board member Janet Swanson for helping throughout her career.

Kelly said she will forever be grateful to the wonderful staff and Board members for making her 30 year career always challenging and fulfilling. Kelly stated that her parting words are to reinforce how important it is to stay invested in the Oak Lawn Park District and always adhere to the District's mission because our services are so very critical to the quality of life for the residents of Oak Lawn.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Coughlin stated that today is a hard day for the District and that the District is truly going to miss Director Kelly's leadership.

Coughlin said Kelly's passion for her Parks and Recreation degree and the Oak Lawn Park District has been evident for many years. Coughlin stated that Kelly should be proud of herself and all of her accomplishments. Coughlin commended Kelly on her high level of professionalism and expectation of excellence that has helped develop all of the programs across the district.

Coughlin stated that Kelly leaves behind strong management and excellent employees who are able to continue on with the District's commitment of excellence. Coughlin said even as Kelly retires she continues to put the park district first by being fiscally responsible by taking an early retirement.

Coughlin wished Kelly a happy retirement and to enjoy her family, friends, and recreational opportunities. Coughlin said the District is going to miss Kelly and told her to enjoy the life she has so graciously earned.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

McCauley shared her professional memories of serving with Kelly for 24 of her 30 years on the park board. McCauley stated that it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to watch Kelly's professional journey.

McCauley commended Kelly on being a team player and for her ability to collaborate with National, State and Local Officials, Board Members, and professional colleagues all across the country. McCauley stated that Kelly epitomized what it means to always go above and beyond her professional role as Director. McCauley said that was always evident with her appearances at every 4th of July, Community Theatre Production, Gymnastic Show, Dance Recital, Skating Exhibition, and Special Event.

McCauley stated that no leader truly cared more for their staff than Kelly did. Kelly was so proficient at bringing out the competences of each staff member and always wanting what was best for them both professionally and personally.

McCauley said Kelly was a futurist and at many times a dreamer always wanting the district to evolve and be innovated. McCauley said Kelly's vision led the District to an award winning community theatre program, golf course banquet facility, dog park, natural wetlands, relocation and expansion of the gymnastics program and the addition of splash pads throughout so many parks across the District.

McCauley applauded Kelly for setting such high standards earning the district National and State Accreditations while also securing millions of dollars in grants. McCauley said those grants allowed for the development and enhancement of so many state of the art themed parks such as Worthbrook, Columbus Manor, Commissioners and Memorial, facility expansion of the Pavilion and soon Lawn Manor Park.

McCauley said she knows she can speak for every person who has ever met Kelly that regardless if it were involved within this profession or not after a very short conversation; Kelly's unwavering passion for Parks and Recreation flowed out of her. Kelly truly lives daily the philosophy of recreation understanding how important it is in not only for herself but also for every individual as a human right and need.

McCauley said it has been an incredible honor to have served with Kelly. McCauley said she speaks as a parent whose family over the past 24 years have benefitted so greatly from her outstanding leadership to offer so many memorable life changing experiences participating in all the park district has to offer. Our lives are changed and enhanced with such phenomenal joyful memories and for that, her family is forever grateful.

McCauley said she is certain that if every resident who has ever participated in a district program over the past 30 years could be in this room tonight they would and be as grateful as she is for all that Kelly has done.

Callahan stated that being in construction he did not fully understand the park district when he first started out on the Board. Callahan said he truly gets it now and that is because of Kelly.

Callahan said Kelly has the ability to make others understand the mission of the park district because it is an extension of who Kelly is at her core. Kelly's passion for parks and recreation is evident in everything she does.

Callahan stated that Kelly has always been an advocate for her staff and he wishes he would have had the opportunity to have a boss like Kelly.

Callahan reminisced about a trip to Washington, DC and Congressman Danny Davis.

Callahan said Kelly truly put the Oak Lawn Park District on the map by being the first District in the state of Illinois to achieve both State and National Accreditation.

Callahan thanked Kelly for being a pioneer in the field of parks and recreation and for allowing him to be a part of her career.

Boland stated that although she does not have the longevity like Commissioner McCauley and Callahan she has been able to witness the passion Kelly has for the District and community. Boland said the District has been lucky to have such a strong and compassionate leader. Boland said she wishes Kelly the best and she knows that Kelly is leaving the District in good hands.

Buschbach congratulated Kelly on her retirement. Buschbach said he is sad to see her go and she is going to be missed by many, especially those on the tennis courts.

Buschbach thanked Kelly and hopes she finds time to travel to see her grandchildren.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS:

Director

Callahan motioned, Boland seconded to appoint Tom Hartwig as Director of the Oak Lawn Park District.

Voting: Aye: All
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 14, 2020
Page 4

Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Callahan moved, Buschbach seconded to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Pat Coughlin, President



Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary