

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE NORTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT NWSRA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AT  
3000 W. CENTRAL ROAD, ROLLING MEADOWS, IL  
ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.**

Chairman Talsma called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Administrative Manager Vasalos took roll call. The following members of the Board were present: Carrie Fullerton, Arlington Heights Park District; Kevin Romejko, Bartlett Park District; Erika Strojinc, Buffalo Grove Park District; Ben Curcio, Elk Grove Park District; Steve Bessette, Hanover Park Park District; Craig Talsma, Hoffman Estates Park District; Jim Jarog, Mount Prospect Park District; Ben Rea, Palatine Park District; Christina Ferraro, Prospect Heights Park District; Bret Fahnstrom, River Trails Park District; Nick Troy, Rolling Meadows Park District; Diane Hilgers, Salt Creek Park District; Jeff Janda, Streamwood Park District and Jan Buchs, Wheeling Park District

Absent: Robert Dowling

Also present: Tracey Crawford, Executive Director; Tom Draper, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing; Andrea Griffin and Rachel Hubsch, Superintendents of Recreation; Nicolae Gereea, Superintendent of Finance; Darleen Negrillo, Superintendent of Administrative Services; Kathy Kubica, Registrar; Victoria Gonzalez, Manager of Inclusion; Steve Adams (Attorney) and Jessica Vasalos, Administrative Manager.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Talsma introduced the guests and their perspectives. Superintendents each gave a brief introduction.

Public Comment

Director LaFrenere praised Andrea Griffin and Victoria Gonzalez for their efforts regarding inclusion and the issues they faced at Schaumburg.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Talsma asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the minutes removed from the consent agenda and placed in New Business item C, dated October 2, 2024. Director Fahnstrom made the motion, and Director Morgan seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Talsma called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of October 2, 2024. Director Fullerton made the motion and Director Janda seconded the motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda dated October 2, 2024, as presented. Upon roll being called, the vote was as follows:

AYA: Carrie Fullerton, Kevin Romejko, Erika Strojinc, Ben Curcio, Steve Bessette, Craig Talsma, Jim Jarog, Ben Rea, Christina Ferraro, Bret Fahnstrom, Nick Troy, Diane Hilgers, Tony LaFrenere, Jay Morgan, Jeff Janda and Jan Buchs

NAY: None

The motion carried.

#### Correspondence

Director Crawford informed the Board that the State of Illinois approved the transition plan grant in the amount of \$42,000 and is currently waiting on receipt of the check.

#### Staff Reports

##### Program Report

Superintendent Hubsch shared information regarding Daycamp and aftercare camps. She thanked the Board for all their accessible playgrounds as they are heavily used during the summer months. She also shared a letters from a few parents giving kudos to staff for the work done during camps.

##### Marketing and PR Report/Outreach

Superintendent Draper reported that staff attended round table meetings on August 13. Rep Katz Muhl visited Buffalo Grove and Mt. Prospect as well as the Admin Team to discuss NWSRA. He attended the Hoffman Estates Chamber Luncheon and hosted a town hall on 9/13/24. The 50 reasons to campaign is in full swing. SLSF held the last golf outing and are in full swing for the gala.

##### SLSF

Superintendent Griffin reviewed the SLSF Board report with the Board.

##### Director's Report

Executive Director Crawford updated the Board - September 24 held a finance review meeting. A lot of information was shared and the financials were approved for the Board. AccuFund bought out...Implementation Specialist retired. May need to transition to new software. The Personnel Committee Meeting is Friday, October 4 at 10:30 am. PDRMA health NWSRA has exceeded their loss to-prevention ratio – and spoke about the 20% increase in health. She is asking for a 3% merit pool and asked for a 2% salary pool. We are not paying staff enough to keep them. We have to increase the employee portion of health. Will work her tail off to present a balanced budget. However, if we eliminate programs, they will come to your programs, and NWSRA will still have to support the client through inclusion. This is not the first time she has had to bring this to the Board – it is now a real issue. Special meeting – W2s – sent 9/6 received 9/23 IRS – will be contacted. L&A – settled at \$7,500. The attorney is doing a release. Will bring the release to the November agenda. NRPA – leaving on Sunday – sit on the CAPRA Board. Going to ATRA immediately following NRPA. Allendale reached out to see if they could work with us. Partnered with Walk of Farms for our equine therapy. They allow us to program year-round. Director LaFrenere if the MDAA has to go up – maybe we look at pay-as-you-go after the budget amount is reached? Director Crawford responded that she would have to discuss this at the Personnel level and is prepared to go to reserves if it is needed. Director LaFrenere asked if staff could move the December Board meeting from the day of the luncheon to a week later. She will investigate in FY2025 inclusion expenses in an MDAA Task Force.

Old Business

2025 Member District Annual Assessment

Executive Director Crawford stated that NWSRA has received enough ratified resolutions approving the MDAA for FY2025. The MDAA will does not need to be approved as all park district boards have approved the MDAA.

New Business

Surplus Ordinance O2024-1

Superintendent Negrillo reviewed the Surplus Ordinance with the Board. Hanover Park Park District will not be purchasing one of the vehicles. The others will be placed up for sale. Chairman Talsma asked for a motion to approve the Surplus Ordinance O2024-1. Director LaFrener made the motion to approve Surplus Ordinance O2024-1 and Director Romejko seconded the motion. Upon roll being called, the vote was as follows:

AYA: Carrie Fullerton, Kevin Romejko, Erika Strojinc, Ben Curcio, Steve Bessette, Craig Talsma, Jim Jarog, Ben Rea, Christina Ferraro, Bret Fahnstrom, Nick Troy, Diane Hilgers, Tony LaFrener, Jay Morgan, Jeff Janda and Jan Buchs

NAY: None

The motion carried.

Wheeling Programming Space Lease

Superintendent Griffin explained the renewal of the lease of programming space at the Wheeling Community Center. She explained the rent increased to \$15450 two times a year for a total of \$30,900. Director Fahnstrom made the motion and Director Fullerton seconded the motion. Upon roll being called, the vote was as follows:

AYA: Carrie Fullerton, Kevin Romejko, Erika Strojinc, Ben Curcio, Steve Bessette, Craig Talsma, Jim Jarog, Ben Rea, Christina Ferraro, Bret Fahnstrom, Nick Troy, Diane Hilgers, Tony LaFrener, Jay Morgan, Jeff Janda and Jan Buchs

NAY: None

The motion carried.

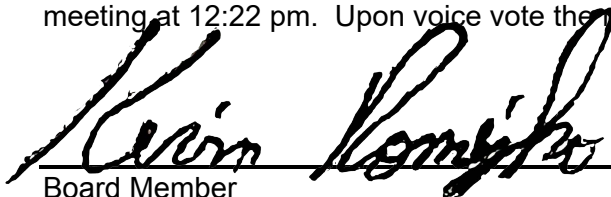
July Minutes

Director Janda asked for the July minutes to be updated to reflect that Director Janda was in attendance at the July Board meeting.

Other

Adjournment

After no further business, Chairman Talsma called for a motion to adjourn. Director LaFrener made the motion and Director Janda seconded the motion to adjourn the October 2, 2024 meeting at 12:22 pm. Upon voice vote the motion was carried.

  
Board Member