

**DIXON PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1312 WASHINGTON AVENUE DIXON, ILLINOIS
March 12, 2025, 6:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, Rodney Frey called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Roll Call: President, Rodney Frey-Present
 Vice President, Keith Aurand-Present
 Secretary, Anthony Venier-Present
 Commissioner, Autumn Brady-Present
 Commissioner, Nathan McCoy-Present

Staff Present: Duane Long, Executive Director
 Michelle Lawson, Office Administrator

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

A. Move New Business B ahead of Correspondence, followed by New Business A.

III. VISITORS- Tim Lee-WIXN, Josh Shipman-BOW Hunting, Evan Thorpe-Bow Hunting, Ray Jasper-Bow Hunting, Keane Hudson-Veteran's Memorial Park representative.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE- Rodney Frey read a thank you letter from DHS Prom Committee Thanking the Park District for the basket donation for the High School Prom.

V. BOARD MINUTES-Review/Amend/Accept`

A. Motion to Approve February 19, 2025 Regular Board Minutes by Nathan McCoy; Seconded by Keith Aurand. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy. Motion Carried.

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- B. Motion to Approve February 19, 2025 Executive Session Minutes by Nathan McCoy; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy. Motion Carried.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS-Review/Amend/Accept

A. Profit & Loss vs. Actual, Balance Sheet, and Disbursements for February, 2025

Duane Long reported there will be a carry over of at least \$50,000 to the next fiscal year. Corp will have \$30,000 to \$40,000 left in fund balance. The current fiscal year we were able to complete the upgrades at Golf Complex, the Vaile Park project, and pay off the wood chipper one year early.

Motion to Approve February Financial Reports by

Keith Aurand; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes. Motion Carried.

VII. REPORTS

A. Commissioners-

1. Autumn Brady-Autumn told the board she visited Franklin Creek State Park and saw a beautiful bench with a saying on it. She would like to donate a bench in Lowell Park with the same concept. Duane Long will have Jana Halfacre contact Autumn about cost and location.
2. Rodney Frey-Rodney reported he has seen the Page Park project already getting major work done. He noticed a lot of damage to areas of the road. Duane said this will be a construction zone for two years. Duane reported all the roads will be repaved at the end of the project.
3. Keith Aurand-Keith would like the shore banks at Lowell Park to be a project for next fiscal year. The shores are eroding and adding protection to help with erosion is something he would like to see done. Duane Long reported he has looked into estimates and it will cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 to add the blanket and shot rock to about 7,500 square feet. We would need a permit and engineer to complete the project. The cost for both would be between \$5,000-\$8,000. The board took a consensus to move forward on getting quotes for the project. The consensus was 5-0 to start the quote process.

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4. Anthony Venier-Anthony told the board he has been working on the website updating project. He met with Michelle Lawson and Michele Kreczmer to get information on the current process. Anthony spoke with our current web host company on upgrades. The cost would be \$15,000 to create an updated website. Anthony has experience in this work and would be willing to assist the Park District to make the process less expensive. Anthony also worked with Seth on more updates at the Golf Complex. The putting green is in need of improvement and they will work on getting that accomplished. Duane Long thanked Anthony for his attention to our website reconstruction.

5. Nathan McCoy-Nate told the board his family enjoyed the ice rink. He asked if there was a possibility of opening the rink during the Holiday season. Duane said the cost to rent an ice cooling system for one month is approximately \$20,000 to run it during the non-freezing temperatures.

- B. **Executive Director**-Duane Long reported he has been spending time on the end of the year budget. He attends a meeting every Thursday on the Project Rock project. Duane has been working on the Nature Center and preparing for reopening. He has also continued his work on the Solar project.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Review/Amend Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #646**

Duane Long went over the newest changes he made in the budget. He has Added the \$80,000 that will come in from the solar project. \$50,000 will be carried over and \$30,000 will go into operations. Duane increased the cost of Facility wages due to needing two gym attendants on certain days moving forward. We have seen an increase in the number of kids after school and in the evenings.

No Action Taken.

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B. Review/Approve Primitive Camping Dates for the 2025 Season

The Primitive Camping season will begin after the end of Turkey Hunting season. Primitive Camping will begin on May 18, 2025.

Motion to Approve Primitive Camping Dates for the 2025 Season by Nathan McCoy; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy. Motion Carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Hunting Season by Josh Shipman and Evan Thorpe

Evan Thorpe gave the board a review of the 2024-2025 hunting season. The lottery and orientation went smoothly. All 68 slots were filled. Youth hunting was a success for the first season. 5 hunters harvested their first deer. Three of six youth hunters harvested a deer. Josh Shipman developed a new food plot. There were no calls from the public on any hunting issues. Evan and Josh met with all hunters before and after the season to go over rules and how the season wrapped up. Going forward the coordinators would like to develop more food plots. The hunters voiced concern over walkers and joggers directly under hunter's stands. Hunters are asking if it is possible to limit walkers, runners, and horse traffic to the gravel spur only during hunting season. They do not want to close the park, just place signs in the park to detour the public to gravel pathways during hunting. Rodney Frey does not want the board to go backwards on the decision to open the Meadows. Anthony Venier would like to find a good solution to help all groups involved. The board consensus is to allow additional signs in the Meadows to detour the public during hunting season. The sign approval will be added to the April agenda.

No Action Taken.

B. Donation of a Memorial Stone to the Veteran's Memorial-Keane Hudson

Keane Hudson from the Veteran's Memorial Park asked the board if we would be interested in donating the memorial stone at the former Memorial Pool to their organization. The memorial stone will be moved to Veteran's Memorial Park and that organization will put a plaque at the stone honoring Dixon Park District.

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They will do a formal dedication in June. Anthony Venier expressed interest in donating the current bronze plaques at Memorial Pool as well. Duane Long stated we could look into donating those plaques if and when there is a decision to do anything with Memorial Pool.

Consensus to Donate Memorial Stone to the Veteran's Memorial- by Nathan McCoy; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy. Consensus Carried.

C. Review/Approve Amendments to Trajectory Solar Array Lease

Duane Long presented the changes to the current Solar Lease. Trajectory has sold the project to another company. The maps have been updated since the addition of the prison property easement. The donation to the park district has been updated and the addition of \$3,000 per month for the farmland we cannot farm during the time the project has been pushed back.

Motion to Approve Amendments to Trajectory Solar Array Lease by Anthony Venier; Seconded by Autumn Brady. Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy. Motion Carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

XI. ADJOURN

Motion by Anthony Venier to Adjourn, seconded by Autumn Brady to Adjourn.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy-Yes

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 PM

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Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
Rodney Frey

_____ Date: _____
Anthony Venier

_____ Date: _____
Autumn Brady

_____ Date: _____
Keith Aurand

_____ Date: _____
Nathan McCoy

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