

Wildwood Park District
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY
Rule House 33325 N. Sears Boulevard Wildwood, IL 60030
Tuesday, February 20th, 2024, at 6:00pm

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Roll Call:**
Present: Commissioners Matt Brueck, Anna Nelson, Becky Jante. Resident Committee Members Mike Semmerling, Laura Rudow
Absent: Commissioner Dan Corrigan, Commissioner Frank Bruno
Park District Staff Present: Brandon Magnini, Park Dist. Manager
- III. Approval of Agenda – Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency (50ILCS 70/1) – Tuesday, February 20th, 2024.**
President Jante entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency of Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 as presented. So moved, Commissioner Brueck. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carries.
- IV. Approval of Minutes – Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency (50ILCS 70/1) – Monday, January 22nd, 2024.**
President Jante entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency of Monday, January 22nd, 2024 as presented. So moved, Commissioner Brueck. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carries.
- V. Matters From the Public**
-No Matters from the Public.
- VI. Wildwood Park District Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Presentation**
Park District Manager Brandon Magnini presented PowerPoint presentation slides (hard copies were also handed out to the Committee and posted on the Park District website prior to the meeting). Park District Manager Magnini covered a range of topics including: areas for increased efficiency and accountability. The presentation began with a recap of the purpose of the Committee and the Wildwood Park District's mission/vision. The following slide again illustrated the transparency of the Wildwood Park District and where key forms and information can be found online and in the office. The following slides consisted of current inefficiencies the Wildwood Park District faces in their mission to bring the best parks, programs, facilities, and public safety to the residents. Several inefficiencies include event permit/project permit/liquor permit fees the Park District has to pay to the County/State to get events and projects moving. This can be seen as a form of double taxation or redundancy of service since the residents already pay tax dollars to both the County and the Park District. Another inefficiency in the same vein can be found in the Park District at times having to pay a \$90 per man hour fee to the Lake County Sheriff's off duty officers to have dedicated patrol of certain parks at night - when the LCSO should have more coverage in the area while the LCSO already taxes Wildwood residents. Several other unfunded mandates such as the Park District being required to pay for mandatory background checks from the State for each new employee/volunteer, staff time and time "opportunity cost" lost from non-resident/commercial FOIA requests, and

having to deal with paying much higher costs for park projects (certain projects classified as public works projects) through contractors that fall under Prevailing Wage. Opportunities for additional efficiency and transparency for the Park District were discussed and presented on. These include and are not limited to adding a "History of the Wildwood Park District", ADA transition plan (when completed), possible truncated Strategic Plan, and Community Needs Assessment survey findings pages and publications on the website. Opportunities for further intergovernmental agreements and efficiencies were discussed. These include but are not limited to seeking a space use agreement with the Warren Township Center for larger programming and events, other Park Districts for shared space use, and cost control for programming and furthering our relationship with the Lake County Sheriff's Auxiliary Unit for their presence and assistance at large District events like Harvest Fest and other security needs. Opportunities for additional energy savings and efficiency along with joint purchasing were discussed. These include but are not limited to continuing to work with the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program to upgrade any additional or future lighting needs with LED technology/lower electric bills, working with Sourcewell or OMNIA cooperative government purchasing entities to find deals on contractors and equipment that have already been pre-bid and negotiated to save taxpayer dollars. Finally, the Committee was tasked with coming to the third and final Efficiency Meeting with any additional ideas for transparency and efficiency for the Wildwood Park District.

Park District Manager Magnini began briefly going over some of the findings of the Community Needs Assessment Survey that was put out to the public in December-January. One area that Magnini highlighted was that a number of survey respondents did not even know the Park District had a Board or what they do. Magnini will work with our Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Maggie Woznick to further revamp our Board of Commissioners website page and spread the word about what the Board does/get biographies from each Board member.

Commissioner Matt Brueck noted that prior to 2019 there was previous Staff (who are no longer with the District) who would not readily publish or make available monthly Maintenance, Park Safety, Recreation/Administration or Marketing Staff Reports. Matt did not feel at that time that the District was very open about sharing what projects and day to day activities were going on in a readily available format to read. Part of the reason Matt originally ran for the Board was to increase the District's transparency. Matt has been greatly pleased over the past 5-6 years with the monthly publishing of the aforementioned Staff Reports which are now disseminated online via our E-Newsletter which reaches about 600 people, on our website on the Board of Commissioners page in each month's Board Packet available to read, and directly given to the Commissioners each month ahead of the Regular Board Meeting for review and questions.

The full Local Government Efficiency Meeting PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Wildwood Park District website under "About Us" – "Board of Commissioners" scrolling down to the Board Meeting calendar table and clicking "Presentation Slides" in the row for "February 20th, 2024 Local Government Efficiency Committee Meeting". Information was also shared that the IAPD Fact Sheet and frequent FAQ's on what the duties of the Decennial Local Government Efficiency Committee were was available in hard copy at this meeting and also in the main office and online.

VII. Resident Attendee Survey

Resident Michael Dykes (and WPD employee) was present. He mentioned that he was very interested in the possibilities of the Park District using their resources to do research and put together an interactive historical record of the Park District and the surrounding area for residents who may be interested in the history of the area. Mike also is happy to see the District prioritizing


safety lighting in the parks to help deter unwanted activity and help the residents feel more at ease in the parks closer to dusk and around their homes at night.

VIII. Matters from the Public

-Resident Michael Dykes (and WPD employee) was present. Resident Committee Member Mike Semmerling commended the Park District for the amount of detail and information that is present on their website between financials, Board information, projects, and other administrative topics.


XVI. Adjournment

President Jante moved to adjourn the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Meeting of Tuesday, February 20th, 2024. So moved, Commissioner Brueck. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners
4/15/2024

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners
4-15-24

Date