

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF AUGUST 6, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Fargo Park District office at 701 Main Avenue, Fargo, North Dakota and via Restream. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Aaron Hill, Jerry Rostad, Zoë Absey, Joe Deutsch and Vicki Dawson. Also present were: Dave Bietz, Susan Faus, and attorney Jeffrey Gunkelman.

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Joe Deustch moved and Commissioner Vicki Dawson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Jerry Rostad seconded a motion to approve the following actions on the consent agenda:

- (a) The minutes from July 9, 2024 meeting;
- (b) The July 2024 bills;
- (c) Approve 2025 Aquatic Fees at Island Park Pool;
- (d) Approve Policy 480 – Confidentiality;
- (e) Approve Tree removal and stump grinding bid in the amount of \$49,736.19 to Carr’s Tree Service.
- (f) Award Confluence the contract for Park Master Plan Consulting Services for the Fargo Park District in the amount of \$250,945.00;
- (g) Approve the bill of sale for the utility cart to the City of Fargo;
- (h) Approve the Governance Policies;

Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Members of the public were afforded the opportunity to discuss issues with the Board.

**Director’s Report**

Susan Faus presented this matter and provided an informational update to the Board on the respective departments. No action was taken on this matter.

**Courts Plus Presentation**

The Courts Plus staff presented to the Board regarding the operations of Courts Plus.

## **Approval of 2025 Fargo Park District Preliminary Budget**

Broc Lietz presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that the proposed 2025 preliminary budget includes a 2.05 mil increase. It was noted that increased costs include a payroll increase of 4.5% for full-time salaries, 5 new full-time positions, an increase in health insurance costs of 20%, added utility costs of 5%, amongst other cost increases. It was noted that the procedure is to approve the preliminary budget at the hearing, which would result in the county sending out estimated tax statements to residents. It was noted that September 10, 2024 would be the budget hearing where citizens can have input on the budget and that October 8 is the final certification of the budget.

Commissioner Absey noted that it is great to see such a high percent of the Park District budget going toward public use. Commissioner Hill noted that he is sensitive to the fellow political budgets within the community but that this proposed mil increase follows an approximate 4 mil decrease last year. Commissioner Dawson noted that she is sensitive to the mil increase but that the total mils are still lower than they were in 2023. Commissioner Deutsch noted that 2025 will be the first full year in which the entire sports complex is in operations. Commissioner Rostad noted that the Park District's buying power is down due to inflation and if one margins out inflation the Park District is not increasing its budget as much as it looks.

Commissioner Jerry Rostad moved and Commissioner Vicki Dawson seconded a motion to approve the 2025 Fargo Park District Preliminary Budget as presented and directed staff to comprehensively review the approved Preliminary Budget to potentially reduce the final budget. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Fargo Park District Strategic Plan**

Susan Faus presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that process of getting to the proposed strategic plan was a 7-to-8-month process that included: data collection, data analysis and committee engagements. It was noted that the proposed strategic plan included a new Mission, Vision and Values of the Park District. It was noted that the proposed strategic plan includes three strategic priorities:

1. Organizational Excellence which includes: policy governance, capital improvement plan, preventative maintenance plan; long-range financial planning; and people and culture;
2. Relationships which includes: organizational relationships and community engagement;
3. Places and Spaces which includes: informed decision making; ecological and sustainable interactions; long-term sustainability; and inclusive design and diverse programming.

It was noted that the next steps are to create an organization work plan, department meetings, implementation of the strategic plan and annual reviews.

Commissioner Dawson notes that she cannot help but beam listening to the presentation and the strategic plan represents a new era for the Park District. She noted that the community engagement was crucial to assist the Park District in guiding its way. Commissioner Rostad noted that the strategic plan was the guidepost for the future and will help the Board and staff decide how to move forward proactively. Commissioner Hill noted that the entire process was extraordinarily well done and that the strategic plan attaches measurables for the Park District. Commissioner Joe Deutsch noted that there were 40 people between community and staff who participated in the process and that the end result is a testament to their efforts.

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Vicki Dawson seconded a motion to approve the Fargo Park District Strategic Plan as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of the above agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and upon unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

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Jeff Gunkelman, Kennelly Business Law, Clerk