

## Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 29, 2025; 8:15 am

Island Park Conference room

### **Review Governance Annual Work Plan-Monitoring Report:**

Susan discussed the monitoring form and the policies; this is how we will be tracking and getting the work done and being compliant or not compliant in certain areas. OE-1 is regarding Emergency Succession and OE-5 is Asset Protection.

Susan said she added her feedback of where we are and if we are or are not being compliant.

There is a section for board members to add their feedback as well.

Carmen stated that she is supposed to send out the policies that are due to be reviewed before the meeting, Susan and the board fill out their sections. Carmen compiles and reviews at the Governance meeting.

Susan and team discussed the process of reviewing the policies and how they are considered compliant or not compliant and our goals for getting things completed and things that are continuous. Commissioner Rostad suggested he knows of someone that can help on the retention records process and compare what we have.

Carmen will send out the policies that need to be reviewed to the commissioners.

### **Review and discuss Park Ordinances:**

Susan stated that we don't have an update, we haven't done additional research as far as looking at any other park districts to see what they have in place. We are trying to prioritize the work that we have going on now, although it is important and we need to update, just pausing for now. Commissioner Hill asked if we should keep on the agenda or put a note to bring it back and start discussing. We will look at ordinances starting again in June 2025.

### **Review and discuss Fargo Park Board Gold Card:**

Commissioner Hill stated that he was curious about how the Gold Card got started.

Commissioner Dawson mentioned that Jim Larson was in charge of the Gold Cards. It was started for board members and Jim started giving it to others. The past board members and spouses get them.

Commissioner Dawson stated that some people never use the Gold Card, some use on occasion and some use it to the extent that it impacts the Park District. There are 4 categories of users, clerks, past board, present board and future board members. Suggested not to give this benefit to clerks any longer.

The suggestion was to cut off people that have a card or do something different going forward.

Commissioner Rostad asked we know who overuses the card? What is our level of tolerance is?

Discussion between the commissioners regarding who gets a card and what the benefits are.

There was discussion on future board members and could that be changed. Tracking was

discussed and that will get better going forward. The discussion of staff and what those soft benefits are and exempt employees vs. non-exempt employees.

Susan brought up the use of the Sports Center for staff and board members, what will that look like. We are pausing that for now.

Susan suggested to have a small work group to discuss and plan the next steps and processes.

Commissioner Hill and Dawson agreed to be in this group. Collect as much information before the task force meets.

**NDRPA Legislative Update:**

Broc reviewed and discussed the legislative updates. HB1312-change the election time frame for Park Board members from June to November, thinking that more people will vote in November rather than June, and also consideration for timing for board members and starting the term.

HB1572-change the general obligation bond authority for park district, the current statute is that you can bond by a vote of your commission up to 1% of the assessed value of property within your district as long as you provide for a 60-day protest period, and you can do that with the majority vote with your board. What the new law proposed is that it is 1% of the assessed value not to exceed \$1M. Anything over a \$1M would require a vote of the public. NDRPA asks is there room to negotiate in the middle?

HB1176-Relating to a legacy earnings fund, a legacy property tax relief fund, a primary residence certification, and a limitation on property tax levies without voter approval; to amend and reenact the North Dakota Century Code, relating to funds invested by the state investment board, property tax definitions, the homestead tax credit and renters refund, the primary residence credit, property classifications, notices to property owners, and the property tax statement; to repeal sections of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to legacy fund definitions, the legacy earnings fund, and estimated property tax and budget hearing notices; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency. "Nathe" "Governor" Bill 3% cap for poli subs: can carry unused % in 5 succeeding taxable year. Modifies primary residence credit from \$500 to \$1,550 per year utilizing legacy fund earnings. Broc and Susan will be going to Bismarck, ND to attend the Local Government Capital Connection Conference on February 18 and 19, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant