

**Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District**  
Board of Commissioners Meeting- Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
6:00pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Lockwood called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**Attendance**

Present: Patricia Lockwood, Christine Reid, Ray Culbert, David McDermott, Brenda Simons, Rob Kesler  
Roll Call: Ms. Lockwood declared there was a quorum with six board members  
Staff Present: Ed Koledo, Shirley Ciofu  
Public Present: Allen Gamble, Lewis-Knopf

**Call to the Audience:**

None present

**2020 Audit Presentation:** Allen Gamble, Senior Staff Accountant/Lewis-Knopf was in attendance.

Mr. Gamble presented a summary of the audit and financial picture of SLPR stating good controls are in place and suggested staff 'keep doing what they're doing'. SLPR received a clean, unmodified audit opinion; the highest level of assurance possible for the district's financial statement. Mr. Gamble explained the GASB 84 change that went into effect for 2020 and how it affected the fund balance for the individual program retained earnings.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to accept the 2020 audit as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
  - Bills paid prior to the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the amount of \$60,740.62
  - Payroll paid prior to May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the amount of \$20,790.66
  - Financial Statements for April 2021

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to approve consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Administrative Report:**

Mr. Koledo noted the positive email SLPR received re: the driver's training program. Also noted was the SLPR Adaptive Soccer program which was highlighted on ABC12.

Initiatives – Pathways: Mr. Koledo gave an update on the Pathways grant re: the Federal Earmark Transportation grant of \$868,000; and he stated that the DALMAC fund from the Tri County Bicycle Association in the amount of \$1,500 was granted. LAFF fundraising campaign was discussed and the presentation to Consumer Energy was noted. Acquiring the pathway easements was discussed re: NFE bringing on a firm to assist. Also noted were the State of Michigan requirements on the Title clearance process.

Mr. Koledo stated the Summer brochure is digital and will remain in a digital format until probably next Winter when printing it again will be considered. A discussion followed re: how the lack of a paper copy of the brochure would impact the number of registrants.

Community Interactions – Mr. Koledo noted a list of meetings and interactions for the month of May which include the Fenton Street Experience, Chamber and LAFF meetings, Arts & Cultural meeting, Prayer Breakfast, MIARNG Golf Outing, Networking at Noon, Grow Linden, Loose Board meeting, Gus Maker and Fourth of July planning, County Parks Commission Board Meeting, and the Fenton Township Dog Park. Mr. Koledo stated making these connections in the Community resulted in savings for the upgrades to the Dog Park's driveway.

Facilities – Depot: Mr. Koledo stated he and most of the staff worked to clear out and organize everything in preparation to move materials and furniture out of the depot to the new storage facility in Linden. He also stated the FCCC is being organized, purged and restored to create space there as well.

**Accounting Report:**

Ms. Ciofu announced the scholarship program was reinitiated with funds in the amount of \$8,560 from Fenton Township via Genesee County CDBG funds for 2019 (\$4,280) and 2020 (\$4,280) which SLPR can use in 2021. The deadline to award the funds is July 31<sup>st</sup> and a procedure has been established based on Genesee County's scholarship grant process. She also noted the current process allows for qualified families to use the funds for adult or youth programs with \$150 per family until the funds are gone. A discussion followed re: promoting the program to encourage participation. Ms. Ciofu also noted this is the first time SLPR received a grant source to provide scholarships and that in the past SLPR budgeted funds for scholarships and awarded them based on the school lunch program.

Ms. Ciofu provided the recreation programming profit and loss statement year to date at May 21<sup>st</sup> noting that although the volume of programs is down, those that are running are still well attended. She explained the affect of the GASB 84 changes on the financial statements noting that all fundraising will be reflected on the Income Statement as a separate line item per each program fund. And that the profit from the programs' fundraising efforts will be retained by SLPR in a designated retained earnings account on the Balance Sheet.

**Action Item: MNRTF Grant Acceptance Resolution**

Mr. Koledo presented an acceptance resolution prepared by Jeff Huhta, NFE Managing Partner, based on conversations with Lindsey Ross, Grant Coordinator with the MDNR. He also noted the amount matches the SLPR resolution submitted as part of the application with MDOT TAP, County TAP and donations from LAFF, SLPR, Fenton, Fenton Township and Linden all match this grant.

Motion by Lockwood, seconded by Culbert to accept the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Resolution, for \$300,000 for Phase 2 of the LAFF Pathway as presented.

Roll Call:

McDermott, Aye

Reid, Aye

Simons, Aye

Kesler, Aye

Culbert, Aye

Lockwood, Aye

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Action Item: County Sublicense for DRSA Park**

Mr. Koledo presented a License agreement between Genesee County Parks and Recreation (GCPR) and SLPR dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 where GCPR has jurisdiction over the park and allows SLPR to develop it as a public park with recreational areas for the use and benefit of the general public for a rolling three year term for the rent of \$1.00. SLPR agrees to maintain the park at its own expense.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Culbert to enter into the county sublicense agreement as presented.

Roll Call:

McDermott, Aye

Reid, Aye

Simons, Aye

Kesler, Aye

Culbert, Aye

Lockwood, Aye

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Action Item: Easement Procurement – Phase 2- LAFF Pathway**

Mr. Koledo presented a layout diagramming each property owner with easements. He noted there are 18 required easements with five donated, leaving 13 remaining and an easement acquisition budget of \$75,000. Mr. Koledo stated NFE is looking for SLPR board authorization to act on behalf of SLPR to acquire initial easements up to \$5,750 each for the 13 identified easements required for phase 2 of the LAFF Pathway. NFE asked that the board understand that at the completion of Phase 2, all easements will be transferred from SLPR to the municipality who geographically is responsible for the land that the easement resides in.

Motion by Culbert, seconded by McDermott to allow Nowak & Fraus Engineers (NFE) to enter into initial easement agreements of no more than \$5,750 each on behalf of SLPR, for the identified parcels needed for the completion of phase 2 of the LAFF Pathway.

Roll Call:

McDermott, Aye

Reid, Aye

Simons, Aye

Kesler, Aye

Culbert, Aye

Lockwood, Aye

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Discussion Item: SLPR Attorney Billing Increase**

Mr. Koledo explained the legal firm of Plunkett/Cooney had not increased its fees to SLPR in twelve years and that a \$20/hour increase would be reflected on invoices effective immediately. A discussion followed. It was the board's consensus that the service received by Ridley Nimmo and the firm has been tremendous. Ms. Lockwood stated any board questions for the legal services advice should be made through the SLPR Executive Director.

**Commissioner Comments:** Ms. Lockwood asked for consensus on continuing with Zoom meetings or meeting in person. Mr. McDermott suggested in person when the Community Center reopens but limited to one meeting per quarter, with the rest of the meetings held via zoom. It was the consensus that the combination of both is best.

Ms. Lockwood stated that the board should meet at Ellen Street Campus to see the Dance room.

Ms. Simons noted the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration in Linden is scheduled for mid-July.

Mr. McDermott stated great job on the Fenton Street Experience.

**Next Meeting**

Regular Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm

**Adjournment**

Chairperson Lockwood adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm

Respectfully Submitted, David McDermott, Secretary

Recording Secretary, Shirley Ciofu