

## APPROVED

The Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, September 14, 2023 for a public hearing for the purpose allowing the public to make comments and ask questions regarding 2023/2024 Appropriation Ordinance. The public hearing began at 6:45 pm followed immediately by the monthly board meeting. The monthly meeting of the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners took place on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Ridgeville Park Community House (908 Seward St). Meeting agendas and digital packets were made available at [www.ridgeville.org/governance](http://www.ridgeville.org/governance) prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Diana Anton, Matthew Mitchell (President), Michael (Mick) Morel (Vice President)

Commissioners Absent: Amanda DePalma, Shawn Jones

Also Present: Gerald Gibbs (Treasurer), Marlon Rodas (Director of Parks and Recreation), Natalie Sallee (Program Director), Charles Valente (Attorney)

Citizens: Jacy Herman (REDI Committee)

President Matthew Mitchell called the public hearing to order at 6:45 pm.

### Citizen Comments on Appropriation Ordinance:

There were no comments at this time.

President Matthew Mitchell called the board meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Roll Call

Diana Anton: present

Amanda DePalma: absent

Shawn Jones: absent

Matthew Mitchell: present

Mick Morel: present

### Citizen Comment Part 1:

There were no comments at this time.

### Approval of Minutes:

**Motion #1:** Mick Morel moved to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2023 board meeting. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Bills:

Abi Leveille and Maricar Fernandez prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Summary September 14, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District- General Account Bills Detailed Report September 14, 2023." Marlon Rodas noted, among other items: faster internet service, janitorial service went through a change of staffing with good results, and *Sunrise Tree Care* for a large branch removal at Kamen. Another branch removal is being discussed with Sunrise. A discrepancy was noted between the Bills Summary and the Bills Detailed Reports.

**Motion #2:** Mick Morel moved to approve payment of September 2023 bills in the amount of \$66,504.94 (according to Bills Detailed Report). Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:

Abi Leveille and Maricar Fernandez prepared and shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting: "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Summary September 14, 2023" and "Ridgeville Park District Petty Cash Details September 14, 2023." Gerry Gibbs noted two petty cash reports for two separate accounts. Marlon Rodas noted, among other items: *Chamber of Commerce* for MashUp.

**Motion #3:** Mick Morel moved to approve payment of September 2023 petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$750.00. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion #4:** Mick Morel moved to approve payment of September 2023 petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$651.40. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Report offered by Marlon Rodas, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation:

Rodas acknowledged the maintenance crew and the great work they've been doing. The Bienenstock natural play equipment has been delivered and will be installed, piece by piece, throughout this year. One piece was installed at Reba Park. QR codes were applied on the Ridgeville trucks which take people to the RPD website. Broken equipment at Brummel was repaired. AYSO started last week with 225 kids. New Office Manager, Maricar Fernandez, started last week. She will also take over the Corporate Secretary position for the board next month.

Monthly Report offered by Natalie Sallee, Program Director:

- Summer Wrap-Up:
  - Camps: Camps concluded at the end of July, mini partner camps concluded at the end of August. Some mini camps were canceled due to low registration.
  - Sports: All sports programs went very well, some were extended into August due to poor air quality that caused cancellations earlier in the summer.
  - Youth Grow Team: Laura Downey provided a report in the Board Packet. They have stocked up the Evanston Community Fridges around town with fresh produce. Scavenger hunts around Ridgeville Park were created. Sallee expressed gratitude for all the great work done by the team.

- Theater and Concerts: RPD hosted 4 weekends of theater performances, dance companies, and 7 concerts in July/August. Some were canceled and rescheduled due to weather. All were very well attended.
- Miscellaneous Events: Pep Fest, Purple Line Adventure Play, 4th of July Games, starlight movies/concerts, Reba Place block party, and EPL readathon.
- Studio 908 and Partner Programs: Fall session has begun, almost all classes are running. Prorated registrations are being offered.
- Half-Day Workshops: We are partnering with a group called SWHET Sports to offer sports camps on the D65 half days. Victoria Livingston will carry on Jacy Herman's legacy of running half-day Maker's Workshops.
- Bike the Ridge: Sun, Oct 1 (9am-1pm) featuring School of Rock and local vendors.
- Fall Frenzy: Ridgeville Park, Oct 19 (4-6pm), vendors, Firehouse Grill food.

Monthly Report offered by Gerry Gibbs, Treasurer:

Gerry Gibbs shared that he and Marlos Rodas finalized the budget. He also discussed the following documents:

1. "Ridgeville Park District (RPD) Treasurer's Board Meeting Report (prepared by Gerry Gibbs) September, 2023,"
2. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT - APPROPRIATIONS LEDGER BY GROUPINGS as of 08/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024," and
3. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT Statement of Revenue and Appropriation Disbursements / Expenditures as of 08/31/2023 for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024."

Final reports are being gathered to be offered to the auditor. The board is urged to pass the Appropriations Ordinance later in tonight's meeting. Gibbs discussed two proposed motions which will be acted upon later in the meeting, one concerning the transfer of funds and the other concerning the Treasurer's salary.

Monthly Report offered by the Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI) Committee:

Jacy Herman noted that the REDI committee has not met recently and has been waiting for the board to follow through on the parameters of the Equity Charter, requiring one board member and one staff member to participate in the REDI committee. She noted that the REDI committee has not received any updates on how to better the relationship and increase the communication between the REDI committee and the board. The Equity Charter is posted on the website. Over the past 3 years that the board has invested into equity work with an equity consultant, some work has been accomplished but there is a lot of work that has yet to be addressed. The committee was hoping to see plans for yearly equity trainings, metric collection, and establishing how the Equity Lens is going to be used throughout RPD's operations, yet those things have not yet come together. Herman expressed discontent and frustration with the Exec Director hiring process. Matthew Mitchell reviewed how the hiring process was made public knowledge for many months with clear steps and timeline being followed. Herman added that although the renewal of Aisha Bell Robinson's equity contract is on the agenda for tonight, Robinson had not been contacted since June and has not been updated on next steps. Herman read the following statement: "On May 12, 2021 Ridgeville Park District passed an equity charter that required the formation of a Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Committee. While we are proud of

the work this committee has done over the past years, as members of the Ridgeville Park District's REDI (Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee, we no longer believe that Ridgeville Park District is moving forward in good faith with its equity charter. We are unwilling to provide cover for the RPD Board of Commissioners lack of attention to the equity charter, and we no longer believe that there is value in our continued participation. Because of this, we, Andrew Wymer, Mark Karlin and Jacy Costa Herman, are resigning from the Ridgeville Park District REDI Committee, effective immediately, and asking the residents of the Ridgeville Park District to hold the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners Matthew Mitchell, Mick Morel, Diana Anton, Amanda DePalma, and Shawn Jones accountable to the values which we had hoped were enshrined in the RPD equity charter. We do so in the hope that Ridgeville Park District will renew its commitment to doing the hard work of becoming a more equitable municipal body and placing equity at the heart of its mission."

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

New Business:

- **(FOR ACTION) Discuss/Approve Appropriation Ordinance 2023/2024 (Rodas)**

The board reviewed the documents, "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT SUMMARY Tentative Budget - Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 - Ending June 30, 2024" (including General Fund Line Items, Recreation Fund Line Items, Capital Projects Line Items, and Exhibit A) and "AN ORDINANCE."

**Motion #5:** Mick Morel moved to approve the Appropriation Ordinance 2023/2024 as written. Matthew Mitchell seconded the motion. Discussion: Charles Valente noted the section 3 heading "Amount Appropriated for 2021-2022" should read "2022-2023" and the heading "Amount Appropriated for 2022-2023" should read "2023-2024." With that amendment considered, the board voted. Roll call vote: Anton yes, DePalma absent, Jones absent, Morel yes, Mitchell yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- **(FOR ACTION) Discuss/Approve Contract Renewal with Bella Consulting Group, LLC (Mitchell)**

**Motion #6:** Matthew Mitchell moved to approve the contract renewal with Bella Consulting Group, LLC in the amount of \$10k for the upcoming budget year. Diana Anton seconded the motion. Discussion: Mitchell noted that Herman's anger and statement was not expected at tonight's meeting. Mitchell and Marlon Rodas spoke with Aisha earlier in the summer about renewing the contract. Mitchell proposed processing the situation concerning the REDI committee and giving Rodas some direction about where to go with this situation and with the equity consultant. As of this evening, we have a REDI committee with no members. Valente suggested thinking about what the REDI committee could and should do and have a fresh start. Marlon and Sallee were both interested in working with Robinson and renewing the contract. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **(FOR ACTION) Discuss/Approve Purchasing a Kubota for \$29,874 (Rodas)**

This items was not discussed at this time.

- **(FOR ACTION) Motion to Implement Treasurer's Salary (Rodas)**

**Motion #7:** Mick Morel moved to direct and authorize the Executive Director to implement the budgeted Treasurer's salary (\$10,300) in the payroll system. Diana Anton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **(FOR ACTION) Motion to Transfer Funds for Capital Projects (Rodas)**

**Motion #8:** Diana Anton moved to direct and authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$40,000 of unappropriated surplus from the Recreation Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to be applied in the amount of \$5,000 to the purchase of the Kubata equipment and \$35,000 to the Performance Stage project. Mick Morel seconded the motion. Discussion: Marlon explained the idea of creating a performance stage for the RPD concerts with roof and lighting as a permanent feature on the corner of Ridge and South Blvd. The stage could extend the concert season and would decrease set-up/tear-down work for the maintenance crew. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Call of the Commissioners:

- Anton: passed
- DePalma: absent
- Jones: absent
- Mitchell: passed
- Morel: passed

Citizen Comment Part 2:

There were no comments at this time.

Adjournment:

**Motion #9:** Matthew Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Larson, Minute Taker