



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2023

Board Members in Attendance

David Linger
Rob Sollenne
Dana Hollenbeck
Craig Talmage
Chevanne Devaney*
Paula Bucklin

Others in Attendance

Tracy Verrier, MRB Group
Emma Falkenstein, MRB Group
Amie Hendrix, City Manager*
Josh Miller
Kyle Ackart
Bo Wright

Agenda Items

Call to Order:

Dave Linger called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm with a quorum present.

Minutes Approval:

- Motion to approve the March regular meeting minutes by Rob Sollenne, second by Craig Talmage. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report:

Tracy Verrier reviewed the March Financial Report noting the MRB Group contract fees as the only transaction.

- Motion to approve the March financial report by Craig Talmage, second by Dana Hollenbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Treasurer:

Tracy Verrier inquired about which board member would like to become Treasurer. Craig Talmage offered to take on the role.

- Motion to appoint Craig Talmage as Treasurer by Dana Hollenbeck, second by Rob Sollenne. Motion carried unanimously.

Project & Other Updates:

Geneva City School District

Bo Wright, Superintendent of the Geneva City School District (GCSD), provided an update on GCSD affairs. He noted that the GCSD is heading into its budget season following a good financial year. He stated that the coming budget will be larger than usual and that this increase can be attributed to a variety of factors. He stated the budget aims to address broad issues of equity and inclusion, safety, mental health, and COVID-19-related learning gaps, in addition to the goals of providing quality education for the community.

Bo Wright stated that the GCSD is experiencing some struggles including finding bus drivers, teaching assistants, and teachers but that these issues are not unique to Geneva.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT SOLLENNE ('23) ~ CHEVANNE DEVANEY ('24) ~ DANA HOLLENBECK ('23)
PAULA BUCKLIN ('24) ~ ROBERT KOCCENT ('23) ~ DAVID LINGER ('23) ~ MARC RODRIGUEZ ('23) ~ PETER GILLOTTE ('23)

Bo also noted that the GCSD is partnering with FLACRA to put on a week of educational programming centering on drug abuse, healthy lifestyles, and mental.

Rob Sollenne commented that the LDC is happy to help serve as ambassadors of the Geneva community if the GCSD needs assistance pitching the benefits of living in Geneva to potential hires.

Craig Talmage stated his interest in connecting with Bo Wright regarding the bus driver shortage. He noted a collaboration would be a great opportunity for students in his social innovation class. Josh Miller inquired about the consequences for the GCSD if they don't have enough bus drivers. Bo Wright informed the Board that depending on the severity of the shortage, the typical recourse would vary from delaying the early childhood programs to having to go fully remote.

Dave Linger inquired about the GCSD's budget increase. Bo Wright explained that the budget increase is due to a variety of factors mainly changing needs over the years, general cost increases, and the need to respond to rising personal costs to attract applicants and retain staff.

Tracy Verrier facilitated introductions for Josh Miller and Kyle Ackart who will become voting members of the Board next month following approval of their nomination from the City Council. All people present at the meeting went around the room introducing themselves.

City of Geneva Update

Amie Hendrix, City Manager, provided an update for the City. She noted that the City has issued an RFP for infrastructure improvements along the lakefront. Additionally, City staff are reviewing proposals for the administration of the MAP fund. Amie also noted that the request for applications for the position of Director of Economic Development will close by the end of April.

Executive Session:

- Motion to enter executive session to discuss the proposed sale or lease of real property at 12:33 by Dave Linger, second by Craig Talmage. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to exit executive session at 12:47 by Craig Talmage, second by Paula Bucklin. Motion carried unanimously.

Project & Other Updates (continued):

Gateway Parcel

- Motion to retain Wendy Marsh from Hancock Estabrook, with the LDC responsible for 50% of the associated retaining fee, to assist with real estate matters related to the Gateway parcel by Craig Talmage, second by Dana Hollenbeck. Motion carried with recusal by Dave Linger.

Other Business

Rob Sollenne mentioned a new project aiming to create a bike and kayak rental operation along the lakefront. Board members expressed their interest in this project. Craig Talmage suggested HWS students might be able to help create a project pitch to the City.

Tracy stated she would be in contact with Catherine Price from the BID regarding the beautification project.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Dave Linger. The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:52 pm.