

## GATEWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

3-13-2025

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Jim Pacanowski called the Gateway Special Recreation Association Board of Directors Meeting to order at 3:01 pm on 3-13-25 at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, 1450 Forest Gate Road in Oak Brook, Illinois. A Quorum was present.

*Roll Call:* Board Members present: Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge, Michele Sullivan, Countryside, Mike Contreras, Oak Brook, Matt Russian, Pleasant Dale, Kathy Kasprzak, Westchester, and Jeremy Fila, York Center.

*Absent:* Sarah Lagesse, Elmhurst, and Mike Hayes, Hinsdale.

*Ray Graham Staff:* Ryan Massengill, Catherine Campos, and Kim Zoeller

*Guests:* Sarah Dixon, Gateway Intern

- II. **Approval of March 13, 2025, Agenda:**

A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center to approve the March 13, 2025, agenda and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. *On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

- III. **Open Forum: None**

- IV. **Board Member Comments:** May's meeting will be on Thursday, May 15, the third Thursday of the month. Not May 8, the second Thursday of the month.

- V. **Communications:** Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge got word from our attorney that Mary, who oversees our account, is retiring. Jim suggested that we stay with the firm as nothing should change.

- VI. **Approval of February 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center, to approve the February 13, 2025, meeting minutes and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. *On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

- VII. **Approval of March 13, 2025, Treasure's Report: for next month.** Matt Russian, Pleasant Dale, stated that for next month, we will need to add the approval of retainage for the RGA.

A motion was made by Michele Sullivan, Countryside, to approve the March 13, 2025, treasurer's report and seconded by Mike Contreras, Oak Brook. *On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

- VIII. **Reports**

- A. RGA Monthly Report – We are at the end of our Winter season. We currently have 113 individuals. Elevate currently has 10 individuals. Ryan wanted to let the board know that Gateway put together some letters to deliver to local politicians about Medicare and other funding. One individual got their letter shared with Congress. This was great for the organization and the individual. This was a great message for Congress to hear, so they can see where their funding goes. Ryan also stated that she has been part of meetings discussing how a Park District might be part of the Medicare waiver. This would provide individuals the opportunities to use the funds for Gateway and other park district-related programs. Ryan touched base with Mark about the website. Mark will be doing the updates moving forward. Summer camp registration will start on Monday. We have been able to open a 4<sup>th</sup> location in Countryside. Highlights include a pickleball tournament that was played with other SRAs. This isn't a Special Olympic sport, so we were able to play and connect with other local SRAs during this tournament. The other highlight was going to the Chicago Bulls game. The participants loved it.
- B. Action Plan – There wasn't much on the action plan b/c we will be talking about the Strategic Plan later at this meeting.

- IX. **Old Business:**

- A. Agency Recruitment Committee Update – Board members talked about different aspects of the brochure. Members pointed out different corrections and suggestions to update the brochure for future recruitment.

- X. **New Business:**

- A. Discuss Gateway Strategic Priorities - Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge asked if there were any common threads throughout the different responses. Ryan Massengill stated that one of the strengths is the

team that we have at the organization. Another areas is focusing on the programs that we do well, like athletics and fitness. Some of the areas that were identified as weaknesses were space for the programs, a need for more participants, and getting more part-time staff to help run these programs. Staff talked about the overall appearance of Gateway SRA. How do we get the message out about Gateway SRA? Some of the opportunities that were identified were getting more involved with youth programming and getting the Gateway brand out to the public. Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge stated that one threat would be another member agency leaving the SRA. We went through the loss of Willowbrook, and we want to retain and gain more member agencies. Gateway staff is going to compile the information and report it back to the board.

- XI. Adjournment:** A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center, to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. The motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.