

**WESTERNS SPRINGS PARK DISTRICT\
April 14, 2009 Park Board Meeting
(MINUTES APPROVED BY BOARD)**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Mike Kane
Wendy Bastyr
Jim Havlat
Phyllis Osborn
Janet Gassmann
Mike Bruck
Matt Gresge (arrived @ 7:16)

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Ekroth, Park Dist. Attorney
Tracy Alden, Director of Recreation
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Sec.
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks
Janet Dahl, Village Trustee
Nina Kuwalek, Resident
Sami Flannagan, Resident
Kim Savageau, Resident
Edward Leon, Bemccoinco Door&Hrdwre
Todd Abrahms, W-T Engineering
Don Robertson, AYSO Soccer

President Bruck called the April 14, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Bastyr moved with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to approve the February 10, 2009 Western Springs Park Board Meeting minutes, with corrections as noted, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR:

Edward Leon of Bemccoinco Door and Hardware addressed the Board regarding door installation and bondo patching of doors installed in Spring Rock Park. The first set of doors shipped had Mortis locks and they thought all doors had them. Therefore a 3/8" hole was drilled at the top and bottom of each door. Upon installation some of the doors had to be corrected. Initially the corrections were done without a metal plate and only the bondo. This has been corrected and the metal plates have been installed. This is standard practice in the industry and, if done correctly, does not hurt the integrity of the door. In fact, it can actually improve the life of the door. Commissioner Havlat stated that he checked with other vendors in the industry and they stated that this is standard practice. President Bruck asked what insurance Bemccoinco was willing to offer the Park District that this would not be a problem in the future. Mr. Leon said that they would be willing to extend the warranty and extra year. A short discussion ensued and the Board agreed that this would be acceptable.

Todd Abrahms of W-T Engineering came before the Board to discuss the additional services invoice for the IDOT project in Spring Rock Park. He explained that their there are 2 sections to the billing. The first section covers the additional electrical engineering, site lighting design, and additional conceptual designs and cost estimates. This section also includes additional zoning issues and attendance at variance hearings. The 2nd half addresses additional man hours required in resubmitting to IDOT when the grant wasn't processed. The fee summaries are actual man hours and the lump sum fee being invoiced is actually a little less than cost. A general discussion ensued regarding the original contracts and what costs were included. Mr.

Abrahms stated that the contract amount for the original engineering and design services was \$88,500.00 excluding change orders. The Board asked that all of the invoices and their task codes be forwarded to them. Mr. Abrahms agreed to do this to help clarify what items are being billed to which task codes. No additional payments will be made to W-T Engineering until invoices have been compared to the original contract signed with W-T. Commissioner Osborn requested that W-T continue to send monthly bills to the Park District while this is being investigated.

Don Robertson from AYSO Region 300 Soccer presented the Board with a check for \$2,100.00 as a thank you for the use of the parks and acknowledged Director Himmelmann's continued hard work on their behalf. There are currently 2,901 players and of that number, 944 are Western Springs residents.

Sami Flanagan and Kim Vageau came before the Board regarding sidewalk installation in the Forest Hills Park. 200 residents have signed a petition and of that, only 4 are opposed to installation of a sidewalk in the park. They stated that they have contacted the Village and they are willing to pay for the sidewalk installation if the Park District will allow installation around the perimeter of the park. Trustee Dahl interjected that she was not aware of this decision at the Village and the Grant that would be used is profoundly restrictive and this is not an issue that would be resolved quickly. A general discussion ensued regarding placement of the sidewalk and funding. Trustee Dahl stated that the cost would be approximately \$2,000.00 per linear foot if going through the Grant. During the discussion it was suggested that installation of sidewalks would be better on the resident side of the street with the cost being covered by each individual homeowner. New construction in the subdivision is being required to install sidewalks, and the existing homeowners could just connect to them. Traffic pattern adjustments were also discussed as well as speed bumps as an alternative and quicker solution to meet the resident's safety concerns. Ms. Flannigan has looked into the possibility of speed bumps and stop signs and the Village has rejected them due to emergency vehicles that need to use the road. The Board asked that Ms. Flannigan and Ms. Vageau exhaust the alternative possibilities and agreed that they would be open to further consideration of the sidewalk installation. However, the general consensus is that they would prefer to maintain the green space in the park.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Dahl reported that she will further investigate the status of the sidewalk issue within the Village. She also noted that the Grant funds would not be available until the underpass project is complete and that is at least 2 years out. She will continue to follow up on the matter.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reviewed his packet. He also stated that he sees the benefits of the sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits in Spring Rock Park. They are used even though the Recreation Department no longer checks out horseshoes. Director Alden addressed the SEASPAR request for use of Spring Rock Park for one of their weekly programs, and feels that there should not be an additional charge for that usage.

OLD BUSINESS

FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report. This item will be kept on future agendas.

SAFE TEA-LU/IDOT SRP PAVING/DETENTION PROJECT

Commissioner Kane reported that the project will not resume until the beginning of May and they foresee 3 months for completion. Little League has been made aware of the delay.

TIMBER TRAILS

Commissioner Kane negotiated the additional fees from Brusseau Design Group and the invoice has been paid.

FOREST HILLS FENCE REMOVAL

Nina Kuwalek addressed the Board regarding removal of the 8' fence. Ms. Kuwalek read from a letter outlining her thoughts on the benefits of the fence and the possibility of purchasing the park land that the fence encompasses. She has contacted a land attorney to review the different methods of calculating the worth of the land. Before continuing, she would like to have a liaison appointed from the Board to work with her to keep attorney fees down and agree on the preferred method of calculating worth. Currently Ms. Kuwalek has been told that the Assemblage method would value the property at \$90,000.00, and the Curb Foot calculation method would value the property at \$300,000.00. She had not received any answers yet on like property sales. President Bruck inquired if \$200,000.00 would be within the price range she is willing to pay for the property. Ms. Kuwalek stated that it is not, because she cannot recover that investment upon sale of her home. President Bruck stated that a natural barrier would be installed in place of the fence. Ms. Kuwalek said that she would rather nothing be installed because her property is already dark and a large barrier would only cast more shade on her home. A general discussion ensued. Commissioner Gassmann informed the Board that she contacted Dr. Barnhart at the Forest Hills Elementary School. Their preference is to leave the fence up, but he deferred the decision to the Park Board.

MOTION: President Kane moved with a 2nd by Commissioner Havlat to remove the 8' fence at 4924 Central Avenue, which motion was carried on roll call vote, Kane; aye, Bastyr; nay, Gresge; nay, Osborn; abstain, Bruck; aye, Gassmann; aye, and Havlat; aye.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Gassmann reported that they are strapped for location ideas. Commissioner Havlat suggested an edible school yard as an alternative.

T-MOBILE EASEMENT

Vice President Osborn informed the Board that she has not any further contact from T-Mobile. Trustee Dahl also reported that the Village has heard nothing further as well.

SAFETY

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no safety issues for the months of January, February or March, 2009.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Commissioner Havlat had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the March 31, 2009 Financial Report, as written.

MOTION: Commissioner Kane moved with a second by Vice President Osborn to approve the March 31, 2009 financial report which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Himmelmann has received a formal request for the annual National Night Out. It will be held on Tuesday August 4, 2009 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will not be any major activities such as the helicopter planned for last year. The Board agreed that they would waive the security deposit, but will require that the application and additionally insured documents be submitted. Director Himmelmann also informed the Board that summer help is in place. They have hired one new employee and 3 will be returning from last summer's crew. Finally, he wanted to acknowledge the hard work of Carol Yee and NEAT who had 202 adults and 372 children cleaning up throughout the Village and the Parks. They removed 5.2 tons of debris this year.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

President Mike Bruck: nothing further to report

Commissioner Wendy Bastyr: reported that the 2008 audit is complete and she will have information at the next meeting. Commissioner Bastyr also asked Director Himmelmann about the status of the Ridgewood Porta Potty structure. Director Himmelmann stated that it is complete, and they are waiting for the ground to harden to be able to enter the park with their truck.

Commissioner Janet Gassmann: noted that the deadline for the Tower Topics is Monday. She also noted that NEAT, and the new playground installation information should be included on the Park District website.

Commissioner Matt Gresge: asked for suggestions for the Eagle Scout Project. Director Himmelmann stated that as part of the project, it is the responsibility of the Scout to come up with the idea and present it to the Board. He should not be seeking input from us.

Commissioner Jim Havlat: reported that the field schedule is now up on the website and the issues with AYSO and Little League in Timber Trails Park have been resolved.

Commissioner Mike Kane: nothing further to report.

Vice President Phyllis Osborn: nothing further to report.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Vice President Osborn motioned with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to adjourn the April 14, 2009 Park Board Meeting at 9:55 p.m. which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary