

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 10, 2009

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Mike Kane  
Wendy Bastyr  
Jim Havlat  
Phyllis Osborn  
Janet Gassmann

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney  
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks  
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary  
Janet Dahl, Village Trustee  
Sami Flanagan, Resident

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Mike Bruck  
Matt Gresge

**OTHERS ABSENT**

Tracy Alden, Director of Recreation

Vice President Osborn called the February 10, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kane moved with a second by Commissioner Havlat to approve the January 21, 2009 Western Springs Park Board Meeting Minutes as written, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR:**

Sami Flanagan approached the Board to request installation of a sidewalk along on the east side of Fair Elms from 51st Street north to the end of the park. Ms. Flanagan and her neighbors living on Fair Elms have a genuine concern for the safety of their neighborhood children. She encouraged the Commissioners to visit the area, especially during drop-off and pick-up times for the school. Ms. Flanagan also noted that during sporting events at the park, cars are parked along both sides of the street. She has had discussions with Bill Nelson at the Village Hall and he recommended that she approach the Park District Board to see if they would be in favor of the sidewalk. A general discussion ensued regarding the traffic, cost of the sidewalk, and any impact sidewalk installation may have on the playing field in the park. Trustee Dahl stated that she will put this request on the Village radar. Vice President Osborn encouraged all Commissioners to visit the site before the next board meeting. Director Himmelmann will survey the area to see if there is enough room between the trees and the curb to meet set back requirements. The matter will be added to the March, 2009 monthly Park Board meeting agenda. In the meantime, Ms. Flanagan was encouraged to follow up with Bill Nelson, the Village, and attend the next PTO meeting at Forest Hills School to generate support.

**VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Dahl reported that the Village is pushing the new Fire Station plans along and there should be a lot of activity in the next 3 months. Alexander Blue is leaving Western Springs. Odegaard's vacant lot is also on the market. The French Market will return for the 2nd year, but will be moved in front of the Village Green. The street will still be accessible on the Grand and Lawn end. Handicap parking will be accommodated. Trustee Dahl further reported that the parking lot should be completed in April, 2009. The Village has taken advantage of a grant to

have the RTA conduct a study on the downtown area from the commuters points of view. The study should detail what types of businesses they would like to see and alert the Village to existing ordinances that conflict with modern lifestyles and needs.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Commissioner Bastyr briefly reported on the meeting in Director Alden's absence. She stated that Seaspar presented their statistical report and she has a copy if anyone would like one. Commissioner Gassmann added that we made the deadline for the Summer Brochure and movie night, our rules and regulations, and website information will all be included.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **SAFE TEA-LU/IDOT SRP PAVING/DETENTION PROJECT**

Commissioner Kane reported that the project will not restart until weather permits. Commissioner Havlat noted that the reopening of asphalt plants will be the determining factor which is traditionally around the 15th of May. IDOT will not cover any costs of engineering.

#### **FOREST HILLS FENCE REMOVAL**

Director Himmelmann explained the reasoning for the request for fence removal in the Forest Hills park. A general discussion ensued. Commissioner Kane will contact the homeowners after Director Himmelmann supplies him with their phone number. Commissioner Kane also inquired if there are any other fence issues in other parks. Director Himmelman stated that there are some issues in Timber Trails. It was agreed that Fencing will be added to the March, 2009 Agenda with Commissioners Kane and Bruck reporting. An overview of fencing or natural barriers between our district park's and homeowner's property was presented in the board's packet.

#### **EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE RENEWAL**

Director Himmelmann reported that there is a 30.7% premium increase with our current carrier. After comparison shopping, he found Humana which offers a premium that would be 16.67% lower than what we paid in 2008 with United. The out-of-pocket is slightly higher and there is a slight increase for prescriptions, but overall the premium is significantly lower with Humana. Vice President Osborn inquired about insurance through IAPD or PDRMA. Director Himmelmann stated that they are slightly less than United, however, nowhere near as low as Humana.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kane moved, with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to approve the Western Springs Park District Employee health care coverage be carried by Humana for the year 2009, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

#### **T-MOBILE EASEMENT**

Vice President Osborn reported that she has made contact with Bernard Dumyahn of T-Mobile and he is aware of the amount the Park District is seeking for easement access in Spring Rock Park. Attorney Ekroth has also forwarded a standard blank contract for T-Mobile's review. Vice President Osborn will follow-up with T-Mobile to see if they require any additional information and where they are at in the negotiation process. Commissioner Havlat suggested that the Park District negotiate with the Village of Western Springs to establish a 50/50 payment split on

future antennae installations and yearly lease payments. The Village could possibly negotiate any future contracts on behalf of both governing bodies.

## **SAFETY**

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no safety issues for the month of January, 2009.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2008**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Havlat moved with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to approve Ordinance 2009-2, Amendment to Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the year 2008, which motion was passed on voice roll call vote, Kane; aye, Bastyr; aye, Osborn; aye, Gassmann; aye, and Havlat; aye, Bruck; absent, Gresge; absent.

### **AWARD 2009 GROUND SERVICES MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Director Himmelmann informed the Board that only one bid was received for the 2009 ground maintenance. TruGreen, the 2008 provider, bid the project at a 5% increase over last year's costs. The increase is due to the addition of the Timber Trails Park area. A general discussion ensued regarding the timing and feasibility of introducing organic fertilizer and maintenance. Director Himmelmann stated that he did discuss introduction of natural application and was told that the weeds have been knocked back, but will need one more year to eradicate them. Natural options can be considered in the 2010 season.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Kane to approve the TruGreen Bid for 2009 ground services maintenance contract, which motion was approved on roll call vote: Kane; aye, Bastyr; aye, Osborn; aye, Gassmann; aye, and Havlat; nay, Bruck; absent, Gresge; absent.

## **BOND REFERENDUM**

Commissioner Havlat reported that the Friends of the Park will be contacting the user groups and local PTA's in an effort to generate support for the referendum.

## **2009 PROJECTS LIST**

Commissioner Bastyr stated that the projects list is outlined in the 2009 budget.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bastyr outlined the Park District's current holdings and interest rates at various banks in the community. She suggested that some of the money be moved into higher interest CD accounts. A general discussion ensued and it was suggested that CDs should be purchased in \$50,000.00 increments with maturity at 3, 6 and 9 months to keep the Park District's cash on hand on a rotating scale. Commissioner Kane suggested that Commissioner Bastyr should seek banks with brokered accounts and Commissioner Havlat suggested Chorus Bank in Riverside. Attorney Ekroth was asked to review restrictions on deposits and contact Commissioner Bastyr with any restrictions. The Board agreed that the money should be moved to higher interest accounts.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gassmann moved with a second by Commissioner Kane to approve the December 31, 2009 financial report which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Himmelmann reported that there has been substantial progress in the tree pruning program. Ridge Acres will be completed by 2010 and then we will move into Field Park, followed by North East Park. There are 29 new trees planted throughout the parks each year.

He further reported that, per his letter of November 25, 2008, Joe Brousseau is seeking additional fees for services rendered at Timber Trails. Commissioner Kane asked Director Himmelmann to gather the total paid to date and compare that to the contract price. Commissioner Kane and Director Himmelmann will meet with Mr. Brousseau.

Director Himmelmann submitted his December, 2008 report and January, 2009 reports as written.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

President Mike Bruck absent.

Commissioner Wendy Bastyr: nothing further to Report.

Commissioner Janet Gassmann: met with the parties interested in starting a community garden in Spring Rock Park. They temporarily staked out a 1 acre parcel on the far west end of the Spring Rock Park. Director Himmelmann informed her that he has had feedback from the user groups and that area is heavily used during practice.

Commissioner Matt Gresge: absent.

Commissioner Jim Havlat: inquired about the process of swearing in the new Commissioners. Vice President Osborn explained that the outgoing Commissioners have compiled a list of duties and ongoing projects. The remaining Board members would decide, based on experience of new Commissioners, how to assign the projects. President Bruck is in the process of getting Bios of the new Commissioners for them to review.

Commissioner Mike Kane: nothing further to report.

Vice President Phyllis Osborn: asked Attorney Ekroth about the status of final payment from the Hild's. He stated that he has written their attorney and requested an explanation.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kane motioned with a second by Commissioner Bastyr to adjourn the February 10, 2009 Park Board Meeting at 9:14 p.m. which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell  
Park Board Secretary