

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2009

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Mike Bruck
Wendy Bastyr
Jim Havlat
Phyllis Osborn
Janet Gassmann (arrived @ 8:07)
Mike Kane
Matt Gresge

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks (Not Present)
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary
Tracy Alden, Dir. Of Recreation
Janet Dahl, Village Trustee
Bob Damen, Resident
Deb Lyons, Friends of the Park
Len Kurfirst, Friends of the Park
Mark Placek, Western Springs Little League

President Mike Bruck called the January 21, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION : Vice President Osborn moved with a second by Commissioner Kane to approve the December 8, 2008 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:

Bob Damen attended the meeting to observe.

Deb Lyons and Len Kurfirst, Friends of the Park were present. They are not advocating a position regarding the tax referendum, but will work to educate the voters should the Board decide to pursue it in the April, 2009 election.

Mark Placek, Placek Development and Builders, distributed a packet and asked permission to install dugout covers for the A ball field in Spring Rock Park on behalf of the Western Springs Little League. Mr. Placek is a builder, and would donate all labor and materials. The Board asked that he contact Director Himmelmann to schedule installation and provide certificates of insurance. He will also contact J.U.L.I.E. before any construction begins. President Bruck will send the proper donation forms to Tom Chlada to convey the improvements to the Park District. Mr. Placek is planning to begin construction in April, weather permitting, and complete the project in 2 weeks.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Dahl reported that the Village is investigating economic incentives to bring more development to the Village of Western Springs. Vaughn's is closing under current

management and is looking for a buyer. Timber Trails is contesting its current tax assessments, which are currently in arrears. Tischlers remains on the market, but there have been no interested buyers.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden distributed packets and minutes from the January 5, 2009, Recreation Department meeting. Information for the Summer Brochure is due in by February 9, 2009. He suggested that Movies In the Park information be included. The Seaspar Board is talking about audits for ADA accessibility in the parks. There is a local expert offering free quotes to perform an audit. Director Alden provided the Board with the name, but suggested that he and Director Himmelmann are knowledgeable enough to perform an internal audit. Commissioner Bastyr noted that \$550.00 of the user fees for 2008 remain unpaid. Director Alden suggested that she contact Grace Turi at the Village Hall for a status update.

OLD BUSINESS

SAFE TEA-LU/IDOT SRP PAVING/DETENTION PROJECT

Nothing to report.

WEBMASTER WEBSITE/COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

Vice President Osborn reported that changes have been made to the website and she has sent test emails to the other Commissioners. She asked that they check receipt and reply to the email.

LONG RANGE PLAN

Commissioner Gresge distributed a packet outlining alternative revenue options based on the Park District Code book. General discussions ensued regarding the alternatives and it was agreed that some should be investigated further. Director Alden suggested that the IAPD and their attorney, Peter Murphy, would be good resources regarding feasibility and legal requirements for the alternatives.

MOTION:

President Bruck motioned with a second by Commissioner Bastyr to approve Ordinance 2009-1 of the President and Board of Commissioners of the Western Springs Park District, Cook County, Illinois, submitting a proposition to the voters at the consolidated election to be held on April 7, 2009 to increase the limiting rate under the Illinois Property Tax Extension Limiting Law for the Western Springs Park District, Cook County, Illinois, by an additional amount equal to 0.048% above the limiting rate for the levy year 2007 and be equal to 0.131% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for the levy year 2009, which motion was approved on roll call vote, Kane, aye; Bastyr, aye; Gresge, aye; Osborn aye; Bruck, aye; Gassmann, aye; Havlat, aye.

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RIDGE ACRES PARK SHELTER

President Bruck reported that there is no historical significance to the shelter in the park. A general discussion ensued regarding removal of the shelter and the Board agreed that repairs to the tuck pointing and new benches may be a better option.

SAFETY

President Bruck reported that there were no safety issues for the month of December, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION FOR SETTING 2009 MEETING DATES

Attorney Ekroth distributed a copy of the proposed meeting dates for 2009 and noted one correction to be made to the January meeting date.

MOTION: Commissioner Kane moved with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to approve Resolution No. 2009-2 establishing regular meeting dates for the Western Springs park District for 2009 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the exception of November, 2009 being held on the 1st Tuesday in November, which motion was passed on roll call vote, Kane, aye; Bastyr, aye; Gresge, aye; Osborn aye; Bruck, aye; Gassmann, aye; Havlat, aye.

RESOLUTION FOR STATE JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM

Attorney Ekroth presented Resolution 2009-1 Election to participate in the State Joint Purchasing Program, which was passed by roll call vote, Kane, aye; Bastyr, aye; Gresge, aye; Osborn aye; Bruck, aye; Gassmann, aye; Havlat, aye.

SPRINGDALE PARK/RIDGE ACRES PARK PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION ESTIMATES

Commissioner Gassmann reported that she has some installation estimates, and they indicate that we will need to go out to bid. Equipment is in and installation can begin when the weather permits in the spring. She will report further at the February, 2009 meeting.

FOREST HILLS PARTIAL FENCE REMOVAL

The Board had a general discussion regarding cost of removal and partial replacement. Commissioner Havlat asked that fencing in all parks be surveyed and a policy put in place regarding removal and repair. This topic will be discussed further at the February, 2009 meeting.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE RENEWAL

President Bruck stated that he is waiting for a proposal from Humana and will report next month.

POSSIBLE NEW TELECOMMUNICATION EASEMENT

Commissioner Havlat reported that T-Mobile is looking for a place to install an antennae. Director Himmelmann has contacted them and made them aware of us. Vice President Osborn has left a message with the person responsible for contract negotiations and is waiting for a return call.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bastyr reported that a check was received early from Nextel. She will amend the December, 2008 budget to reflect receipt of the money. Commissioner Bastyr submitted the December 31, 2008 Financial Report, with amendment, as noted.

MOTION: Commissioner Gassmann moved with a second by Vice President Osborn to approve the December 31, 2008 financial report, with amendment, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Himmelmann will submit his December, 2008 report at the January, 2009 meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

President Mike Bruck nothing further to report.

Commissioner Wendy Bastyr nothing further to Report.

Commissioner Janet Gassmann asked if anyone has items to submit for the Tower Topics. Commissioner Havlat suggested an update on the Spring Rock Park projects. Vice President Osborn and Commissioner Gassmann will work on a 2008 list of accomplishments for the new website.

Commissioner Matt Gresge nothing further to report.

Commissioner Jim Havlat nothing further to report.

Commissioner Mike Kane nothing further to report.

Vice President Phyllis Osborn: nothing further to report.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Gresge motioned with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to adjourn the January 21, 2009 Park Board Meeting at 9:30 p.m. which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary

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