

March 10, 2009
(APPROVED BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Mike Kane
Wendy Bastyr
Jim Havlat (arrived @7:10)
Phyllis Osborn
Janet Gassmann
Mike Bruck
Matt Gresge

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney
Tracy Alden, Director of Recreation
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary
Michael Moeller, Rugby
Sami Flanagan, Resident
Nina Kuwalek, Resident
Vik Chandel, Resident

OTHERS ABSENT

Janet Dahl, Village Trustee
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks

President Bruck called the March 10, 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:

Michael Moeller, representing the West Suburban Middle School Rugby Team for 6th, 7th and 8th graders came before the Board to request a practice time. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Their preference would be Spring Rock Park, but they would be satisfied with any facility in which they can practice. The games will be held on First Avenue in the Forest Preserve. The league is open to both boys and girls and they carry insurance through USA Rugby & Illinois Youth Rugby Association. Phil Clarke, a world class Rugby player from England, will be involved in the coaching of this league. Anyone interested should send an email to phil.clarke@sbcglobal.net. Commissioner Havlat will contact Mr. Moeller to coordinate practice times.

Sami Flanagan and several neighbors attended the Park Board meeting to further discuss installation of sidewalks in the Forest Hills area of Fair Elms Drive. They are asking for sidewalk installation on the south and west side of the Park. Commissioner Kane asked if Ms. Flanagan had approached the school and the Village. Ms. Flanagan has contacted the school. They support the idea but are not in the position to contribute financially. A general discussion ensued in which the residents expressed their safety concerns for the children and the current traffic pattern and parking during sport activities in the park. President Bruck suggested that the traffic and parking might be able to be changed and/or

restricted. Overall, the Board felt that installing the sidewalk in the park would not markedly improve the situation. Parents and children would still have to walk in the street to get to the park and sidewalk. It was agreed that the residents would approach the Village and the School Board regarding the sidewalk issue. The Park Board is interested in hearing from the School Board regarding any safety issues they perceive and what they have done or are willing to do to alleviate them. It was noted that while the Park Board is sympathetic to the residents' desire for sidewalks, it is the Board's duty to make the best use of green space in the Village for all residents. Previous attempts to have sidewalks installed have not been supported by the majority of residents in that area. It may be best to approach individual homeowners to install sidewalks in front of their homes. Ms. Flanagan and the residents stated that they would prepare a more detailed presentation and get input from the school.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Dahl was absent.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reported that the 2008 Dave Evans tennis report was included in the board's packets. The Movie in the Park date has been included in the Summer Book and the concert date has also been set. Lacrosse is requesting lights on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 in April and May. Director Alden stated that he feels there is interest in the concept of the community garden. He offered the suggested locations of the empty lot on Harvey or in Field Park north of the ball field.

OLD BUSINESS

SAFE TEA-LU/IDOT SRP PAVING/DETENTION PROJECT

Commissioner Kane reported that the project may resume in the middle of April.

FOREST HILLS FENCE REMOVAL

Nina Kuwalik, homeowner at 4924 Central Avenue, approached the Board with a request to leave the fencing up along the northern end of the Park District's property line. The fence restricts 30' of Park District Property that was donated to the Park District by a previous owner of that property in 1945. Ms. Kuwalik stated that the fence serves as a buffer between the residents and the school children at recess time. Commissioner Kane reported that he has inspected all of the other parks in the Village, and none of them have a fence of this nature. Ms. Kuwalik also distributed the ASTM Safety Standards for Fences. Commissioner Havlat stated that his understanding of ASTM guidelines was that they pertain only to technical specifications for materials used. Ms. Kuwalik took exception to that understanding. Ms. Kuwalik stated that while the ASTM guidelines, of course, address technical specifications of materials, they also address needs and placement, in the same way the guidelines for playground equipment refer to minimum distances from hard surfaces (placement), and the like. Ms. Kuwalik stated that she provided only excerpts of the document but would furnish the entire guidelines to the Commissioners for their use. The 30' of property should be accessible by all patrons of the park. When the fence is removed, it will be replaced with a natural plant barrier. Commissioner Gresge suggested that Ms. Kuwalik consider installing her own fencing

that is within her property boundaries or make the Board an offer to purchase the parcel of land. Commissioner Havlat stated that he will not support the sale of any Park District land. Ms. Kuwalik's husband Vik Chandel also addressed the Board and stated that the fence is a protective barrier between him and the children. They work from home and the noise at recess time makes it difficult to have phone conversations. The school uses that fence as a boundary for the children at recess. It was agreed that the issue would be revisited at the April 14, 2009 meeting. President Bruck will talk to the school and get their input on the fence. Additionally, they will get an appraisal on the property if they are interested in pursuing a purchase.

TIMBER TRAILS

After a general discussion regarding outstanding invoices from Brusseau Design Group, the Board approved up to \$7,000 additional for services rendered by Brusseau Design Group, LLC.

BOND FUND

The special assessment bonds will be distributed by the Board of Local Improvements. The bonds will be on their April, 2009 agenda. Commissioner Bruck will contact Mike Jarusic to follow up.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Gassmann reported that Spring Rock Park has definitely been ruled out as a possible location. She will continue to discuss locations with Paul Virant until they can find one that is mutually acceptable. This project will help children in the village that do not participate in organized sports, have an opportunity to feel involved in the park system.

T-MOBILE EASEMENT

Vice President Osborn informed the Board that she received a call from T-Mobile's new contact, Mr. Mott. He stated that they had a concern about the landscaping language in the contract. Vice President Osborn explained that it is included for repair of any existing landscaping that may be damaged.

WSLL AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMNT TO PARKS

After a general discussion, it was agreed that a few changes need to be made before the agreement is adopted. (1) The Park Board can remove the improvement at any time due to disrepair or if repairs are cost prohibitive. (2) Paragraph 4 should be that the Park District will supervise installation, not that we waive supervision. (3) Little League does not make final decisions regarding scheduling of the fields.

MOTION: Commissioner Havlat moved, with a second by Commissioner Gassmann, to adopt the Western Springs Little League Agreement for Improvement to Parks with amendments as noted, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

SAFETY

Director Himmelmann was not in attendance. He will report at the April, 2009 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

RA & SD PARK PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION AWARD

Bids will not be available until March 16, 2009. The Board members will agree upon a meeting date and time to open and award the installation during a short special meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Commissioner Havlat reported that he is working with Director Himmelmann and reviewing the information supplied by Sikich and Gardner. The process is moving ahead.

FUNDRAISING

President Bruck asked that fundraising become a permanent item on the meeting agenda. He encouraged all Commissioners to be diligent in monitoring grant offerings or any alternative way to generate revenue for the Park District. President Bruck also suggested that a few Commissioners spearhead a committee for this purpose. Commissioner Havlat commented on a grant that is being offered in August, through the US Soccer Association, to rehab existing grass soccer fields. The rehab would be mainly for irrigation. Vice President Osborn noted that PDRMA and IAPD have grant information on their websites.

DOCUMENT ARCHIVAL

President Bruck asked that the Board consider budgeting next year for the electronic storage of all Park District Documents. The best option would be to scan the documents into searchable PDF documents.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the February 28, 2009 Financial Report, as written.

Commissioner Havlat inquired about the current water and sewer bill. Commissioner Bastyr explained that the Village of Western Springs only invoices once per year. The amount on the financial report is for the entire 2008 usage.

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 was not in attendance and will present his report at the April, 2009 meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

President Mike Bruck: nothing further to report

Commissioner Wendy Bastyr: nothing further to Report.

Commissioner Janet Gassmann: nothing further to report

Commissioner Matt Gresge: told the Board that he has an eager Eagle Scout that would like to do a project in one of the parks. If anyone has any ideas, please let him know.

Commissioner Jim Havlat: nothing further to report.

Commissioner Mike Kane: Director Alden inquired about the Spring Rock Park tennis court lighting. Commissioner Kane reported that the project is on track.

Vice President Phyllis Osborn: nothing further to report.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Havlat motioned with a second by Commissioner Gassmann to adjourn the March 10, 2009 Park Board Meeting at 9:59 p.m. which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary