

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 13, 2009**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jim Havlat  
Janet Gassmann  
Wendy Bastyr  
Bob Daman  
Jennifer Cromheecke  
Kristin Keese

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney  
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks  
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary  
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee  
Lauren Stone, American Cancer Society  
Rob Mitchell, Lyons Township Soccer

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

M. Damian Marshall

**OTHERS ABSENT**

Tracy Alden, Dir. Of Recreation

President Jim Havlat called the October 13, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**RESOLUTION 2009-6 APPOINTING KRISTIN KEESE AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE WESTERN SPRINGS PARK DISTRICT:**

Vice President Janet Gassmann motioned to approve Resolution 2009-6 accepting Commissioner Harold Hild's written resignation and appointing Kristin Keese as Commissioner to serve until the next general election in April, 2011, which motion was passed on roll call vote. Daman, aye; Bastyr; aye, Gassmann, aye; Havlat, aye; Cromheecke; aye, Marshall; absent.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER**

Attorney Ekroth officiated the swearing in of Kristin Keese as replacement Commissioner for Harry Hild's elected position.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to approve the September 8, 2009 meeting minutes as written, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

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

Ms. Lauren Stone of the American Cancer Society (ACS) came before the Board to ask permission to schedule a Relay for Life event in Spring Rock Park. Next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is a team based event overseen by volunteers and includes a luminary vigil at dusk and overnight camping. The vigil can use glow sticks in the event that luminaries are prohibited in the park. Additionally, they will be setting up a stage with live entertainment. The ACS will provide security, additional porta-potties, garbage receptacles, and be responsible for all clean up of debris generated from the event. They would also contact neighbors in the immediate area to inform them about the event and activities scheduled. The ACS would be expecting approximately 25 teams of 10-15 for a total of 200 to 250 people in attendance. A general discussion ensued and it was agreed that the weekend of June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. would be available. Ms. Stone will work directly with Director

Himmelman regarding logistics of the event and set up. Director Himmelman will keep the Board informed as details become available.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Daman moved with a second by Vice President Gassmann to grant permission to the LTSC to apply for an Irrigation Grant through the US Soccer Association on behalf of the Western Springs Park District. If awarded the grant, the decision on whether or not to approve it will be made when final bids are made available for review by the Commissioners, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

### **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Director Himmelman reported on communications received in the month of September. John Mullholland contacted the Park District regarding cross country practices. The Ridgewood Park Action Group has completed their plantings in Ridgewood Park. We still have benches to install and then the project will be complete.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Lyons reported that Hillgrove Cellars is seeking a liquor license and possible dine-in features. Michael Kane has been appointed Village prosecutor. The new downtown parking meters are the same system, but with newer, more reliable technology for commuters. The Village will have an H1N1 update at the next meeting. Trustee Lyons further reported that the Village did receive a \$1.1 million grant for the new fire station. The Beemis bike path will continue on the public works agenda until it gets resolved.

Sidewalk installation with Tea-Lu grant money is moving along. They have been informed that they can skip Phase I of the sidewalk application and they are now on Phase II. IDOT regulations have changed and they will do the engineering, not the Village. IDOT schedule would be a June letting, and the Village will not be on that schedule. They are hoping to have the project complete before the start of the 2009-2010 school year. Trustee Lyons asked the Board if they have any concerns regarding the sidewalk installation. Director Himmelman stated that the only concerns in Forest Hills would be the loss of any trees. Springdale Park has no issues unless the sidewalks would interfere with the entrance monument.

Dartmoor has asked the Village to do away with the carriage sidewalks on the plans in Timber Trails. The Village has postponed a decision. Director Himmelman noted that there is a street light located directly across from the park pavilion that has not been working for at least 6 months. Trustee Lyons explained that they are in the process of going through a long punchlist at the Timber Trails development. It is possible that this street light is a punchlist item, but she will look into it.

Trustee Lyons informed the Board that Bill Nelson has reported that there will be initial surveys done for the underpass project within the next 2 weeks. A general discussion ensued regarding the location and history of the underpass project and possible locations. Trustee Lyons stated that ultimately the soil conditions will dictate final location and then

pedestrian safety will be engineered for that specific location. President Havlat asked if the Park Board could be involved in the design of the underpass. Trustee Lyons suggested that he contact Bill Nelson directly to make arrangements.

Commissioner Bastyr inquired about the Village's new cell tower lease agreements, and Trustee Lyons explained that they are not in Spring Rock Park.

In conclusion Trustee Lyons addressed Commissioner Cromheecke regarding her remediation concerns at Timber Trails. She noted that the Park District did enter into an agreement with Dartmoor that any further remediation or pursuit of an NFR Letter would be solely at Dartmoor's expense. Due to the fact that the project is in receivership, she is not certain how that would affect the agreement. President Havlat noted that all remediation was done prior to the Park District taking ownership of the park. Jim Huff was the environmental engineer hired by the Village and he has unequivocally stated that the soil conditions are safe. All remediation was performed by Dartmoor under Mr. Huff's direct supervision and in strict accordance with all IEPA guidelines. However, if Commissioner Cromheecke would like to meet directly with Mr. Huff, she is encouraged to do so. She asked the Board to clarify for the Village, whether or not they are seeking further remediation at the site. Commissioner Cromheecke explained that her memo was just a quick, brief outline of conversations she had regarding the project. She also wrote the memo as a history for the new board members. The Park Board is not seeking further remediation at Timber Trails, and Commissioner Cromheecke is satisfied with the work done in the past and she does not see a need to meet with Mr. Huff at this point in time.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director Alden was absent, however the Recreation Department's minutes and monthly board meeting packet was distributed to each Commissioner. Commissioner Bastyr attended the Recreation Department meeting and noted that the Village of Hinsdale is trying to purchase a piece of land from the Cook County Forest Preserve and use it for recreational aspects.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TIMBER TRAILS REIMBURSEMENT**

President Havlat reported that the Park District has received \$180,000.00 and they are awaiting a signed agreement. Attorney Eckroth is following up on the agreement and waiting to hear back.

### **LYONS TOWNSHIP BOND MONEY**

President Havlat received a letter stating that the bond money will be awarded by the end of 2009. As previously reported, the artificial turf field was presented and seemed to be well received. Commissioner Daman volunteered to put together a short list of firms that have installed artificial fields in the area, of particular interest is the field installed at Riverside Brookfield high school. He will determine experience of firms and get feedback from customers. President Havlat asked that he have the report ready for the November, 2009 meeting, since bond money will be awarded in November or December.

### **SPRING ROCK PARK PAVING**

Director Himmelmann reported that the trees are being planted. There are 4 trees that need to be replaced due to insufficient diameters. All lighting is installed and in working order. Director Himmelmann is awaiting a meeting with the electrician for final instructions and cut sheets. The parking lot lighting is on a timer system. Director Himmelmann will meet with Tritech to get operating instructions and will input times. Chicagoland has been paid only on items that have been completed to W-T Engineering's satisfaction. Director Himmelmann received a copy of a correspondence from Todd Abrahms to Chicagoland Paving. Once the punchlist items have been completed, W-T will assess 7.5 days of liquidated damages at a rate of \$1,100.00 per day. This amount will be deducted from the total amount due to Chicagoland Paving.

### **SAFETY**

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no accidents or injuries for the month of September, 2009.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **LTSC PRESENTATION FOR IRRIGATION GRANT**

Mr. Rob Mitchell, Lyons Township Soccer Club, came before the Board and informed them that the LTSC would like to pursue a possible irrigation grant through the US Soccer Association. Before they move forward, he would like to have approval from the Board to make an application for the grant on behalf of the Western Springs Park District. He distributed information on Hunter Industries. The grant would be for Hunter Industries irrigation material only. The installation would have to be done by a Hunter Industries approved installer. The Board and LTSC would have to come to an agreement on how to share the cost of labor and any additional piping or water taps that may be needed. Another consideration would be the long term maintenance costs and any affect this would have on the yearly water bill. LTSC would make a commitment to the Park District to offset these costs with donations. A general discussion ensued regarding the benefits of irrigation and potential long term costs. Director Himmelmann discussed the current use of the 3 water wheels and the annual cost. He does not feel that the irrigation system would be a significant increase in the yearly water budget. Director Himmelmann will meet with Aqua Mist during the bid process to inform them of the existing underground piping in Spring Rock Park.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the August 31, 2009 Financial Report as written with an ending balance of \$945,588.00.

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to approve the September 30, 2009 Financial Report as written, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

Commissioner Bastyr informed the Board that \$580,200.00 was levied in taxes.

\$551,174.00 was collected, creating a \$29,000.00 shortfall. There will be no growth in the tax base next year. 2009 expenses were approximately \$480,000.00. The Park District must be diligent in maintaining daily operating expenses throughout 2010.

Commissioner Bastyr gave a short recap of the bookkeeping system that the Park District implements.

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2009-5:** Ordinance approving the transfer of money from the 2009 General Corporate Fund to other funds for 2009, amounts to be transferred are \$4,000.00 from the Corporate Fund to Audit fund and \$75,000.00 from the Corporate Fund to Capital Project Fund, which ordinance was approved by all on roll call vote; Daman, aye; Bastyr, aye; Keese; aye, Gassmann, aye; Havlat; aye, Cromheecke; aye; Marshall, absent.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Himmelmann submitted his report as written. He noted that the Tasting for Charity at Vie's brought in a \$490.00 donation to the Park District. In addition, Director Himmelmann cautioned the Board that the emerald ash bore is knocking at our door. They have been identified in the neighboring town of LaGrange. He asked that the Commissioners keep an eye out for any D shaped holes near the tops of trees when they are in the parks. Director Himmelmann and his staff are monitoring closely as well. Once the emerald ash bore has been identified, we will need to move quickly to decide how to treat them. There are 180 ash trees planted throughout the parks in the Village of Western Springs.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

DAMAN: nothing further to report.

KEESE: nothing further to report.

BASTYR: acknowledged receipt of a \$2,500.00 check from the Lyons Township Soccer Club. Treasurer Bastyr informed the Board that the Cook County Board of Commissioners has passed Ordinance 09-0-61 mandating all Taxing Districts to provide to the County Treasurer's Office their most recent Audited Financial Statements in electronic format. Treasurer Bastyr stated she will work with our auditors to make sure it is sent to the County Treasurer's Office by the deadline of the last Tuesday in December.

GASSMANN: reported that she and Director Himmelmann met with Pat Schramm regarding website maintenance and upgrading Director Himmelmann's computer and phone service in the park district maintenance office. Mr. Schramm offered some cost effective solutions which would save the park district approximately \$800.00 per month. Mr. Schramm is interested in providing webmaster services twice per month. He estimated that his fees would be approximately \$3,500.00 per year.

Vice President Gassmann updated the Board regarding meetings that she and

Commissioner Cromheeke had with Dr. Barnhardt in District 101. The Park District spends approximately \$26,000.00 per year maintaining school parks and the properties adjacent to them. Commissioner Cromheeke will draft a letter requesting an \$8,000.00 contribution from the school. We just missed the 2010 budget, but Dr. Barnhardt felt that there would still be ways to get money to the park district. They will bring the letter to the next board meeting for approval.

HAVLAT: reminded the Commissioners that the November 2009 Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The November meeting is always scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month to allow for budget approval and meeting the 30 day publishing requirement.

MARSHALL: absent

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report

HIMMELMANN: reported that through a cooperative effort between the Western Springs Park District, Western Springs Little League, Hansen Corporation, Prairie Path Pavers, and the Illinois Tollway, some bins have been built and installed on the west side of Spring Rock Park up near the gravel road. They can be filled with equipment, wood fibers, screenings, and soil. Western Springs Little League contributed \$600.00 to the project. There was no cost to the Park District.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**: Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to adjourn the October 13, 2009 Western Springs Park Board Meeting at 9:37 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell  
Park Board Secretary