

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING**  
**February 8, 2011 (BOARD APPROVED 3/8/11)**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jim Havlat  
Janet Gassmann (arrived @ 7:17 p.m.)  
Wendy Bastyr  
Bob Daman  
Damian Marshall (arrived @ 7:35 p.m.)  
Jennifer Cromheecke  
Commissioner Elect Mike Stibich  
Commissioner Elect Dominic Arquilla  
Commissioner Elect Jennifer Dunleavy

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney  
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director  
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary  
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee  
Darren McRoy, Western Springs Patch)  
Cindy Tyley, Safety Village  
Missy D'Alise, Safety Village  
Lee Rosenberg, Safety Village

**OTHERS ABSENT**

Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks  
Commissioner Elect Walter Knake

President Jim Havlat called the February 8, 2011 Western Springs Park Board Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cromheecke moved with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve the January 11, 2011 meeting minutes with corrections as noted, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

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

**FLOOR:** The Commissioners' Elect were present and introduced themselves to the Board. Mike Stibich, will be assuming the duties of Treasurer, Dominic Arquilla will represent District 4, and Jennifer Dunleavy will represent District 6. Commissioner Elect Walter Knake was not in attendance.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Director Himmelmann is waiting for his doctor's release and hopes to be back at work next week.

**TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Lyons reported that the Village staff has been pulling together to tie up loose ends and continue with ongoing projects that were under Bill Nelson's jurisdiction. Everyone was deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Nelson, and aware of how big those shoes are to fill. The entire staff has pulled together as a team to pick up open projects. She asked that any loose ends be brought to her attention as soon as possible. On behalf of the entire Park District Board of

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Commissioners, President Havlat expressed sympathy to Mr. Nelson's family and co-workers. He also thanked the Village for the counseling they made available to the Park District Staff. Trustee Lyons inquired about the status of the sidewalk project Mr. Nelson was working on with the Park District. President Havlat explained that he was trying to have it included with the Village's Summer Sidewalk Project. Trustee Lyons will follow-up on the status.

The latest proposal for the Ogden Avenue crossing at Woodland is to include signage and flashing yellow lights that could be activated by pedestrians. Commissioner Daman noted that the crossing on Wolf Road has signage and it is usually ignored by motorists. President Havlat said the Forest Preserve District has been trying to get lights installed at the location for years, and IDOT feels that it is not warranted. Trustee Lyons confirmed that the Village is also dealing with IDOT on the proposed crossing.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director Alden noted that the Recreation Department's agenda from their February 7, 2011 meeting and minutes from their January 3, 2011 meeting were included in the Park Board's packets. Also included is Dave Evan's Tennis Report and prioritization of his court maintenance and updates. Treasurer Bastyr noted that the 2011 budget designated the resurfacing of 2 courts. It is possible to move money from another line item in the budget to accommodate more courts. Director Alden also stated that sometimes aggressive bids allow for more courts to be resurfaced.

The Summer Book will go to the printer in a few weeks and will be mailed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Safety Village Program will be included in this book. There will be 2 summer concerts. One will be in June and the other in July. They will be held at Ridgewood and Springdale parks. Vice President Gassmann has also included the announcement of the annual movie in the park which is scheduled for the first weekend in August.

In conclusion, Director Alden asked that the user group scheduling meeting be scheduled. Commissioner Daman will contact Pat Schramm this week to arrange an online meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS** **REFERENDUM**

A general discussion was held regarding the upcoming Referendum and how to best inform the residents. It was agreed that a special meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> for public input and education on the referendum. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Board Room. Secretary Newell will contact the papers to publish a notice.

### **CERTIFICATE OF BALLOTS**

For informational purposes, Secretary Newell included a copy of the Ballot for the election of the new Commissioners on April 5, 2011.

## **2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/2011 GOALS**

President Havlat gave brief synopsis of the finalized list of goals and accomplishments.

### **IPM PLAN**

Commissioner Marshall reviewed the draft of the ground maintenance bid request for the 2011 season. He explained that 3 separate bids have been requested; 1) synthetic fertilizer with weed eradication, 2) organic fertilizer with weed eradication, and 3) 100% organic. We have also asked for product names and ingredient percentages for each product. Anyone wanting to bid should easily comply with the guidelines.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **BIKE RACK/EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

The Commissioners reviewed a proposal written by Pat Meingast, Eagle Scout. He proposes installation of bike racks in Sereda and Timber Trails parks. The Board would like Mr. Meingast to be present so they are able to ask questions regarding building materials and address any other concerns they may have. Mr. Meingast will be invited to the March, 2011 meeting to speak with the Board.

#### **SAFETY VILLAGE**

Representatives of Safety Village, Missy D'Alise and Lee Rosenberg, came before the Board to discuss the possibility of finding a permanent home for the Western Springs Safety Village. They distributed a preliminary sketch of an area adjacent to Field Park School, between Claussen and Linden. The area is not used for recess and is close enough to the school buildings for the classroom portion of Safety Village training.

A general discussion ensued and the Board would like to have a plan for restoring the land in the future, in the event that the program is no longer viable. Ms. D'Alise explained that they are brainstorming for the Safety Village to be used year-round by multiple organizations. They also have some solid benefactors to finance the approximate \$350,000.00 construction cost. Their target date for an announcement would be during the 2011 Safety Village Class which is held during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June. Insurance, building materials, and street surface materials were discussed. Director Alden explained that the Recreation Department would probably umbrella Safety Village through their agreement with IRMA. The Recreation Department's insurance covers outside user groups that run their programs through the Rec. Department.

The Park District Board's main concern is the residents in the surrounding subdivision and whether or not they would object to the permanent structure. Commissioner Cromheecke was appointed liaison to work with the Safety Village Team to draft a presentation for community education and canvassing the neighbors.

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The Board will also schedule a special meeting when the residents can voice their support or concerns. The Safety Village team will return for the March 8, 2011 Board meeting to update the Commissioners on their progress.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Bastyr submitted the financial report as written. She notified the Board that the Village water bills are almost double from last year. Although there has been a rate increase, this seems a little high. The meters have also been upgraded and the Village explained that the new meter is accurate whereas the old meter may not have been accurate. When it thaws, the Village will come out and reread the meters. They are located underground and cannot be accessed when the ground is frozen. We also received a check from AT&T in the amount of \$7,300.00 for their easement access in Spring Rock Park.

### **MOTION**

Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to approve the January 31, 2011 Financial Report, with an ending balance of \$1,030,696.00, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

### **IPRA CONFERENCE SUMMARY**

President Havlat reported that Park Foreman, Dennis Conway, attended the annual IPRA Conference and wrote a comprehensive summary of the weekend and the workshops he attended. Of particular note, was a workshop held on the increased population of children identified with Autism and suggestions on how to make the parks more user friendly to them and their families.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Himmelmann was not present.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

DAMAN: will look into gathering information on Referendum's in surrounding districts, i.e., Lake Bluff. He will also speak to Field Turf and he and President Havlat will work on a list of FAQs prior to the public meeting. He also reported that Director Himmelmann had suggested the possibility of using the dirt from excavation for the field as a sled hill. It could reduce the overall cost of the project if we do not have to pay to have the dirt hauled off site. He contacted Field Turf regarding this suggestion and has not heard back from them yet.

BASTYR: asked Secretary Newell to bring a finalized copy of the approved 2011 Budget Ordinance to the February, 2011 meeting.

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GASSMANN: noted that there are several projects that will have to be passed on to the new Commissioners in April. The Board will need a new Recreation Department liaison, user group contact, and someone to work on the gradual replacement of playground equipment. She asked that the outgoing Commissioners make a list of anything they are actively working on. It can be reviewed at the March, 2011 meeting.

HAVLAT: asked that all Commissioners questionnaire from the Audit Committee as soon as possible. Treasurer Bastyr explained the questions and the process.

MARSHALL: nothing further to report.

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report.

HIMMELMANN: absent

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**: Vice President Gassmann moved with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to adjourn the February 8, 2011 Western Springs Park Board meeting at 8:50 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell  
Park Board Secretary

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