

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2009 (BOARD APPROVED ON 8/11/09)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jim Havlat
Janet Gassmann
Wendy Bastyr
Bob Daman
Jennifer Cromheecke
M. Damian Marshall

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary
Tracy Alden, Director of Recreation
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee
Luke Goyer, Eagle Scout

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Harold Hild

President Jim Havlat called the July 14, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Vice President Gassmann motioned with a second by Commissioner Marshall to approve the June 9, 2009 meeting minutes as written, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to approve the Special Park Board Meeting and Financial Workshop minutes of June 22, 2009, with amendment to adjournment time as 9:00 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS AND PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM

THE FLOOR: The Board acknowledged Eagle Scout Luke Goyer. Mr. Goyer presented a packet to the Board which outlined his proposed Eagle Project of building 3 to 4 bat houses and erecting them in Spring Rock Park. He explained the benefits of housing the bat population and that he would maintain data. Bats are a natural way to cut down the mosquito and bug population in the park. Mr. Goyer's troop was founded 82 years ago and would be responsible for any on-going maintenance of the houses, up to and including removal if they cannot be repaired or if the Park District feels they are not being adequately maintained. Mr. Goyer will be a member of troop 82 for the next 2 years, and will pass the project on when he leaves. Trustee Deb Lyons also spoke on Mr. Goyer's behalf and stated that she knows him and finds him to be a very responsible young man. She also stated that Troop 82 is a well established Boy Scout Troop and should prove to be responsible in moving forward with this project after Mr. Goyer leaves the troop. A general discussion ensued regarding installation materials and best locations for the houses. Director Himmelmann agreed that he would work with Mr.

Goyer to insure that all houses are mounted properly and installed in the best locations. Director Himmelmann suggested that Mr. Goyer research the red tailed hawk to see if they are a predatory threat to bats. Commissioner Daman stated that they are not a threat since they only seek ground prey and the bats would be airborne. Mr. Goyer stated that after Board approval, he will need to present his Eagle Project to the Boy Scout Council and receive their approval. Installation of the bat houses would take place after that process and should be in the Fall or early Spring.

MOTION: Commissioner Daman motioned with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to approve the Eagle Scout Project of Luke Moyer for installation of 3 to 4 bat houses in Spring Rock Park, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Director Himmelmann reviewed email communications he had received regarding weed control applications in the parks. He received 2 emails requesting that the Park District consider an all natural solution to weed control and fertilizing. Scheduling of the weed control applications was also a concern. They asked that the application be timed to insure that no activities are scheduled in the parks for awhile after the application. A general discussion ensued regarding scheduling of the applications. Director Himmelmann and Director Alden have already been having discussions regarding possible solutions for next year. They will focus on informing the parents earlier when there is any type of weed control/fertilizer applied in the parks. It is the ultimate goal of the Park District to go natural, but they need to finish getting the weeds under control and we are in the final phase of that process. The natural companies acknowledge that there is no natural product that will kill weeds. However, once the weeds are eradicated, the natural applications can maintain the grounds. Director Himmelmann will request quotes from natural sources and have them ready to present to the Board by the October, 2009 Board Meeting. Commissioner Daman stated that the fertilizer prices have crashed recently and he would expect that the cost of green fertilizer has come down. It will not be the same as traditional methods, but should be a lot closer in price given the current market conditions.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Lyons reported that the Village has received an RTA grant for downtown redevelopment. The Village will hire an independent consultant to look at the vacant properties, parking, railway platforms, beautification, and business development. The RTA weighs in on the plans but they do not drive the final decisions. The Village will be looking for input and holding informal town meetings for input from the residents. Everything is just in the planning stages. They have not engaged a consultant, but will ask for proposals from three or four.

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Trustee Lyons also reported that the Police Department has scheduled National Night Out for August 4, 2009.

Trustee Lyons updated the Board on the red light photo enforcement in the Village. There have been 1,000 captures since installation. The captures are accompanied by an 8 second video which is reviewed by the Police Department. Upon review of those videos, 200 tickets have been issued. They have been careful about citations being issued only to the most blatant violations.

The Village is working on IEPA funding for the water treatment facility. The water quality continues to be good in Western Springs; however the infrastructure is old and needs repair and upgrades. They want to maintain independence from the city and tapping into Lake Michigan water supplies.

The Wolf Road parking lot is up and running and Franklin Avenue paving project should be complete in September.

There will be a Board of Local Improvement hearing held on July 27, 2009. There was some paperwork that needed review, but should be back on track with payment being approved.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reported there was no recreation department meeting held in July. The commissioners will meet on July 20, 2009 and he will forward packets to Commissioner Bastyr and President Havlat.

Camps are in their final week and all the sports and their field use have been completed. Director Himmelmann can go in for maintenance at any time. He also noted that, thanks to Director Himmelmann, the fields in all the parks are in excellent condition. It is the best he has seen in years.

The tennis program is in its final weeks and they have not experienced any problems with the lighting. Dave Evans has submitted his needs list for the 2010 season and he will submit his year-end report to the Recreation Department in December, 2009. President Havlat asked if Director Alden had asked about a preference for replacement of the backboards or the fencing. Director Alden stated that he will follow-up with Mr. Evans and have an answer at the next Board meeting. Director Himmelmann reported that the Park District will be color coding 9 courts and will probably use U.S. Tennis Court Construction. They have done a nice job for many years and are familiar with our budget constraints. Commissioner Daman suggested Midwest Tennis also submit a proposal. He will email his contact to Director Himmelmann

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President Havlat asked if the Village was seeking any of the Township Bond Money. Trustee Lyons stated that she knew they submitted an initial proposal, but was unsure whether or not they will continue to pursue it. She asked that Director Himmelmann or

President Havlat contact Director Alden with any submittal dates they may have regarding the Township Bond money.

OLD BUSINESS

TIMBER TRAILS REIMBURSEMENT

President Havlat stated that the issue and payment should be resolved at the next Village Board Meeting, as noted by Trustee Lyons in her report.

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Vice President Gassmann reported that the restoration should be complete in the next week or two. Director Himmelmann stated that the temporary fencing should be removed in the next week. Commissioner Bastyr inquired about a \$3,000.00 difference in the installation costs. Director Himmelmann explained that it was due to the geo-textile material in both parks. The material could not be saved or recycled and needed to be replaced. Commissioner Bastyr asked what other costs are outstanding and Director Himmelmann reported that there will be costs associated with dirt/topsoil and grading. Commissioner Bastyr asked that Director Himmelmann charge these costs to line item 10 instead of 40.

A general discussion ensued regarding the 2010 budget and the process of approving that budget. President Havlat outlined a timeline for Director Himmelmann and the Board. He asked that Director Himmelmann prepare his needs list by August, 2009 and submit it to the Board. The Board will prioritize and add or delete items as needed by September, 2009. The list will be given back to Director Himmelmann so that he may solicit proposals and present them at the October, 2009 Board meeting. We are scheduled to meet on the 1st Tuesday of November, to approve the 2010 Budget.

SPRING ROCK PARK PAVING

Director Himmelmann reported that the project is moving slowly. He has asked for a meeting with W-T Engineering, IDOT representative and Chicagoland Paving. Director Himmelmann will express his displeasure with the pace of the project and make it clear to Chicagoland that there is a possibility that we will levy a fine if the inactivity continues at the project. The lights have been ordered to arrive in mid August. The Matt Orth ball diamond fence will be replaced on July 28, 2009. President Havlat explained to the Board that Chicagoland paving is under contract with IDOT, not the Park District, and Director Himmelmann has contacted IDOT to expedite the project with Chicagoland Paving.

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President Havlat reported that he, Commissioner Bastyr, and Director Himmelmann, met with W-T Engineering regarding overages in their billing of the Spring Rock Park project. The end result is that W-T is seeking one additional payment of \$21,727.25. They have assured the Board that it will be the final payment and that they will see the

project to completion for that amount. W-T is confident that all costs associated with the lights would be covered and they will keep us under the contract amount with IDOT. It is their recommendation that the final payment be made to W-T Engineering in an installment plan. A general discussion ensued regarding installment amounts and timing of payments. Commissioner Bastyr stated that there are three invoices #16, #17, and #18 totaling \$23,246.19. This is slightly more than the \$21,727.25, but there are some reimbursable items in the \$23,246.19. She suggested that we offer payment of the \$23,246.19, provided that we do not exceed the IDOT contract amount. Further discussion was held and the Board agreed that no payment will be made until they have received a written confirmation from W-T Engineering which outlines the payments and the completion of the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Bastyr motioned to offer W-T Engineering \$23,246.19 for invoices numbered 16, 17, and 18 as complete payment for the Spring Rock Park IDOT/SAFE-T LU paving project. Invoice #16, totaling \$9,322.00 would be paid upon receipt of written confirmation of the terms from W-T Engineering. Invoices 17 and 18 will be paid upon completion of the project, including punch list items, to our satisfaction provided we do not exceed the original IDOT contract amount, which motion was carried on roll call vote; Wendy Bastyr, aye; Jennifer Cromheecke, aye; Janet Gassmann, aye, Jim Havlat, aye; Damian Marshall, aye; Bob Daman, nay; Harold Hild; absent.

Commissioner Cromheecke asked director Himmelmann the status of the wet spot in Spring Rock Park. Director Himmelmann reported that the Board did not want to incur any additional expenses at this time. W-T Engineering is to submit a proposal.

COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

President Havlat reported that he will email a rough draft to the Commissioner's for their review and input.

PERSONNEL HANDBOOK

Director Himmelmann is in the process of meeting with Vice President Gassmann to review and bring a rough copy in for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH DISTRICT 101

Vice President Gassmann reported that she has begun to work on a template. Once that is completed, she will forward it to the Commissioners for their review and input. She is hoping to have it completed by the start of the 09/10 school year.

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During a general discussion of water fountains, the Board suggested that maintenance and repair of the school fountains be included in the intergovernmental agreement.

TREASURERS REPORT

Commissioner Bastyr reported that she sent our Annual Treasurers Report to the Cook

County Treasurers Office and it was published in the 6/24/2009 edition of the Suburban Life.

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the June 30, 2009 Financial Report as written with an ending balance of \$910,122.76.

MOTION: Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by President Havlat to approve the June 30, 2009 Financial Report as written, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Himmelmann reported that water fountains were delivered today and will be installed in Spring Rock Park tomorrow. There is also a second fountain that will be installed in Laidlaw Park tomorrow as well. A general discussion ensued as to how the replacements are scheduled. Director Himmelmann stated that it is based on need and usage.

Cricket Communications sent their first payment and a copy of a letter from OSLAD regarding post completion inspection and certification.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

DAMAN: inquired about grant opportunities and how the Park District goes about securing grant monies. President Havlat stated that his experience has been that OSLAD does have money available and is worth pursuing. Director Himmelmann stated that research is key as to whether there is matching money required in the grant and Commissioner Bastyr would have to be informed to see if it is within the approved budget to pursue the grant. Commissioner Daman asked that anybody that received grant money information, pass it along to him.

BASTYR: reported that we should be receiving approximately \$17,000.00 from the Recreation Department for user fees.

GASSMANN: suggested to Director Alden that the Park District and Recreation Department work together on a themed project such as "Make a Healthy Choice Every Day" as a special event for next year. It could be a one day or week end long event.

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HAVLAT: nothing further to report

MARSHALL: nothing further to report

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report

HILD: absent

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN: President Havlat motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to adjourn the July 14, 2009 Western Springs Park Board Meeting at 8:35 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary

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