

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 11, 2009 (APPROVED)**

**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  
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Harold Hild

**OTHERS ABSENT**

Tracy Alden, Recreation Director

President Jim Havlat called the August 11, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve the July 14, 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:** None present.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Director Himmelmann reviewed communications he had received. The first was from a resident who inquired about the locked washrooms at Springdale Park. Due to vandalism, the washroom had been locked during repairs. The washroom was painted today and will be reopening tomorrow.

The second correspondence was from the Safety Coordinator of Lyons Township Little League. He had parents from the league inquiring about the arsenic remediation at Timber Trails. These inquiries were generated after an article appeared in the local newspaper which caused parent concern because Dartmoor is at odds with the environmental engineer. The parents asked the Safety Coordinator to contact the Park District and former Board President Mike Bruck. Director Himmelmann provided them with documents and the Coordinator asked if LTLL could come and take their own soil samples. Director Himmelmann informed LTLL that the final decision would be up to the Park Board. Director Himmelmann suggested that we contact Jim Huff and Jeff

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Zeigler to explain the park site remediation status and get all parties in a meeting to

educate them on the situation. President Havlat agreed that a meeting should be arranged to air out their concerns.

Sites that were identified for remediation at Timber Trails were mainly the tees and greens near the retention pond and have been removed and capped with soil. The fairways were least affected and the park was built mainly on fairways. Director Himmelmann further explained that our soil samples were polled in with the Village samples and together they came up with an average number in the soil. We were judged as a unit. President Havlat offered further clarification, stating that the Village hired Jim Huff and the Park District only took ownership of the Timber Trails Park after Mr. Huff gave the site a clean bill of health. Trustee Lyons confirmed that Jeff Zeigler and Jim Huff have approved everything at Timber Trails Park. Commissioner Cromheecke will contact Attorney Ekroth for further history on the arsenic remediation and to get contact information for Jim Huff. President Havlat asked that Director Himmelmann scan the minutes and letter sent to LTLL and email them to him.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Lyons reported that the Village did not hold its regular meeting last night. There will be a special meeting on August 24, 2009 for funding of HVAC improvements and Library. It will be a workshop followed by a special meeting. Demolition of the two properties for the fire station requires different permits due to equipment being used. It didn't happen today, hopefully tomorrow. Also need a public zoning hearing on the fire station. A consultant has not yet been chosen for the downtown improvement plans. President Havlat inquired if anything has progressed on the train underpass. Trustee Lyons stated that the funding has been held up by the Burlington Northern. Trustee Lyons explained that the Village has received Tea-Lu funding and are in the process of identifying what improvements the funding will be used to finance.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director Alden was not present to present his report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TIMBER TRAILS REIMBURSEMENT**

A general discussion was held regarding approval of an Intergovernmental agreement to expedite disbursement of BOLI funds for Timber Trails.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement in concept, subject to President Havlat and Attorney Ekroth's final review of language. Provided there are no substantive changes, President Havlat will have authority to sign the final agreement on behalf of the Park Board, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

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### **PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS**

Director Himmelmann reported that the temporary fencing has been removed from both

Springdale and Ridge Acres and the turf is coming up nicely. The Inline Playground at Spring Rock Park still needs some fine tuning. It needs to be rototilled and final grade of dirt spread on site. There have been no puddles with the recent rain we have had.

Commissioner Gassmann asked which park would be targeted for improvements next year. Director Himmelmann stated that he will keep playground improvements on the agenda for next month and will provide a prioritized list for the September meeting. Commissioner Bastyr noted that there is no guarantee that another park will be upgraded next year. It will be dictated by budget constraints.

### **SPRING ROCK PARK PAVING**

Director Himmelmann reported that the Tennis Court lights are being built and should be delivered to the Drytech yard in a few days. The fence for the Matt Orth field has been down for a week with no progress. He has set up meetings with the vendor, but they did not show up. Letters will be going out to Chicagoland Paving about liquidated damages in the hopes that it will be incentive to get the project moving again. 27 trees still need to be planted, restoration needs to be done, regrade of the toll way soccer field, and any grass out there will be torn up. If these are not done quickly, WT is prepared to assess liquidated damages of \$1,100.00 per day. President Havlat stated that he has sent a letter to WT and has not yet heard from them.

### **LYONS TOWNSHIP BOND FUNDING**

President Havlat informed the Board that there was a mix up with the mail regarding deadline dates. The correspondence was at the Village Hall and was delayed in being forwarded to the Park District. He will forward a copy of the correspondence to all Commissioners. President Havlat explained that we are asking for \$1.68 million in Bond Funding. When you see Supervisor Hartigan's letter, there are nine items the consultant will look for and they don't affect our content. Then there will be an onsite meeting with the consultant. We should be progressing nicely. President Havlat asked if anyone has a copy of all the appendices from former President Bruck's presentation. Trustee Lyons had a copy and gave it to President Havlat. Attorney Ekroth will check with the Title Company regarding the Deed and will contact Director Himmelmann with the information.

### **SAFETY**

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

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2009 CAPITAL PROJECT LIST IDEAS**

Director Himmelmann explained that attachment "E" in the Board Packets has blank

spaces at the bottom for the Commissioners to use for notes on all the parks. He suggested that they tour all the parks and decide what improvements they would like to see. He has two things on the capital project list that he feels are high priority. The first is a Bobcat Skid Loader and the second is an RPZ backflow preventor. We currently have an RPZ out near Matt Orth field which was installed during the last improvement in Spring Rock Park. Illinois Plumbing code now states that nothing can be underground, it must be above ground. It was decided to complete the RPZ this year. The remainder of the list is not in any particular order and would be up to the Board to prioritize. A general discussion ensued regarding items on the list. Commissioner Bastyr asked Director Himmelmann to provide her with a list of the dates that all tennis courts were last painted. Director Himmelmann explained that Spring Rock Park would be more frequently painted because they have the heaviest use. He is also waiting for Dave Evan's Tennis report. It was supposed to be completed in time for this meeting, but Director Himmelmann has not received it. Commissioner Bastyr gave Director Himmelmann a brochure on concrete bag game to possibly replace the horseshoe pits that are in Spring Rock Park and asked that he get some pricing. President Havlat stated that he will reach out to user groups for their input on capital improvements and asked that each Commissioner assemble their list to be prioritized at the September, 2009 meeting. President Havlat asked Commissioner Bastyr for the available budget for the improvements. Commissioner Bastyr said that we should keep the improvements at around \$120,000.00 to avoid going into our reserve funds.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the July 31, 2009 Financial Report as written with an ending balance of \$847,819.00.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to approve the July 31, 2009 Financial Report as written, which motion was passed by all on voice vote.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Himmelmann submitted his report as written and noted that he has contacted Cricket Communications. We are trying to mitigate water infiltration at the curve of Waldo Erickson Drive and Burlington Avenue. Cricket trenched through our drainage line in three places. Director Himmelmann spoke to the project engineer at Cricket and his is getting the correct contact information for him. Cricket will repair the breaks at their cost.

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### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

**DAMAN:** reported that he researched available grant monies, we will have to wait until next year for submittals on most of them. There is one grant for bike paths that has a deadline of March 1, 2010. President Havlat asked that he keep it on his list.

BASTYR: reported that she saw a poster for an art camp in Spring Rock Park. She asked Director Himmelmann if he had any knowledge of the camp. He stated that he did not know of any camp scheduled in the park. Commissioner Bastyr will get the details from the poster and contact Director Himmelmann.

GASSMANN: reported that Movie Night was cancelled due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for Sunday, August, 29<sup>th</sup>. Director Himmelmann noted that they will place a new patch on the banner at the corner of 47<sup>th</sup> and Central on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact with the webmaster has been established if anyone has anything to add to the website. Director Himmelmann brought up the possibility of Pat Schramm, Director of technology for the Village, to maintain the website. He was going to check on any conflict of interest and get a proposal to Director Himmelmann. Commissioner Gassmann also suggested that we try to get DSL service to the Park District office, which is still on dial-up access to the internet. Commissioner Gassmann is reviewing past minutes to determine if anything was recorded regarding the acknowledgement plaque dimensions in Ridgewood Park.

HAVLAT: nothing further to report

MARSHALL: nothing further to report

CROMHEECKE: reported that she and Director Himmelmann met with True Green to discuss organic fertilizers. The Park District's desire to go green was reiterated as well as the needs of the parks. They are working on getting established for organic fertilizer going forward. Director Himmelmann added that we need to do independent studies on the number of applications and how stress from use increases weed growth. He noted that the final application from True Green will be on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and will only be a mineral application. He will notify Director Alden and the user groups. The price for organic fertilizer has dropped and is no longer 3 times more expensive than chemical applications. We will need to write specs for our parks and go out to bid for natural. A point of interest is that there is no completely natural way to eradicate weeds. Even the organic applications use herbicides/pesticides to control weeds. We may be able to get to the point that these applications will be cyclical or only spot applications. Lastly, Commissioner Cromhecke and Director Himmelmann discussed solutions to the bottle neck in the Spring Rock Park parking lot and the possible use of a speed bump or installing signs. Director Himmelmann is working with WT on the ADA handicap parking regulations and the possibility of moving those spaces.

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HILD: absent

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**: Vice President Gassmann motioned with a second by President Havlat to adjourn the August 11, 2009 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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