

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2009 (BOARD 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  
Ray Walton, WSLI Board of Directors  
Mike Moehler, WSLI Board of Directors  
Marty Keller, Resident

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Harold Hild

President Jim Havlat called the September 8, 2009 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Marshall motioned with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to approve the August 11, 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:** Messrs. Ray Walton and Mike Moehler of Western Springs Little League Board of Directors came before the Board to discuss issues on the Matt Orth Field in Spring Rock Park. The two major issues are that the left field and left center field are approximately 1 foot lower grade and this creates an issue with standing water. It renders the field unplayable for days even after a light rain while the other fields are playable. The league wants to address the issue of flooding and improve the surface to the high quality and standard of the other fields in Spring Rock Park. They have discussed the issues with Mr. Jack White of Creations Landscaping in LaGrange. He is well respected in the community. Mr. White thought he could re-grade, re-sod and address the standing water problem in the batting cages. Western Springs Little League would primarily fund the improvements, but will also seek assistance from both the Village of Western Springs and the Park District. The growth of the program has seen 800 players on the league last year, and large growth in the girls division; from 156 to an additional 100 players next season in that division alone. The water issues have been present for years, and the league has always worked around it. The size and reputation of the program dictate that these issues be addressed. The goal is to bring the Matt Orth Field to the caliber of the A Ball field, which is one of the best in the state of Illinois. Messrs. Walton and Moehler asked for the Board's approval to proceed and allow them to approach Jeff Zeigler at the Village of Western Springs. Commissioner Bastyr noted that the Park District will be

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finalizing its 2010 Budget in November and encouraged the gentlemen to have a firm number to present by then. Director Himmelmann asked that they check with both Marty Scott and Jeff Zeigler regarding the impact, if any, on the future plans for artificial turf fields. If they agree that these improvements would not have an impact on that project in the future, it would need to be given to Western Springs Little League in written form. Commissioner Marshall inquired if there had been any recent soil borings in that area of the park. Director Himmelmann stated that they were done on behalf of Western Springs Little League for the installation of lighting. Additionally, in the area we are discussing, the caissons under the water tower are 100 feet, and the soil quality is poor. Trustee Lyons informed Messrs. Walton and Moehler that the Village is holding a properties and recreation meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday. She will mention their interest in improving the field at that meeting. A general discussion ensued regarding the functionality of the existing drain tile and possible tie-in for drainage and prevailing wage regulations. The Commissioners agreed that they would collaborate with the Western Springs Little League and the Village of Western Springs to address the issues and that they should go ahead and contact the Village. The gentlemen agreed to set a goal of presenting preliminary cost estimates to the Board at the October, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Marty Keller, Western Springs Resident in the Ridgewood Park neighborhood, came before the Board to thank them for their prompt attention in removing graffiti from the park. His concern is that some of the outlines of the words remain faintly visible. It is not immediately noticeable, but can be seen when examined. Mr. Keller's concern is that it may be a catalyst to encouraging further graffiti in the park. Director Himmelmann explained the removal process and possible additional steps that could be taken to eliminate any trace left behind. A general discussion ensued, during which, Commissioner Bastyr informed Director Himmelmann that one of the cars in the park had been spray painted over the weekend with green paint and smiley face. Director Himmelmann will send a crew out with a power washer and graffiti remover in the morning. President Havlat informed Mr. Keller that the Board is investigating installation of some type of solar lighting and cameras in Ridgewood Park. In conclusion Mr. Keller again thanked the Board for their prompt response and thorough job in the removal of the graffiti and voiced his appreciation for their willingness to try a second time to totally eliminate any traces of the vandalism.

### **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Director Himmelmann reviewed communications he had received. The first was an email regarding a malfunction of the lighting in the Timber Trails Park shelter. The issue has been taken care of and the lights are operational now. The second communication was regarding squeaky springs at Spring Rock Park. The crew replaced hangers and brass inserts and the problem has been resolved. The third communication was from a resident that disagreed with the Park District's policy prohibiting golf in the Parks. He was practicing with wiffle balls and did not see how that would cause concern. Director

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Himmelmann pointed out to the Board that his main concern was any balls, wiffle or

other, can be hit with a lawn mower and the flying pieces can be tragic if they hit a park patron. President Havlat also stated that other residents may not realize in passing that wiffle balls are being used. It sets up the appearance that golf is allowed in the parks and others may come with real balls. President Havlat asked Director Himmelmann to contact the park patron and inform them that it is Park District policy to restrict golf equipment of any kind in the parks. The fourth and final communication was from a family member of a person who has a memorial for a family member on the path leading from the Park District garage. They would like to add a memorial for the spouse. Vice President Gassmann suggested that they remove the existing plaque and reword it rather than add an additional plaque. Commissioner Cromheecke suggested they purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> tree and plant elsewhere in the park and Commissioner Daman suggested the purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> bench, and place them across from each other. Director Himmelmann will contact the family member with the Board's suggestions.

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Lyons inquired whether or not the Park District had received the BOLI payment for Timber Trails. President Havlat confirmed that payment has been received. Trustee Lyons reported that the Village held a combined workshop and meeting on August 24, 2009. Mark (I'M NOT SURE OF LAST NAME HERE) made a plea to the Village to install a better crossing at Ogden Avenue which has placed this concern back on the Village radar. She suggested that a letter of support from the Park District may be helpful. The traffic light photo enforcement program has had 12,000 captures since its installation. There have only been 1,155 tickets issued to the most egregious offenders. The Village will continue to zero in on data. Commissioner Cromheecke informed Trustee Lyons that the today's Tribune has an article on this subject, in which, a Western Springs resident is quoted. The Franklin Avenue project is moving slowly. It should be another month or so to complete. Paul Virand, of Vie, will appear on the Iron Chef television program in November, 2009.

Trustee Lyons invited the Commissioners to attend a zoning meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2009. The Village will be discussing zoning for the new fire station. The Village website now has some designs available for review.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director Alden reviewed his packet and the summer concert report summary. He noted that the summary also acts as an invoice to the Park District for its contribution of \$275.00 toward the concerts. He asked that the check be made payable to the Recreation Department. All summer programs have concluded. President Havlat asked about the impact Little League is having on the ponytail league. Director Alden reported that there are a lot of girls interested in fast pitch, but the higher interest remains in slow pitch softball. He also reported that Ryan McLaughlin of Blue Moose is asking for a meeting,

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but they have agreed to wait until Rita Legeikis returns from leave in about a month. He has not received any contact from Elite fitness.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **TIMBER TRAILS REIMBURSEMENT**

President Havlat reported that an \$180,000.00 (plus \$1.50) check has been received by the Park District.

### **SPRING ROCK PARK PAVING**

Director Himmelmann reported that all lights are being removed on the east tennis courts. All but the southwest pole has old fixtures and the southeast pole has a new fixture. Director Himmelmann asked the electricians to save four of the old fixtures because he may be able to reuse them to light the south basketball court in the future. The electrical box and controls should be completed in the next two days. The tennis court control panel is here, but not yet installed. The panel for the playground and parking lot has been installed in the Park District shop. The Matt Orth field fence is nearly complete and park staff will install top yellow safety cap tomorrow. Seal coating is done. Once the ball diamond and (I HAVE A BLANK HERE) are complete, W-T will pursue liquidated damages on Chicagoland at \$1,100.00/day.

A general discussion ensued regarding lighting and tree pruning. Commissioner Bastyr inquired about color choices for court painting and whether or not blue and green could be an option. Director Alden agreed to ask Dave Evans to drive by the Field House courts in LaGrange. Director Himmelmann said that although the tennis courts are ultimately the property of the Western Springs Park District, color choices have traditionally been left to Mr. Evans, out of respect for his expertise.

### **LYONS TOWNSHIP BOND FUNDING**

President Havlat informed the Board that a second presentation is required at 8:40 p.m. on September 29, 2009 at the Township Offices. President Havlat will speak and will contact the user groups to ask if they will send representatives to attend and show their support. Commissioner Daman offered his assistance, should President Havlat need it, in any capacity. President Havlat discussed the history of the bond issue and presentation by former Board President Mike Bruck.

### **PLAYGROUND AUDIT**

Director Himmelmann reported that the playground audit will be completed by the end of 2009. He provided the Board with a list of playgrounds and their % values of non-compliance under the most recent ASTM and CPSC guidelines. "Non-compliance" does not imply that installation in the 1980's through the 1990's were not made in conformity with the guidelines at that time.

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### **SAFETY**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

The Board had a general discussion regarding each items on the proposed capital project list for 2010. On a rating scale of 1 (highest priority) to 10 (lowest priority), the list was rated as follows:

#### **ITEMS RATED #1 (HIGH PRIORITY)**

- Payments 2 and 3 for Bobcat Skid Steer
- Single Tennis court fence replacement at Forest Hills
- Tennis court color coding
- Replacement of 4 basketball backboards in Spring Rock Park
- Replacement of playground, to be determined
- Replacement of 1 drinking fountain at Sereda Park

#### **ITEMS RATED #5 (MID-LEVEL PRIORITY)**

- Solar lighting for one park, location to be determined
- Pole cam for park, location to be determined
- Tennis backboard replacement in Spring Rock Park

#### **ITEMS RATED #10 (LOW LEVEL PRIORITY)**

- Double tennis court fence replacement with basketball backboards
- Irrigation for parks
- Paths leading into playgrounds
- New level L75R Thorguard Lightning Protection System with Remote Strobe
- Relocate 1.75 Thorguard Lightning Protection System to Timber Trails Park

The following items were reassigned as budgeted maintenance items:

- Landscape for Spring Rock Park sign
- Reforestation
- Clean up of Woodpile Road

The following item may be eligible for possible grant money application:

- Irrigation of Spring Rock Park soccer fields

Director Himmelmann will get preliminary cost estimates on the following items:

- Ten benches
- Clean up of Woodpile Road
- Safety signs for Spring Rock Park parking lot
- Washroom partitions, paint and exhaust fan with installation

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### **USER GROUP FEES**

Commissioner Bastyr asked President Havlat to inform McClurg School that there will be a \$150 to \$200 field usage fee in the next season. This will offset damage caused by them when using fields that were too wet.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Commissioner Bastyr submitted the August 31, 2009 Financial Report as written with an ending balance of \$993,977.00. This includes the \$180,000.00 BOLI payment from Timber Trails. She also noted that tax bills are late going out, and this will impact when we will receive money generated from taxes. Commissioner Bastyr asked Director Himmelmann to include the passing of an ordinance on the agenda for the October, 2009 meeting. Money needs to be transferred from the Corporate Fund and it can only be done via an ordinance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve the August 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 asked the Board if there were any questions. Commissioner Marshall offered to assist Director Himmelmann with the natural fertilizer project. Director Himmelmann will contact him to work together.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

**DAMAN:** reported that he would like to attend a seminar on grants at DePaul. It will be held in February 2010 and the cost is \$595.00.

**BASTYR:** contacted Sickich for the 2009 audit. The fee is basically the same, but she would like to include assistance with the capital assets this year for a total of \$6,200.00. If the Board agrees, Commissioner Bastyr will retain them again. She also noted that she knows a qualified, interested party for replacement of Commissioner Hild, should he resign. Attorney Eckroth will prepare a resolution once he has received written or verbal resignation from Commissioner Hild.

**GASSMANN:** reported that Movie Night was finally held and hosted over 100 people in Spring Rock Park. She also asked that a new webmaster be found. The most important issue is that immediate notices can be posted on the website. She will meet with Pat Schramm to discuss his interest and availability. The person responsible for issuing park permits is resigning at the end of the month. Commissioner Bastyr stated that she may have someone interested in filling the vacancy.

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**HAVLAT:** nothing further to report

**MARSHALL:** asked Director Himmelmann to schedule a meeting regarding the fertilizer as soon as possible.

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report

HILD: absent

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**: Commissioner Bastyr motioned with a second by Vice President Gassmann to adjourn the September 8, 2009 Western Springs Park Board Meeting at 10:24 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell  
Park Board Secretary

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