

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2010 (APPROVED BY BOARD 7/13/10)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary
Tracy Alden, Rec. Dept. Director
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee
Brad Walse, Resident
Heidi Hanner, School District
Mike Sheer, WSL

President Jim Havlat called the June 8, 2010 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Bastyr moved with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve the May 11, 2010 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:

Mr. Brad Walse, resident of the 4200 block of Claussen addressed the Board to express his concerns regarding fertilizer applications in the park. As the father of a 2 year old and husband whose wife is expecting, he asked for an explanation of the type of fertilizer being used in the parks. He has reviewed the MSDS sheets for products used by True Green and is very concerned about side effects and warnings on the labels. Mr. Walse outlined his main concerns and suggestions for the Board as follows: 1) Warning Signs are not adequately posted on days of application, 2) Are the school districts, little league and AYSO groups notified?, 3) Let True Green know they are not in compliance and if they continue they will be terminated, 4) Would the park district consider using a corn gluten to prevent weed germination?, 5) He can provide organic lawn care manuals written by Safe Lawns founder, 6) He would gladly pay for a community screening of the documentary "Chemical Reaction". Mr. Walse concluded by stating that he doesn't mind clover and violets in the parks. They promote honey bees, which are scarce. In his own yard he does not use any type of chemicals, he simply picks the weeds as needed.

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The Board responded to his concerns as follows: Director Himmelmann stated that True Green is bound by law to abide by Federal Regulations regarding the posting of flags in

the parks. Once the flags are placed in the ground, they do not have control over park patrons that may remove them or play with them. True Green has agreed to over flag the parks from now on. The applications in the parks are herbicides. Pesticides are only used to spot treat weeds, they are not blanketed across the park fields. There is no organic solution for weeds. We are currently ahead of the curve on weed control which makes the use of pesticides minimal. He will look into having flags placed directly where a weed has been spot treated. Director Himmelmann contacts the school principal or secretary with application dates and a backup rain date and user groups are also informed. With regard to the MSDS sheets, they are for the undiluted syrup of each product. True Green is monitored by EPA and uses the highest dilution rate of the product that still allows effectiveness. We cannot treat the park fields the same as a residential yard. We have thousands of patrons on the park lawns and fields each week. Additionally, 4 employees service 90 acres of land which makes hand picking weeds an impossibility.

In conclusion, the Board informed Mr. Walse that it has been a high priority to the current Board to transition to 100% organic. They will follow up with True Green to insure better posting of flags.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Director Himmelmann did not have any communications to report.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Lyons reported that there will be a public meeting held tomorrow regarding the downtown plan. It will be at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The Village Board will probably approve a plan in sometime in August. 115 people have responded to the survey for the new underpass. 72% are in favor of location 3 at Central and the second favorite is location number 2. Trustee Lyons asked the Commissioners to weigh in on the survey if they have not already done so. They would like to get closer to the best location as soon as possible. There will be an Infrastructure meeting held on 6/27/10 at 7:00 p.m. asked if the Park Board would send a representative. A general discussion ensued and the Board's concerns regarding pedestrians crossing into the Park District garage lot were noted. Trustee Lyons said that walks and fencing would be part of the project if this location is chosen. The Commissioners also have concerns about any impact on future park projects if impervious structures such as sidewalks become part of the project. They would like written assurance that it would not have an effect.

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The construction of the new firehouse may begin in August. It should be going out to bid in a few weeks. The Village has received approval from FEMA. The \$1 from the developer, the \$1.1 million in grants and the \$700,000.00 from the State of Illinois have

not yet been disbursed. They are not counting on the money from the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Cromheecke volunteered to attend the 7:00 p.m. meeting on 6/23 for the planning of the Sesquicentennial (125th anniversary) celebration of the incorporation of Western Springs.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reported that minutes were not included in this month's packet because they are not holding their monthly meeting until next week.

Summer Programs are beginning soon with the bulk of programs beginning on 6/14. Blue Moose began this week and we have received their certificate of insurance. Tennis programs are already in full swing and the painted courts look great. The Tower Trot worked out well with 1,300 finishers. Forest Hills was a good alternate location. It will probably be used for the next three years. Safety Village starts in two weeks. The lot has been painted. Concerts in the Parks are scheduled for 6/23 in Springdale Park and 7/21 in Ridgewood Park. Football, lacrosse, and soccer are coming to an agreement on a date to vacate the fields to allow for sodding.

Information for the fall book is due by July 6, 2010. Vice President Gassmann noted that we would like to keep the recycling information, movie in the park date, and Director Himelmann's contact information and hours in the fall book.

President Havlat asked Director Alden for a letter of support from the Recreation Department regarding the artificial turf field. It would be used in the OSLAD grant application and the deadline is July 1st. Director Alden will put it on Monday's meeting agenda and asked Vice President to draft some language that he could present.

OLD BUSINESS

LYONS TOWNSHIP BOND MONEY

President Havlat reported that we have brief letter from the township attorney. We still have not seen a draft of the agreement. Trustee Lyons confirmed that the Village of Western Springs has not heard anything further either.

ORGANIC GARDEN

Heidi Hanner presented the Board with a diagram of the redesigned Organic Garden at Field Park. The plot has been reduced to 38' x 34'. They are working with an Eagle Scout who will do a lot of the construction, including benches and cedar beds. He will be

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supervised by a leader who is in construction and one engineer. They would like to install a 6' x 6' or 6' x 8' shed that resembles a playhouse to hold the gardening tools. If the Board approves these changes, it will go to the School Board on June 21st. After that meeting, they will host a town hall meeting and invite the neighbors.

A general discussion ensued and the Board agreed that the shed should be constructed on school property, not on park district property. The mowing of the grass between the cedar beds will be the responsibility of the school and the space between the beds needs to be widened to accommodate mowers. Vice President Gassmann will make the changes to the Intergovernmental Agreement to include the mowing issues. Finally, the neighbors should be notified before the School Board meeting, rather than after.

Ms. Hanner will make the requested changes before the plan is presented to the School Board.

SAFETY

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no accidents or injuries for the month of May, 2010. He was just notified today that an employee has a hernia and is classified as a workers compensation claim.

The new bathrooms in Spring Rock Park have already been vandalized. Fortunately, they cleaned up well.

OSLAD GRANT

President Havlat explained the restrictions on the grant. If we are given the grant and don't use it toward the artificial turf there would be a penalty of 2 grant cycles that the Park District would not be allowed to apply. This is also a reimbursement grant (30-45 days). We would have to front the money. If we make the first cut, we would have to go down state and make a presentation.

They are requesting a Plat of Survey. The most recent we have on file is 1997 which was done by Kirk 20 years ago. They will get back to us with pricing to update the survey. President Havlat spoke to W-T Engineering and they proposed a price of \$5,700.00. Pre-engineering costs are reimbursable through OSLAD. We need PIN numbers for each individual parcel as well. A general discussion ensued regarding when a Plat of Survey would be required, including any future bond issues.

RESOLUTION: Resolution of Authorization for OSLAD project Plat of Survey not to exceed \$6,000.00.

MOTION: Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to pass the Resolution of Authorization for the OSLAD project Plat of Survey, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

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NEW BUSINESS

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Bastyr submitted the May 31, 2010 Financial Report as written.

MOTION

Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Keese to approve the May 31, 2010 Financial Report, with an ending balance of \$1,308,928.51, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Himmelmann submitted his May, 2010 Director's Report as written. The packet includes a Special Objectives Status Report. Tree planting is complete. We are having issues with vandalism in the parks. The same person is tagging the parks with spray paint. Director Himmelmann is working closely with the Police Department to apprehend the individual.

President Havlat asked for clarification on the status report in comparison to the table. The completion and in progress status seem to be different. Director Himmelmann explained that the table is financially driven and the other is work completed.

Vice President Gassmann inquired about the progress on the sump pump discharging in Sereda Park and the number of trees affected. Director Himmelmann reported that there are several trees with standing water around them. The Village sent out letters to the neighbors. Vice President Gassmann also noted that she will send Director Himmelmann the final number of benches that will be installed in the parks.

Treasurer Bastyr asked for an update on the new playground. Vice President Gassmann stated that we are waiting for school to let out before anything further is done. We are aiming for North East Park by the end of October.

Director Himmelmann informed the board that that the pedestrian slow down signs at Spring Rock Park have been working well. However, one sign has been stolen.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

DAMAN: obtained a list of all fields that Field Turf has installed this year. President Havlat will email the list to the Commissioners.

BASTYR: nothing further to report.

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KEESE: nothing further to report.

GASSMANN: asked for input from the Commissioners regarding which movie to show for the Movie in the Park.

HAVLAT: asked Director Himmelmann where we stand with the Real for Life. Director Himmelmann stated that a new person has taken over and they agreed that it should be scheduled for a new date not to conflict with LT's fund raising that same week.

MARSHALL: nothing further to report.

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report.

HIMMELMANN: nothing further to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vice President Gassmann motioned with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to adjourn the June 8, 2010 Western Springs Park Board meeting at 9:00 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary