

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2010 (APPROVED BY BOARD ON 9/14/2010)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Deb Lyons, Village Trustee
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary
Tracy Alden, Rec. Dept. Director
Lisa Nielsen, LaGrange Resident
Brad Walse, Resident

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Kristin Keese

OTHERS ABSENT

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney

President Jim Havlat called the August 10, 2010 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Vice President Gassmann moved with a second by Commissioner Bastyr to approve the July 13, 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 returned to inform the Board of Commissioners that he did not feel that True Green kept its promises to overflag the parks with its last application. He also reiterated his concern about the use of chemicals in the parks and his long term wish of having an all natural approach to fertilization and weed control. He noted a few surrounding Park Districts that take a natural approach. Director Himmelmann stated that the aesthetics of the parks had been a complaint from many residents. They did not want weeds in the parks. The Park District has just recently gotten them under control through spot applications by True Green. Their products are 51% organic. A general discussion ensued during which alternative methods, pricing, and needs were all debated. Director Himmelmann noted that we had received a bid of \$78,259.00 from Organic Lawns of America, compared to \$26,354.00 with True Green. The Board of Commissioners has also been moving toward an organic regimen in the parks. The stumbling point has been the prices quoted compared to the budget they are given. The Residents of Western Springs have not approved a tax increase for the Park District since the early 1950's. President Havlat asked if Mr. Walse would like to sit on a committee and help outline a plan to move toward organic. Commissioners Marshall and Cromheecke will co-chair the committee. President Havlat stated that our budget is drafted in November and finalized in December. The committee should set a target date for presenting their plan at the November, 2010 Park Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Director Himmelmann stated that the only communication was from Mr. Walse, and the topic had been covered with his visit this evening.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Lyons reported that the downtown redevelopment plan proposal is nearing completion. The Village hosted another meeting with 60 -75 residents in attendance. She asked that the Commissioners weigh in online on the Village website with their comments. The final plan and approval is probably another month away. It will then be submitted to a developer for their input. It will be an overall vision for the future of the downtown area. The only specific improvement will be the railroad platforms. In the meantime, she encouraged everyone to shop local. Remember the French Market on Thursday afternoons.

The Village issued two liquor licenses for St. John's October fest and their 50th Jubilee Anniversary and Tanya Hart for Bastille Day.

The police department review will be at the end of the month and the Colletus Certification will be on August 30th between 5:30 and 6:30. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on August 17th for the fire station and construction will start on August 18th. President Havlat asked about the discussions about consolidating fire stations. Trustee Lyons explained that a consulting firm is just now looking into a dispatch consolidation.

Micro paving will be starting soon. There is a map of streets on the Village website. Sites 4 (preferred) and 3 are still being reviewed for the west underpass. Commissioner Daman volunteered to be the contact person for the underpass project since he was in on the 1st meeting. He gave Trustee Lyons his email address. Trustee Lyons had nothing more to report about the sidewalk project. She stated that it is most likely an IDOT hold up. The sesquicentennial committee will be meeting in September. Commissioner Cromheecke will attend that meeting.

President Havlat and Director Himmelmann brought oddities at Spring Rock Park during the recent flooding to Trustee Lyons attention. Sewer caps were blown off manholes and Flag Creek was in Spring Rock Park for the first time in 20 years. They were wondering what effect the Hinsdale Reservoir project is having during these irregular storms. Director Himmelmann stated that Bill Nelson, Engineer for the Village of Western Springs has been made aware of all abnormalities. He has contacted the project engineer to determine their protocol for the reservoir. President Havlat will also email his concerns to them. Trustee Lyons asked that everyone work together with their neighbors and make the Village aware of any and all problems.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reported that there are no Recreation Department minutes in the packets this month because the meeting will not be held until August 23rd.

The Fall brochure will be arriving in homes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tennis

continues, but most of the Summer programs are complete. The Recreation Center parking lot is being seal coated this weekend. The Grand Avenue building has been power washed from the top of the 1st floor windows on the south and west sides and the roof has been redone. The landscaping is part of an Eagle Scout project.

OLD BUSINESS

IMRF

Vice President Gassmann sent out emails to Paul Parisi but did not hear back from him. We will keep this on the agenda for next month's meeting.

FERTILIZATION

Director Himmelmann stated that he made plenty of notes during the general discussion with Mr. Walse.

LT BOND GRANT

President Havlat received a statement from Lyons Township, but it was not specific to our grant.

OSLAD

We received notification from Sue Eubanks at the State of Illinois asking for explanations and clarification.

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Vice President Gassmann reported that the Movie in the Park was a success with a turn out of approximately 150 people. The mosquitoes were a problem. It was agreed that this is a good community event to continue. Commissioner Keese was appointed, in absentia, to be the new person in charge of organizing the event in 2011.

SAFETY

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no accidents or injuries for the month of July, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Bastyr submitted the July 31, 2010 financial report as written. She also noted that the bulk of the income was from Cricket. The Audit fund is in the negative. If the tax bills are in by the end of the year we will be in the positive. Tax money is getting delayed because of the election year. President Havlat asked if it would be worthwhile to refinance our bonds while the interest rates are low. Treasurer Bastyr explained that the problem would be in finding someone to buy them. She agreed that it is definitely something to talk about, but really felt that we would need local support.

MOTION

Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by President Havlat to approve the July 31, 2010 Financial Report, with an ending balance of \$1,118,258.00 which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Himmelmann submitted his July, 2010 Director's Report as written.

Director Himmelmann reported that there are issues with pavement bubbles on Waldo Erickson Drive. They are 4 - 6 inches high and approximately 48 inches in circumference. W-T Engineering owes us a drawing, that was negotiated in our payment, with ideas that might solve this problem.

The American Cancer Society picked 8/28 for a round robin softball tournament on all of the fields. He suggested that we post the information on the website. Additionally, we have two refund requests. One is from an August 7th application with a \$90.00 permit fee and a \$100.00 security deposit. The 60 guests have been reduced to 36 and they would like a \$30.00 refund due to the lower attendance. Also, there is a church picnic that had low attendance due to the storm and flooding. They would like to reschedule for a Saturday in September, without having to pay the permit and deposit fees again. A general discussion ensued, and it was agreed that the refund and rescheduling would be allowed as good will gestures. This will be a one time exception and not a precedent. President Havlat also commented that a few organizations and businesses want to pay the lower residential permit fees even though the companies are located out of town. The deciding factor for the permit fees is not where the owner of a company, or director of an organization resides. The fees are determined by the location of the company.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

DAMAN: after seeing the flooding, he is very reluctant to move forward with the synthetic field in its current location. Even though this was an extreme and irregular storm, the field would have been totally under water from the 40 yard line back. We should seriously consider an alternate location.

BASTYR: we have not received payment of the \$10.00 program fees from the Recreation Department. The organic garden has just been delayed, but it will happen next year.

KEESE: absent.

GASSMANN: distributed preliminary plans for the new playground at northeast park. We might tweak it to bring the costs down a bit and compact it to fit in existing playground space. It should be a solid plan by the end of August. President Havlat suggested that we finish in the next two weeks and go out to bid. We should be ready to award the contract at the September meeting.

HAVLAT: nothing further to report.

MARSHALL: nothing further to report.

CROMHEECKE: is ready to solidify the numbers for the School District IGA and asked

for any final input. Commissioner Daman suggested that the school district could generate revenue from student enrollment, gym fee, or extra curricular sports fee. It is a very simple approach and not uncommon in school districts. Commissioner Cromheecke asked him to email her a list of school districts that he knows that are currently collecting these types of fees.

HIMMELMANN: nothing further to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to adjourn the August 10, 2010 Western Springs Park Board meeting at 9:01 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell
Park Board Secretary