

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Call to Order by President Kurfirst at 7:08 P.M.

Commissioners present:

Leonard Kurfirst
Deborah Lyons
John White
Michael Bruck
Michael Kane
Phyllis Osborn

Commissioners absent:

Matthew Gresge

Others present:

Trustee Anne Marie Hickey
Trustee John Madell
Robert Ekroth, Attorney
Joe Brusseau, W-T Engineering
Dan Miller, Musco Lighting
Messrs. Sullivan, Essig and
Kearney, W. S. Football
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hild, residents
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director
Carol Kania, DOINGS Reporter
Superintendent Craig Himmelmann
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2005, Park Board Minutes

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that the minutes of the December 12, 2005, Park Board meeting be approved with two corrections, which motion was then approved by all on a voice vote.

Acknowledgment of Visitors and Persons to be Heard from the Floor

Update on Request by Hilds to Purchase 15 Feet of Ridge Acres Park

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hild, residents living next to Ridge Acres Park who have requested to purchase 15 feet of the park in order to bring their 35 foot lot to a standard 50 foot width and enable them to provide an addition to their existing home at 4007 Harding Avenue, attended this evening's meeting to answer any further questions the Board might have regarding this matter. President Kurfirst suggested that two Park Board members be assigned to sit down with the Hilds and discuss the issues involved in this matter. Commissioners John White and Phyllis Osborn agreed to meet with the Hilds within the next month, discuss the matter in its entirety, and report their findings at the February Park Board meeting. If it is agreed that we can move forward in this matter we will start negotiations, which will include a public hearing, discussion of cost, and whether or not this matter should be presented to the court in Cook County to see if the sale of this Park District land would be acceptable from the court's perspective.

Update on Western Springs Football Lighted Field

Commissioner White advised that at the last Park Board meeting it was concluded that a synthetic field in the west end of Spring Rock Park was not feasible because of the organic

compounds there. It was then recommended that we consider using the existing football field for a synthetic field and that soil borings be done in that area. Commissioner White was advised by the engineers that an aerial shot of the existing field had been taken and they had concluded that it was compatible for a football/lacrosse/soccer field. It was agreed that WT Engineering will do soil borings on the field as soon as weather permits and then a determination will be made on costs and whether or not higher light poles must be considered to accommodate lacrosse. The Western Springs Football League has agreed to provide approximately \$125,000.00 toward these lights and they are continuing to move forward with their fund raising. There are still some unknowns regarding this field, such as potential Commonwealth Edison costs to provide service, but it was agreed to move forward with soil borings to see whether this project is feasible..

Update on Pavilion Project in Spring Rock Park

Mr. Joseph Brusseau, President of Brusseau Design Group, attended this evening's meeting to inform the Board that he had received five bids for this project and provided Commissioners with a Bid Tabulation which outlined the three lowest bids along with his company's Opinion of Probable Construction Costs, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. Mr. Brusseau advised that it was his recommendation, based on their experience in working with this company and references, that the Park Board award a contract to All-Bry Construction in an amount to be determined after further discussion this evening.

Mr. Brusseau then reviewed the Value Engineering Options he had provided Commissioners, which listed All-Bry's construction costs, and discussed with the Board the items he suggested we not accept in an effort to bring the bid down to where the project would be doable. President Kurfirst reminded the Board that an additional \$17,000.00 was available from Friends of the Park for this project. After lengthy discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by Commissioner Phyllis Osborn, that the bid from All-Bry Construction Company in the amount of \$310,052.92, which would include the brick paver plaza and masonry and stone building, be accepted, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Mr. Brusseau advised that he would advise All-Bry Construction Company of our decision and move forward on this project.

Trustee Hickey's Report

Trustees Anne Marie Hickey and John Madell reported as follows: **(a) Sidewalks in Laidlaw Park:** At the January 5th Village Board meeting this matter was discussed and several compromises were offered, but when the Board of Trustees came to no agreement it was decided to shelve the matter for a month and refocus on it at a later date. Trustee Madell added that the Infrastructure Commission has adopted a general policy of sidewalks throughout the Village, though they recognize how the Park Board feels on this subject. They will continue discussion on this matter but agreed that it was a low priority project since there is already a sidewalk on the other side of Forest Avenue. President Kurfirst agreed to provide the Village Board with additional material which he is not certain has been considered in this matter.

(b) Timber Trails: The park area is being protected while the infrastructure construction takes place in that area of the development, the special assessment bonds will be passed at the January 21st Board meeting, and the money due the Park District will be available after the bonds are issued.

Recreation Department Report

Recreation Director Tracy Alden advised as follows: **(a) Field Usage:** He plans to attend Commissioner Bruck's field usage meeting; **(b) Tennis Report:** He included in our packets Dave Evans' tennis report which he suggested the Board review and be ready to discuss at a later date; **(c) Present Activities:** Recreation Department activities at this point are all indoors. There are no outdoor activities scheduled as of now.

Timber Trails Update

President Kurfirst advised that he had nothing further to report regarding the township park issue and is still awaiting a reply from Township Highway Commissioner Landeck regarding the matter.

He then requested Board input regarding a possible opportunity for the Park Board to acquire two lots adjacent to the north end of our park in Timber Trails which would allow us to position our detention area further north and enable Dartmoor to eliminate the cul de sac. It is his opinion that this is something we should pursue. The property has not been offered and the cost would be fair market value, but this would be the time to attempt to acquire it. It is his opinion that Dartmoor would be willing to discuss the matter and he suggested that Board members start planning for these two extra lots. The first step would be a discussion with Dartmoor and if they are interested we would request the Village engineer to check the feasibility of the plan. Following that would be a discussion regarding financing options, perhaps through bonding or a referendum in conjunction with some other needs the Board may have, such as our proposed synthetic field. President Kurfirst suggested that we move forward promptly on this matter and Park Board Commissioners agreed that the purchase of the two lots should be explored further..

Update on Park Improvements

Commissioner Phyllis Osborn advised as follows on Park Improvements: **Laidlaw Park:** A meeting is scheduled with Lisa Najarian for later this week to wrap up the spending issue in this park **Veterans' Park:** To date the sum of \$10,175.00 has been raised toward improvements in this park and a fundraiser is scheduled for January 28th to which all Board members have been invited. **Ridgewood Park:** The \$17,740.00 which has been raised to date is being transferred to the Friends of the Park account. The goal of the fundraising group is \$35,000.00.

Safety

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that it had been another good month and there had been no accidents or injuries.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by John White, that the December 31, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$48,909.67 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$277,504.13, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote..

Approval of Ordinance 2006-1, Amendment to Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Year 2005.

Attorney Ekroth advised that though the Park District had approved their 2005 budget on December 14, 2004, from time to time during the year it had been found necessary to make adjustments to the budget to respond to unforeseen circumstances, which impacted said 2005 budget. The Amendment being approved this evening details these line item changes.

MOTION: Phyllis Osborn moved, with a second by Michael Kane, that Ordinance 2006-1, Amendment to Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Year 2005, be approved by a roll call vote. Voting aye: Commissioners Kurfist, Lyons, White, Bruck, Kane, Osborn. Voting nay: None. Absent: Commissioner Gresge. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's Report is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. He advised as follows: **New Computer:** Installation of his new computer is almost finished and should be up and running in the near future; **Funds from Village:** He requested that Commissioners keep him informed of how the \$50,000.00 from the Village is spent so that he can keep an accurate record of where this money went; **Health Insurance:** He is in the process of investigating insurance companies to provide health insurance to Park District employees.

Commissioners' Reports

MICHAEL BRUCK: He advised that his meeting with user groups would be held at 7:30 P.M. on January 13th in the Park District facility meeting room.

Executive Session

A short discussion was held regarding personnel issues.

MOTION: Commissioner Michael Kane moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that Craig A. Himmelmann's title be changed to "Director of Parks", which motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by Commissioner Michael Kane, that the Park Board meeting be adjourned at 10:06 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary