

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING
July 12, 2005

Call to Order at 7:04 P.M. by President Leonard Kurfirst

Commissioners present:

Leonard Kurfirst
Deborah Lyons
Michael Bruck
Phyllis Osborn
Matthew Gresge
Michael Kane

Commissioners absent:

John White

Others present:

Trustee John Madell
Robert Ekroth, Attorney
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director
John Patterson, Village Forester
John Callahan, "Run to Walk" Race
Harry & Liz Hild, 4607 Harvey
Joseph Brusseau, Brusseau Design
Jan Fiola, Corporate Design & Dev.
Craig Himmelmann, Supt.
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2005, Park Board Meeting

MOTION: Matthew Gresge moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the minutes of the June 14, 2005, Park Board meeting be approved as written, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2005, Park Board Workshop Meeting

MOTION: Michael Kane moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the minutes of the June 22, 2005, Park Board Workshop Meeting be approved as written, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Acknowledgment of Visitors and Persons to be Heard from the Floor

The Claddagh Foundation "Run-to-Walk" 5K Race on September 20, 2005

Resident John Callahan attended the meeting to request Park Board permission for a first annual 5K Race on Saturday, September 10, 2005, beginning at 9 AM for runners, walkers, and wheelchair participants, the race to take place at Forest Hills Park. The race will be sponsored by The Claddagh Foundation, an all-volunteer non-profit organization which was established to help find a cure for paralysis and to assist those living with paralysis and other spinal cord related conditions. AYSO has agreed to work with the group and will give up or change their game time on that day, or move to another park, to make this happen.

Mr. Callahan requested assistance from Park District employees and agreed to pay them time-and-a-half for their services. He will provide additional insurance coverage for the Park District and added that nothing will take place on the school ground. Just the ancillary area will be used. The Board approved the plan and suggested that Mr. Callahan keep in contact with the Superintendent so that the day runs smoothly.

Update on Request to Purchase Part of Ridge Acres Park

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hild, 4007 Harvey Avenue, attended the meeting to make themselves available to answer any questions the Board might have regarding their request to purchase 15 feet of Ridge Acres 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. Commissioners agreed that this sale would bring the tennis courts 8 ½ feet from the property line and that some adjustments may be necessary in the area of the covered slide in the playground section if Commissioners agree that this is “surplus” property, we could start the process by having the property appraised. Attorney Ekroth advised that once the property is appraised a public hearing will be held and a court appearance scheduled wherein people could object if they so chose. President Kurfirst suggested that the Hild’s arrange to have the property appraised in light of what is being considered, which is Step One in the process. The Hild’s agreed to attend our August Board meeting and we will move on from there.

4412 Harvey Resident Questions Possible Use of 30 Feet at 4410 Harvey

The residents who live next to the Park District property at 4410 Harvey attended the meeting to question what use we are considering for the 30 feet the Park District owns next to their property. President Kurfirst advised that no decision has yet been made, that the Recreation Director is looking into some possible uses, and he wondered if the residents had any suggestions. They advised that they would like something tasteful, perhaps a rose garden with a fountain. President Kurfirst agreed to give the residents notice of any future meeting at which this matter will be discussed.

Update on Forestry Plan

John Patterson, Village of Western Springs forester, provided the Board with a Tree Evaluation and a Tree Inventory from which Commissioners can see the condition of every tree in each of the Village parks. Every tree has been physically measured and identified and its condition assigned. He then plotted them on a map which he supplied to Superintendent Himmelmann and which gives us a place to start a forestry program. The tree inventory goes hand in hand with the maps provided.

Mr. Patterson advised that we have some wonderful trees in the park but almost all are in need of pruning. He recommends that we consider an ongoing pruning program starting with the 208 high priority trees, which indicates that they are in high traffic areas and large enough to provide a hazard to park users, and work down from there. 130 of these high priority trees are in Spring Rock Park. It was Mr. Patterson’s suggestion that we begin by obtaining bids for this work from local companies (including Sinnott and Nels Johnson). President Kurfirst suggested that the Superintendent obtain by the September Board meeting a bid on having the 75 trees outside of Spring Rock Park pruned first, which cost could then be included in the 2006 Park Board budget. Commissioner Kane was requested to work with the Superintendent on this project.

Trustee Hickey's Report

In the absence of Trustee Anne Marie Hickey, Trustee John Madell gave her report and advised as follows: **Timber Trails Update:** An ordinance covering the engineering and costs for this project has been passed. This is one of many steps to be taken regarding this subdivision. He added that the dollars for the Park District are in the cost estimate and the land is platted and we are included in that; **Water Leak in Spring Rock Park:** Trustee Madell advised that this is a small leak which leaves the ground soggy and water is draining off to the south and into the sewer inlet. It will be fixed as soon as the demand for water is low enough that we can shut off the elevated tank there. It is not going to get any soggy.

Update on Shelter Construction in Spring Rock Park

Joseph Brusseau, of Brusseau Design Corp., and Jan Fiola, of Corporate Design and Dev. Corp., attended the meeting to bring Commissioners up to date on the planned shelter construction in the west end of Spring Rock Park. They provided Commissioners with "Landscape Architecture Site Design and Recreational Planning & Design" material, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. Also included in the packet is material from W-T Land Surveying, Inc., dated July 1, 2005, which provides detailed maps of the proposed structure, an opinion of proposed construction costs, and an engineer's opinion of probable costs for the water service extension, all of which are attached hereto and become a part of these minutes.

Ms. Fiola discussed and showed elevations of the proposed 800 square foot building and added that several options on materials for the unit had been included. Our cost will be determined by what we select. They have budgeted for a brick exterior. Mr. Brusseau added that the big unknown is soil conditions and that necessary soil borings will come first. Soil conditions will determine whether or not we need caissons for the building. It was also his opinion that borings could be done at the same time in the area of the proposed athletic field. After some discussion it was agreed that three borings would be made at the site of the storage/plaza building only..

Also discussed in detail were (1) the need for an up-do-date survey, which President Kurfirst agreed would be ordered immediately; (2) the cost and size of the water tap and water line, which the Village engineer stated should be a tap of 6-inches which would accommodate any future uses in the area and at the west end. Due to the high cost of water service to the storage/plaza area, which is well in excess of funds originally budgeted for water to the area, it was decided that we will not at this time install a new water tap and line to the area. The shelter will be readied for water service in the future if funds permit. It was agreed that we would hold a public hearing/August Board meeting at 7 P.M. on August 2nd. In the meantime, Commissioner Gresge has agreed to look into the details of when the HUD money will be available so that upcoming costs may be met.

Recreation Department Report

Tracy Alden advised that programs are moving forward, including lacrosse, soccer, softball, and baseball. Hockey registration will be held shortly and the Department's fall brochure will go to the printer tomorrow. He added that it has been a busy summer and concerts are moving forward.

Lacrosse is leaving the softball field now and he added that the turf looks worn where the goals have been located.

Western Springs Football Request to Exchange Fields with AYSO

Commissioner Bruck advised that he is still in transition period, has not yet worked out many details with former Commissioner Nancy Brinkman, and will look into this field exchange matter in the near future.

Little League Batting Cage Update

It was agreed to carry this matter over to the August Park Board meeting.

Timber Trails Annexation Proposal – Ordinance 2005-2

The Board received a signed copy of a “Petition for Annexation to the Western Springs Park District” signed by Dartmoor and President Kurfirfirst, an agreement between the Park District and Dartmoor, copies of which are attached hereto.

Also signed was Ordinance 2005-2, “An Ordinance Annexing Certain Property Commonly Known as The Timber Trails Country Club to the Western Springs Park District”, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes.

MOTION: Leonard Kurfirfirst moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the Board approve the “Petition for Annexation to the Western Springs Park District” and also Ordinance 2005-2, “An Ordinance Annexing Certain Property Commonly Known as The Timber Trails Country Club to the Western Springs Park District”, which was followed by a roll call vote. Voting aye: Commissioners Kane, Osborn, Gresge, Lyons, Kurfirfirst and Bruck. Voting nay: None. Absent: Commissioner White. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

MOTION: Trustee Oshorn moved, with a second by Trustee Kane, that the May 31, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$78,357.02 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$300,751.02, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

MOTION: Trustee Lyons moved, with a second by Trustee Kane, that the June 30, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$55,568.90 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$346,560.51, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Commissioner Gresge also advised Commissioners that he wants to do a budget review with the Board, probably sometime after Labor Day, to discuss priorities. Details will follow at a later date. He supplied Commissioners with copies of the December 31, 2004, Letter of

Recommendation and the Financial Statement and Independent Additional Report for the year ended December 31, 2004, from Sikich Gardner & Co., the Park District auditors.

Safety

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

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's Report is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. He further advised as follows: **(a) Lyons Township Soccer Club:** He received a donation of \$2,000.00 from this group as a donation toward field usage for the 2004-5 season. **(b) Ridge Acres Tennis Courts:** The cracks in these courts have been repaired but that the courts have not been painted as the cost estimate for painting is well in excess of the funds budgeted and the funds provided by the Village. It was decided that the better course of action was to rebuild this court when funds become available.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mathew Bruck moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the Park Board meeting be adjourned at 10:04 P.M., which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary