

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2010 (BOARD APPROVED ON 8/10/10)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Bob Daman

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
Missy D'Alise, Safety Village
Mandy Wichman
Lise Braithwaite
Lee Rosenberg
Eric Herchenroether

President Jim Havlat called the July 13, 2010 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Bastyr moved with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke 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: Missy D'alise of Safety Village came before the Board to thank them for their support of the 2010 class of Safety Village. The program was a great success and well received in the community. They would like to keep the momentum and move forward in finding a permanent location for the program. Ideally, the facility should be adjacent to a building that would have 2 classroom spaces available as well as bathrooms. Their long term goal is to use the location as a year-round program for public safety education. The outdoor plot size needed is 50' x 100'. A general discussion ensued on possible locations. President Havlat noted that OSLAD gives grants for Safety Villages and said that he would forward the information along to them.

The Safety Village Team returned after scouting the area and inquired about the Field Park basketball court as a possible location. President Havlat asked them to contact Director Himmelmann to further investigate the feasibility of that location.

Mr. Eric Herchenroether presented a packet of information regarding an outdoor hockey rink. After the initial cost of building the frames, the largest expense would be the tarp

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which needs to be replaced yearly. The cost to build the frames would be between \$8,000.00 and \$15,000.00 and the annual tarp replacement would be approximately

\$3,000.00. Mr. Herchenroether expressed his preference of either Spring Rock Park or Sereda Park as the best locations with natural boundaries. The rink would be run by volunteers. President Halvat informed him that the budget has already been finalized for 2010 and we would not be able to have a rink for the winter of 2010. A general discussion ensued regarding locations and it was noted that only Spring Rock Park has lights to accommodate night time skating. Sereda Park does not have water or lights. Water would have to come from the Village. The Commissioners agreed that they need a firmer commitment of volunteers and a definite area that the would accommodate the rink. Mr. Herchenroether was asked to contact Director Himmelmann to see what can be worked out and then come back to the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Director Himmelmann received a request for a sign to be placed above the inline skating rink that the rink is to be relinquished on the hour. There have been problems with hockey relinquishing the rink to the arena soccer players. Commissioner Keese suggested that the sign include notice that it is a multiple use rink. President Havlat asked Director Himmelmann to also look into getting more light on the rinks and getting lights to work on push button system. Director Himmelmann will speak to Jim Lentz to determine cost.

Director Himmelmann also received an email from the American Cancer Society regarding a softball tournament they would like to hold in Spring Rock Park. The dates would be the 7th, 14th, and 28th of August. They would allow us to call the games if we felt the fields were at risk and Little League would love to accommodate them. President Havlat agreed it is a good cause and asked Director Himmelmann to check with the picnic schedules and traveling girl's softball team to be sure there are no conflicts. Director Alden noted that Dave Evans will be holding tennis tournaments on Saturdays in August which will add cars to the event.

Director Himmelmann will be sure that everything checks out and will give them the go ahead. He will also suggest rain dates.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Lyons reported that the meeting about the downtown plan had a good turnout and a dynamic meeting. The best was Tischler's receiving a new façade. A lot is "wish list" for down the road, that would give a potential developer a good idea of what can be done.

Items that will be done are the platform along Lawn and Wolf will have new planters and plantings as well as benches. The overall plan may be ready to go to the board in August or September. The infrastructure meeting was held on June 24, 2010. After reviewing

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costs, infrastructure issues, utilities and storm sewers, the best site seems to be site #4. The Village is in much more preliminary stage of this project. Toward the end of Phase

II, they will be looking for more input from the Western Springs Park District. Trustee Lyons suggested that two commissioners from the Park Board attend all the design meetings.

Commissioner Cromhecke has been added to the email list for the sesquicentennial celebration committee and Trustee Lyons will share minutes from the first meeting.

The fire station has gone out to bid and it appears it will come in under budget. The contract will be awarded on Monday evening and construction should begin in August.

Trustee Lyons said that they are still waiting on IDOT grants for the sidewalks.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Alden reported that his minutes were included in the Board packets. He commended the Safety Village on their Herculean effort and amazing accomplishment in the first year of the program. All of the structures will be moved starting tomorrow and will be housed at Jackson Storage in LaGrange until next year.

The preliminary plans for the Sesquicentennial celebration is a kickoff in 2011 with the Citizen of the Year Committee.

The Springdale Concert was rained out. The next concert is in Ridgewood on the 21st. National Night Out is August 3rd and the Movie in the Park is August 6th. Resident Pat Wilson organizes neighborhood bike rides from the Village Hall through Field Park to Northeast Park.

OLD BUSINESS

OSLAD GRANT

President Havlat reported that the OSLAD grant was submitted. We will be notified in October if we are being considered and then we would travel to Springfield and make a presentation. Grants would be awarded in January, 2011.

ORGANIC GARDEN

Commissioner Keese stated that park patrons that play recreational football have a problem with the location of the organic garden and Heidi has asked for a meeting.

SAFETY

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

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NEW BUSINESS

PREVALING WAGE ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 2010-5 Ascertain prevailing wages for construction of public works for the Western Springs Park District was passed by roll call vote; Bastyr, aye; Keese, aye;

Gassmann, aye; Havlat, aye; Marshall, aye; Cromheecke, aye; Daman, absent.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Bastyr submitted the June 30, 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 \$1,163,348.00 which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Treasurer Bastyr also reported that David Speers and Robert Gear financial consultants gave us a booklet for referendum planning. We are looking at the Tuesday, April 5, 2011 election. We will need to adopt a resolution by January 31, 2011. David Spears would be willing to come before the Board either before a regularly scheduled meeting or as a special meeting. A general discussion ensued and the Commissioners agreed to invite Mr. Speers to the September, 2010 meeting with an earlier start time of 6:30 p.m. Secretary Newell will notify the appropriate newspapers prior to the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Himmelmann notified the Board that Dennis Conway's mother passed away. Vice President Gassmann asked that he forward his address so that the Board can send their condolences.

Director Himmelmann further reported that they poured a 7' x 9' fountain pad at Sereda Park today. Cricket sent their easement check which was \$.08 short and he has not yet heard back from the regarding the discrepancy. Three loads of wood fibers have been delivered and they will be topping off parks that are in need of fibers. Northeast Park is in need of fibers, but that will be taken care of with the playground replacement.

We have not been reimbursed from any parents of the 3 juveniles responsible for damage to the backstop. A peer jury indicated that even though the juveniles intentionally climbed on top of the backstop, their intent was not to cause damage. Since the jury determined that their only intention was to jump up and down on the top of the backstop, they are not required to pay for any of the damages.

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A general discussion ensued regarding culpability for damages to the parks and how the Board could be more proactive in making perpetrators responsible for their actions. Discussions were also held on how to educate the community about the costs incurred by the Park District for damages and vandalism. Officer Danielle Stevens runs the peer jury program and Director Himmelmann requested that vandalism in the parks be handled in the juvenile court system rather than by the peer jury. Attorney Ekroth stated that he

didn't think that was an option. Any juvenile in the Village of Western Springs is put through a peer jury, rather than the court system. Commissioner Marshall offered to be the Police Department liaison.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

DAMAN: absent.

BASTYR: nothing further to report.

KEESE: inquired about a car accident in Spring Rock Park. Director Himmelmann informed her that due to a medical crisis, a car drove off 47th Street, down a steep grade and smashed into a tree.

GASSMANN: asked anyone to email news for the website update.

HAVLAT: nothing further to report.

MARSHALL: nothing further to report.

CROMHEECKE: has reviewed history between the school and park districts back to the 1940's. In the 1950's there was a lot of land swapping between the school board and the park board and a concerted effort to cooperate. The 1st playground equipment was purchased by the school board. In the 1970's things began to wear out and the school and park board split the replacement costs 50/50. In subsequent years, 100% of the cost of maintenance and repair shifted over to the Park District. There was no grand plan why the Park District maintains it, they just slowly absorbed it. The school board sets their budget in October. Commissioner Cromheecke will have a preliminary proposal ready for the next meeting and will be asking for input.

HIMMELMANN: nothing further to report.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Cromheecke motioned with a second by President Havlat to adjourn the July 13, 2010 Western Springs Park Board meeting at 8:56 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell

Park Board Secretary