

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Call to Order by President Kurfirst at 7:07 P.M.

Commissioners present:

Leonard Kurfirst
Deborah Lyons
John White
Michael Bruck
Matthew Gresge
Phyllis Osborn

Others present:

Trustee Anne Marie Hickey
Trustee John Madell
Robert Ekroth, Attorney
Joe Brusseau, W-T Eng.
Jim Havlat, W. S. Soccer
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director
Director Craig Himmelmann
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Commissioners absent:

Michael Kane

Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2006

Phyllis Osborn moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the minutes of the February 14, 2006, Park Board meeting be approved with two spelling corrections, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Acknowledgment of Visitors and Persons to be Heard from the Floor

Possible Purchase of 15 Feet of Ridge Acres Park

Resident Harry Hild was in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions Commissioners might have regarding this matter. Commissioner White advised that this would be the subject of a Board Executive Session immediately following this evening's meeting and that he will advise Mr. Hild of the results of the discussion.

Trustee Hickey's Report

Ad Hoc Meeting: She will advise the Park Board at a later date if this meeting will be held on April 16th or 23rd; **Timber Trails Detention Area:** She requested that Director Himmelmann advise her of the results of his meeting with Jeff Ziegler regarding the detention area; **New Fire Station:** The Village is in the process of selecting the architect for the south side fire station. Several Commissioners have been appointed to work on this project; **Economic Development Commission:** A group headed by a resident and consisting of 6 commissioners is working on the downtown area of Western Springs and will report their findings to the trustees. **Village Sidewalks:** Trustee John Madell advised that the Village Board has temporarily tabled the issue of sidewalks on Forest Avenue and the Infrastructure Commission is working on a policy regarding sidewalks in the Village. They will consider prioritizing areas which do not have sidewalks, will address costs and safety, and will draft a sidewalk policy in time for the April meeting.

Recreation Department Report

Director Tracy Alden advised as follows: **Tennis Summary:** The 2005 summary was included in our Recreation Department packet; **Porta Potty at Field Park:** Because of construction at several of the local schools it has been decided that a porta potty will be needed at Field Park for the months of June and July for Recreation Department's summer camps. Director Alden is working on this with Director Himmelmann.

Grant Application to Community Memorial Foundation

Jim Havlat, representing Lyons Township Soccer, has been working with Tracy Alden and Commissioners Bruck and White and Craig Himmelmann on preparing a grant application to the Community Memorial Foundation for the purpose of obtaining funds for the building of an artificial turf sports field in Spring Rock Park. The proposed location is where the existing football field sits. The group is seeking \$250,000.00 for 2006 or a total, over a three year period, of \$750,000.00. Attached is a letter dated March 1, 2006, to Western Springs Area Youth Groups, which details the request and becomes a part of these minutes.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that in order to complete the grant application we need several items, including a rendering of the area from Joseph Brusseau, engineering estimates, and a commitment from Commonwealth Edison on their anticipated costs to bring power to the area. We may pursue a grant for engineering design costs this year and then a second application would be submitted next year to the Community Memorial Foundation for construction of the artificial turf field. One anticipated hurdle expressed this evening was the Park Board's share of the financing for this project. Treasurer Matthew Gresge noted that the Park District does not have funds available this year for the Park District's share towards installation of the artificial field. The artificial field project is more feasible in 2007.

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, to fund renderings from Joseph Brusseau of W-T Engineering up to a cost of \$1,500.00, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, to approve Resolution 2006-1 which supports submitting a grant application to the Community Memorial Foundation for Spring Rock Park improvements, including a synthetic athletic field, which motion was passed on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Bruck, Gresge, Kurfirst, Lyons, Osborn, White. Voting nay: None Absent: Kane.

Update on Spring Rock Park Pavilion Project

Commissioners advised Joseph Brusseau that W-T Engineering's renderings had Board approval and the Board was ready to move forward on this project. Mr. Brusseau advised that within the next week he would provide color samples to the Board as are shown on the renderings. He added that it will take 6 to 8 weeks to fabricate the shelter but work on the field could be started by March 31st, with completion scheduled for July.

Timber Trails Park Update

Director Himmelmann provided the Board with a photograph of a large, healthy elm tree which is presently located in the southwest corner of the proposed Timber Trails Park. Dartmoor has advised that a sewer line is planned to be run in that area and has asked if we want to save the tree, which would mean that the sewer line would have to be moved at an additional cost to Dartmoor. Board members agreed that the tree should be saved and the Director will so advise Dartmoor.

Joseph Brusseau, W-T Engineering, has provided Commissioners with four tentative plans of the proposed Timber Trails Park and questioned which plans we wanted to provide with our OSLAD grant application. Commissioners agreed to continue discussion regarding plans D and E. It was further agreed that the April 11th Park Board meeting will be an open hearing at which residents may voice their recommendations for park features in Timber Trails Park. We will also plan on a public meeting in May 2006 to finalize our Timber Trails park plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the size, location and configuration of the detention area which impacts the amenities which will fit in the active park space. The plans submitted to the Park District by Dartmoor show a detention with a different configuration than originally planned and it appears that the park space may not accommodate the various features and amenities tentatively planned for the park. It was determined that we will need to discuss the detention area with Dartmoor and its engineers before we can finalize our design plans. It was also noted that it does not appear that obtaining additional lots and moving the location of the detention area will provide enough additional useable space to support such an expense. We will continue to discuss all of these issues as well as finalize the park design plans.

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, to approve the contract for the design, development, and grant preparation of Timber Trails Park in the amount of \$12,250.00, less \$2,510.00, which motion was approved by all on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Bruck, Gresge, Kurfirst, Lyons, Osborn, White. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kane.

Bids for Ridge Acres Park and Ridgewood Park Courts

Director Himmelmann submitted the bid results for the Ridge Acres Park tennis court and the Ridgewood Park basketball court and recommended that the low bid of J. Redding Asphalt be accepted. They have done work for the Park District in the past which has always been very satisfactory.

MOTION: Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by Michael Bruck, that the low bid from J. Redding Asphalt in the amount of \$27,100.00 to repave the Ridge Acres Park tennis court and the Ridgewood Park basketball court be accepted, which motion was approved by all on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Bruck, Gresge, Kurfirst, Lyons, Osborn, White. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kane.

Director Himmelmann added that after damaging the path in Ridgewood Park while working in the area last year, Commonwealth Edison had repaired it unsatisfactorily. He questioned

whether he should ask J. Redding Asphalt to repair it properly at this time. President Kurfirst suggested that the cost of the repair be determined and a copy of the estimate sent to Commonwealth Edison along with a picture and location of the damaged sidewalk and see what results.

SAFETY

Director Himmelmann advised that there had been no accidents or injuries during the past month.

District 101 Request for Sidewalk at Forest Hills Park

Director Himmelmann advised that a recent incident at Forest Hills School has caused the School District to devise a plan to move students to various pickup stations outside of the school building for parents to more easily pick up their children. He advised that Brian Barnhart, Superintendent of School District 101, has presented him with a plan to add, at the school's expense, a section of sidewalk that would extend an existing sidewalk through Park property toward Fair Elms Avenue with a pad (on Village parkway property) for parents to pick up their children. Director Himmelmann added that the sidewalk would improve the park in that it would provide another sidewalk entrance to the tennis court path, would be a safety issue for the school, and the path would be shoveled and kept in repair by the School District. It was agreed that the plan had the approval of the Park District contingent upon the School District obtaining approval from the Village to implement said plan.

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, to approve the sidewalk pickup plan created by School District 101 contingent upon the Forest Hills School obtaining approval from the Village and final drawings, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by John White, that the February 28, 2006, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$21,867.42 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$359,719.24, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes.

In addition, Director Himmelmann advised as follows: **PDRMA 2005 Loss Control Award:** President Kurfirst advised that the Park District had achieved an Excellent Level C Award from PDRMA, our Risk Management Agency, and been awarded a \$500.00 cash award and a plaque. He presented the plaque to the Director for placement in the Park District office.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

PHYLLIS OSBORN: Park District Signs: Commissioner Osborn presented a photo of a sign which had been made by the Director to which could be added regulatory signs pertinent to each park and suggested that new signs be prepared for Park District parks. It was determined, however, that we should consider adding information to our present signs and that the subject of new signs would be discussed again at a later date.

Adjournment

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the Park Board meeting be adjourned at 9:46 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss the status of negotiations regarding a real estate sales price, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary