

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 9, 2010 (BOARD APPROVED 4/13/2010)**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jim Havlat  
Janet Gassmann (left at 7:37 p.m.)  
Wendy Bastyr  
Bob Daman  
Jennifer Cromheecke  
M. Damian Marshall  
Kristin Keese

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Ekroth, Park District Attorney  
Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks  
Maribeth Newell, Park Board Secretary  
Tracey Alden, Rec. Dept. Director  
Deb Lyons, Village Trustee

President Jim Havlat called the March 9, 2010 Western Springs Park District Board Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice President Gassmann noted a change that needed to be made regarding the stipend that School District 101 will pay for management of the garden. Commissioner Cromheecke revised her Commissioner's Report.

**MOTION:** Vice President Gassmann moved with a second by Commissioner Keese to approve the February 9, 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:** None present.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Director Himmelmann reported that there were no significant communications received in the month of February. He did note that he asked a park patron, who was playing fetch with their dog to leave a park. Although the dog was leashed and the owner was carrying a bag, dogs are not permitted in the parks of Western Springs. President Havlat noted that an article from the Doings, regarding the artificial turf project, was included in the Board packets.

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**TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Lyons reported that there would be a Downtown Redevelopment Meeting held

tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. It will be a design meeting. There has been good participation, with 47 residents present in February and 60 residents present at the January meeting. She encouraged everyone from the Board to attend if they are available.

There is a meeting being held this evening regarding liquor licensing for special events for not-for-profit organizations which are held on Village property.

Trustee Lyons further reported that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the recycling program. It has been decided to continue the Blue Bag program because it is the preference of the majority of residents. They like it because the bags are removed from the streets by early morning as opposed to bins which are left until late evening on the curbs.

The Village has decided to change their Lyons Township Grant Money request to funding for the underpass project. They have not received any feedback from the township. Trustee Lyons noted that the Village is open to working with the Park District for the artificial turf project.

The road projects are moving along. A \$7 million reverse osmosis water purification plan will be funded through IEPA low interest loans. There is a lot of iron in the Village water supply. The only solution for that is to change the filters more often.

The new fire station project is close to passing environmental and historical preservation review. After that it will be open to 30 days of public review and comment, and then they will be going out to bid.

In conclusion, the sidewalks in Forest Hills and Springdale Park are in the engineering phase. President Havlat noted that the Village is doing schematic layouts and draft layouts will be done in April.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director Alden reported that the February, 2010 Recreation Department Meeting minutes were included in the Park Board packets.

The Summer Brochure is complete and the Park District permits and permit request phone number have been included.

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La Crosse begins its season approximately April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Tower Trot registration form will be going out soon. He informed the Board that the Recreation Commission will have an opening for a representative of the Ridgewood District. The vacancy will need

to be filled in June, 2010. If anyone has a recommendation, please let him know.

Commissioner Daman inquired about the Blue Moose camp held every summer in Spring Rock Park. Director Alden stated that they have reached an agreement and Blue Moose will be paying a \$10.00 park facility fee per participant this year. This is the standard fee for all recreation programs and was noted in the flyer distributed by Blue Moose. They expect 150 participants for a total of \$1,500.00, which will be paid to the Recreation Department at the end of the season.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TIMBER TRAILS REIMBURSEMENT**

President Havlat noted that this issue has been resolved. The fee has been paid to the Park District and all agreements have been signed. This item should be removed from the agenda for next month's meeting.

#### **LYONS TOWNSHIP BOND MONEY**

President Havlat informed the Board that Lyons Township seems to be interested in our project. Russ Hartigan, Superintendent and Ed King, attorney have asked the Park District to discuss how much of the funding we would be able to cover in our own budget. There are 5 groups that have not been awarded any money yet. There is still \$5 million in bond money available. The drawback for Western Springs is that there are 3 groups with requests; The Village, The Park District, and Save the Timbers. The Township has stated that once they decide on an award amount, the remaining balance will have to be covered by the group making the request, or they will receive none of the money. If we are awarded a portion, we will have to cover any shortfall or forfeit the award. A general discussion ensued regarding the current budget and reserves for the Park District. President Havlat suggested that we meet with our attorneys to explore what options are available to finance the field. Treasurer Bastyr noted that our liability now is to the bonds and that is a separate levy. We will always have our bond payment covered. The Board is cognizant of future ramifications that any financing or additional bond issues may have. They do not want to leave future Boards financially strapped. It was decided that President Havlat would inform Lyons Township that we cannot contribute more than we would be able to fundraise or receive from our larger user groups.

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#### **SAFETY VILLAGE DIAGRAM**

Director Himmelmann distributed a proposed layout of the Safety Village. They want to put a skin coat to cover the lines, smooth out the parking lot and paint the design. At the end of the program, they will repaint the parking stripes. It will be like a slurry coat,

similar to a sealcoat on a residential driveway. The ultimate goal of the Safety Village group is to find a permanent home.

### **ORGANIC GARDEN**

Commissioner Keese reported that Attorney Ekroth is in the process of drafting an IGA for District 101's use of park district property for their organic garden. Commissioner Cromheecke stated that she is in the process of reviewing documents and minutes regarding the purchase/transfer of land between the Park District and the School District. A general discussion ensued regarding setting a fee for use. It was agreed that the Park District would ask District 101 for \$250.00 per year for a term of three years. The agreement can be terminated by either party at any time, and the School District will be required to return the land to its original condition. At the end of the three year term, the agreement will be renegotiated.

### **SAFETY**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Treasurer Bastyr submitted the February 28, 2010 Financial Report as written. She noted that revenue from the first installment of the property tax bill, which is due this month, is beginning to come in. We also received an easement fee.

### **MOTION**

Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Daman to approve the February 28, 2010 Financial Report, with an ending balance of \$1,146,020.00, which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

### **AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE WHICH ADOPTED A BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009**

Treasurer Bastyr explained the amendment to reconcile what was budgeted and what was spent and explained the adjustments. The final 2010 budget has the 2009 numbers in it. This is actual. These are unaudited so the numbers may change.

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**MOTION:** Treasurer Bastyr motioned to pass Ordinance number 2010-2 AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE WITH ADOPTED A BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009, which motion was carried by roll call vote; Daman, aye; Bastyr, aye; Keese, aye; Havlat, aye; Marshall, aye; Cromheecke, aye; Gassmann, absent.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Himmelmann submitted his report as written. He further reported that he has researched speed bumps for Waldo Erickson Drive. He would prefer to avoid drilling any holes into the new surface of the road. He proposed the purchase of 3 signs. He would place one at each crosswalk that reads "STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS" and one would be placed in between the two crosswalks that reads "SLOW FOR PEDESTRIANS". He would also paint orange boxes around them. The bases are rubber and weigh 43 pounds. The cost would be \$92.66 each. A general discussion ensued including moving the handicap parking spots that are used as a drop-off point. Director Himmelmann will discuss the issue with Todd Abrahms of W-T Engineering and report back at the April meeting.

Treasurer Bastyr inquired on the status of current projects. Director Himmelmann stated that his staff has constructed as many benches as they have room to store and will be installing them as soon as the ground thaws.

He is awaiting a price on the exhaust fan for the washroom renovation at Spring Rock Park. There is an issue in how to run the fan. If it is on motion sensor, it will only run when there is activity. It would turn off after the daily wash down and may not allow enough drying time. The alternative is to either leave it on all day or time it to stay on for 10 to 15 minutes after the washroom has been used. The price of the exhaust fan will determine what other fixtures we are able to purchase. We will be installing new partitions. They will be the same as the partitions at Timber Trails, except they will be floor mounted.

Director Himmelmann has 33 trees approved by the nursery. He will go there to tag them once the snow clears and the ground firms up.

The tennis backboard is being reconstructed and the work has begun. Commissioner Marshall asked how the lighting will work with the new system. Director Himmelmann stated that they are run by an electric eye. They will turn on at dusk and off at dawn. He also noted that four basketball standards are being replaced at Forest Hills Park. They will be the template for all of our parks. We did not budget for replacement in any other parks. In the meantime, we will repaint the backboards we replace and rotate them into other parks as needed. Treasurer Bastyr noted that we are holding off on playground equipment replacement until we know where we are at with the artificial turf funding.

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Mike Gale is scheduled to clean up Wood Pile Road tomorrow. He bid the job when everyone was undercutting prices to keep working. Director Himmelmann has offered to help with the clean up because his price is incredibly low.

Director Himmelmann also informed the Board that Pat Schramm, Webmaster, is in the hospital. President Havlat noted that he still has an e-mail issue.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

DAMAN: reported that he and Vice President Gassmann will be meeting with IMRF tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

BASTYR: nothing further to report

KEESE: nothing further to report.

GASSMANN: absent.

HAVLAT: informed the Board that he will be out of town from March 12<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

MARSHALL: nothing further to report.

CROMHEECKE: nothing further to report.

HIMMELMANN: nothing further to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Treasurer Bastyr motioned with a second by Commissioner Cromheecke to adjourn the March 9, 2010 Western Springs Park Board meeting at 8:30 p.m., which motion was carried by all on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Newell  
Park Board Secretary