

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, November 17, 2005

Call to Order by President Kurfirst at 7:05 P.M.

Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Trustee Anne Marie Hickey
Trustee John Madell
Robert Ekroth, Attorney
Bill Nelson, Dir., Munic. Svcs.
Laura Ozark & Karen Wolf,
Ridgewood Civic Assn
Messrs Casey, Salerno &
Kearney, W.S. Football
Tom Chlada, WS Little League
Tim Sullivan, WS Football
Craig Himmelmann, Supt.
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2005

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Michael Kane, that the minutes of the October 12, 2005, Park Board 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

Ridgewood Residents Fund Raising

Mrs. Laura Ozark and Mrs. Karen Wolf advised that they had started fund raising in September to cover costs for improvements in Ridgewood Park. To date they have collected \$16,000.00 from residents and \$1,740.00 from a raffle, for a total of \$17,740.00. Their next step will be to contact businesses and corporations in the area. They are presently working with a group of Ridgewood residents to see what needs they propose for the updated park. President Kurfirst thanked Mrs. Ozark and Mrs. Wolf for their efforts and congratulated them on the excellent response they have received from neighbors.

Western Springs Football and Lighted Field

Tim Sullivan, retiring president of W.S. Football, advised that the portable lights for night ball games had been a huge success and they have concluded that they would like to begin fund raising to cover the installation of permanent lights on the main football field with permanent goal posts. Tom Chlada, of W. S. Little League, was also in attendance at this evening's meeting and advised that they would like to add lights to the Matt Orth field. It was agreed that there would be advantages in working together to light both the field used by W. S Football and W. S. Little League.

President Kurfirst advised that the Park Board is in agreement with these plans and suggested that both leagues work with Commissioners Kane and White and move forward on the project. Superintendent Himmelmann suggested that Code Enforcement be advised of the plan to see if any problems might be anticipated. The Superintendent will work with all groups involved to move this project forward as soon as possible.

Laidlaw Sidewalk Issue

President Kurfirst advised that he had requested Bill Nelson, Director of the Village's Municipal Services, to attend this evening's meeting to answer questions regarding the Village's plan to install sidewalks adjacent to Laidlaw Park. He is particularly concerned with safety issues as a result of the nearby school as well as any impact these sidewalks might have on the nearby playground. In anticipation of a sidewalk, Superintendent Himmelmann had requested that PDRMA, the Board's risk insurer, give us their opinion on a sidewalk in that area. PDRMA had a concern regarding the way children spill out from the playground where there would be a drop in elevation and recommended that shrubs or a railing be installed to protect the park users. The Superintendent also requested the opinion of Morton Arboretum and Sinnott Tree Services and these tree experts have submitted letters indicating that the nearby trees might be compromised by a sidewalk in the area.

With regard to the decision to install these sidewalks, Director Nelson advised that this move had been recommended by the Village's Infrastructure Committee as part of their plan to install sidewalks on at least one side of every street in town so that there was uniformity regarding walks. It was agreed that sidewalks near schools were a low priority because there is always one on the other side of the street to which residents have access. Commissioners generally agreed that putting sidewalks in parks upsets the aesthetics and they were opposed to them except in the case of a prevailing need. The following motion was then made:

MOTION: Michael Kane moved, with a second by Matthew Gresge, that the Park Board opposed the sidewalk plan for Laidlaw Park, which was followed by a roll call vote. Voting aye: Kane, Osborn, Lyons, Gresge, Bruck. Voting nay: White. Abstaining: Kurfirst. Motion carried.

Business Association Request for Ice Rink in Field Park

Director Nelson advised that the Western Springs Business Association is planning a Christmas Walk on December 3rd which will include a trolley to move residents to all of the events. They envision an ice rink north of the fire house and are requesting the Park Board's permission to install a 60' x 100' rink south of the ball field in Field Park. Commissioners had no objection to the plan provided the Park Board was listed as additionally insured and the Village accepted the responsibility for setting up, maintaining, and taking down the rink. Director Nelson agreed to accept the requested the responsibility and will add the ice rink to the planned festivities.

Trustee Hickey's Report

Trustee Hickey advised as follows: **Timber Trails:** The developers are up to 1b in their plan and are moving forward. They cannot grade until the state environmental agency gives their permission, though they have their permit and are clearing the area. A motion for a temporary restraining order was filed and litigation of this issue is slowing things down but this is expected to be resolved shortly. She added that the Timber Trails plat has been filed and the Park Board should expect to receive its funds from the group in January or February.

Recreation Department Report

Director Tracy Alden advised that he has nothing to report other than what is included in his agenda and recent meeting minutes which are attached hereto and become a part of these minutes.

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

Commissioner Osborn advised that after checking comparables she had come up with a price for the 15 feet of Ridge Acres Park which differed from the Hild's figure of \$80,000.00. Attorney Ekroth suggested that the Board first come to a decision on whether or not to sell the property, agree on a price if still interested, and submit that number to the Hild's. President Kurfirst then suggested that the Hild's be notified that this matter is still ongoing and will not be discussed before the January meeting. He suggested that the Board go into Executive Session following the December Park Board meeting and decide at that time whether or not there is still interest in selling the 15 feet and, if so, at what price.

Laidlaw Park Improvements

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that the brick work was completed, the pavers finally installed, and the dedication under the direction of Commissioner Osborn went beautifully. The Board thanked Commissioner Osborn for her many efforts in this park during the past two years and congratulated her on a job well done.

Bid Results for Spring Rock Park Pavilion

Commissioner Lyons advised that the Board had been disappointed that the four re-bids received for this project had again come in over budget. She added that after talking with Joseph Brusseau they had agreed to meet next week with the lowest bidder, R&W Clark Construction/Continental Construction (Joint Venture) to see if we could work out some of our concerns with that company. If we do not move forward with R&W Clark it was suggested that we redo the plans and put them out for bids once again.

Commissioners questioned whether the Board should consider increasing storage for our user groups by adding to the shed near the tennis courts, but President Kurfirst stated that there is a value in having a pavilion as a gathering point and that after the underground path and parking are available the area should see a lot of use. It was agreed to make a decision at the December

12th Park Board meeting regarding where we are and where we should go on this matter, or should we go with a different type of project.

Safety

The Superintendent advised that it had been a good month and there had been no injuries or accidents.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that the October 31, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$33,611.75 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$353,456.76, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Treasurer Gresge presented Commissioners with work sheets and they discussed options for financing in the year 2006.

MOTION: Matthew Gresge moved, with a second by John White, that Resolution 2005-1 Approving the Western Springs Park District Budget for Year 2006 be approved and that Resolution 2005-2 Approving the Western Springs Park District Tax Levy for Year 2006 be approved on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Kurfirst, Lyons, White, Bruck, Gresge, Kane, Osborn. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

It was agreed that the tentative budget will be on display in the Village Hall and the Library for 30 days, after which it will be finally approved by the Board. Ordinances approving the Property Tax Levy for Year 2006 and the Amendment to the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2006 will be presented and voted upon at the December Board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Himmelmann then called to the Commissioners' attention the section of his Report entitled "Park District Computer" wherein he advised that his computer is obsolete and he had been advised by Pat Schramm, Director of Technology for the Village, that he could provide the Park District with a new computer for approximately \$2,500.00 and that he could then design a system which would include everything we would need for many years.

MOTION: Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by John White, that Superintendent Himmelmann pursue the acquisition of a new computer either through the Village, or another source, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Letter from Resident Regarding Baby Swings

Included in packets was a letter from resident Al Mungar, 3924 Franklin Avenue, regarding the lack of "Baby swings" in Northeast Park. Superintendent Himmelmann advised that he already had a set of baby swings which could be installed there. Commissioners questioned whether the installation could be done by staff and the Superintendent advised that he was too short-handed to do the job in house but could contact the Kenneth Company. He will report the probable installation cost to the Board at the December meeting.

Commissioners Reports

PHYLLIS OSBORN: Update on Veterans' Park: Commissioner Osborn advised that Mrs. Terry Ford had informed her that \$3,900.00 has been raised to date toward these park improvements. Mrs. Ford added that her fundraising group is going to have a fundraising Trivia Night at the Village Club on January 28th to which the Board is invited. Mrs. Mary Rizzardini has also been helpful in fundraising as she is sending information home with her pre-school children in their backpacks. Commissioner Osborn added that she has talked with the second Veterans' Park fundraiser, Mrs. Laura Davidson, who advised that she now has possession of the train for which the Board forwarded funds. Mrs. Davidson added that she knows a group that will install the train. The Superintendent advised that he, too, will contact this group to see if they would be interested in installing the baby swings in Northeast Park.

Adjournment

MOTION: Michael Kane moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that the Park Board meeting be adjourned at 10:00 PM, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

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