

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Call to Order by President Kurfirst at 7:25 .M.

Commissioners present:

Leonard Kurfirst
Deborah Lyons
Michael Bruck
Phyllis Osborn (at 8:25)

Others present:

Trustee Anne Marie Hickey
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director
Craig Himmelmann, Superintendent
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Following are the various subjects covered at this evening's Workshop Meeting.

Status Quo of Independent Park District Versus Other Options

President Kurfirst advised that when recently discussing with the Village of Western Springs the Park District's need for additional funding, the long term direction of the Park Board was brought up once again. Three scenarios are envisioned: (a) the Recreation Department being folded into the Park District; (b) the Park District becoming part of the Village; (c) the status quo. President Kurfirst suggested that this matter be further discussed by a meeting consisting of Village Manager Pat Higgins, two people from the Park Board (President Kurfirst and Commissioner Gresge), Village Treasurer Grace Turi, Trustee John Madell and one other Village Trustee. Matters to consider would be what would happen to tax revenue on the park side as well as the impact on the Recreation Department. President Kurfirst added that since this matter comes up every few years now might be as good a time as any to review the subject in detail.

Progress in Timber Trails

President Kurfirst advised that the plat for this subdivision has been filed and that our funding for this project should be available in January or February. Work in the subdivision is now underway in phase 1A and the Park District work is in phase 1B.

Improvements in Spring Rock Park

It was agreed that this project will require rebidding because the bids received were all well in excess of our proposed budget for the work.

Update on Second Burlington Railroad Underpass

The second pedestrian tunnel under the Burlington-Northern tracks is a subject which will be included in the Park Board's updated Master Plan. Trustee Hickey advised that while the Burlington Northern had determined the location of the recently finished first underpass, input from the Park Board will be sought in determining the location of the second underpass. Commissioners agreed that ideally it should connect Spring Rock Park, the Recreation Department, and the swimming pool. President Kurfirst added that the Park Board would like to be included in any discussions regarding the location of this underpass.

Improving the West End of Spring Rock Park

This is another of our Long Range Plan projects which the Board would like to see move forward. It was agreed that another field would enhance the area and would give the Park District additional and much needed field space. Commissioners have not ruled out a referendum to cover the cost of this project. Superintendent Himmelmann suggested that the Board seriously consider offering billboard space along the Tollway on the side of the berm, a subject on which he already has a file in his office.

Possible Improvements in Existing Parks

President Kurfirst suggested that we consider improving and making more usable some of the areas we are already using, such as correcting the soggy area in Sereda Park as well as a wet area in the middle of Forest Hills Park. These are improvements which could be made at a reasonable cost.

Sidewalks Adjacent to Parks

President Kurfirst advised that the Village has been discussing sidewalks adjacent to our parks, beginning with Laidlaw and Sereda, and the Park Board has questions about the need for them. He suggested that this be an agenda item for our next regular Park Board meeting and that we discuss some of the key issues, including safety, trees, sidewalk locations near playground equipment, and aesthetics. Trustee Hickey advised that the Village's Infrastructure Committee has recommended sidewalks throughout the Village

Long Range Plan Considerations

President Kurfirst then suggested that the following items be considered in our upcoming Long Range Plan:

- West End of Spring Rock Park
- Reforestation of Parks
- Bike Path
- Timber Trails
- Improvements at Sereda and Forest Hills Parks
- Referendum

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Park Board Workshop Meeting Was Adjourned at 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

