

**WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

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

**Commissioners present:**

Leonard Kurfirst  
Deborah Lyons  
John White  
Michael Kane  
Matthew Gresge  
Michael Bruck  
Phyllis Osborn at 8:30 P.M.

**Others present:**

Trustee Anne Marie Hickey  
Attorney Robert Ekroth  
Tracy Alden, Recreation Director  
Former Commissioner James Larsen  
Lisa Najarian, Laidlaw Park resident  
Denise Dowling, LL Park resident  
Betsy Pasquinelli, LL Park resident  
Superintendent Craig Himmelmann  
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

**Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2005 Park Board Meeting**

**MOTION:** Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by John White, that the minutes of the August 2, 2004, Park Board meeting be approved with two corrections, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

**MOTION:** John White moved, with a second by Michael Bruck, that the minutes of the August 23, 2005, Park Board Workshop 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**

**Update on Laidlaw Park Improvements**

President Kurfirst thanked Betsy Pasquinelli, who was in the audience, for the generous donation her family had made toward the Laidlaw Park improvements. He also thanked Lisa Najarian and Denise Dowling for their untiring efforts to oversee improvements in this park. He added that this project had moved forward beautifully from the thought process to completion and is a great example of how members of the community can come together and make a difference.

Lisa Najarian then passed out material for the Board's perusal, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. Her first request was for the Board's approval of a \$2,000.00 bid for landscaping, though the estimate submitted was for \$7,185.00. Mrs. Najarian indicated that she thought the bid could be "scaled down" She envisions evergreens in the area and added that soil and sod around the parkway will be donated. She is requesting this evening approval for an expenditure of \$2,000.00.

Mrs. Najarian's second request was for 245 feet of sidewalk on the west side of Forest Avenue to complete the block from Chestnut to Maple. She indicated that the approximate cost for this would be \$6,500.00 to \$8,500.00 but that Bill Nelson of Public Works had indicated that the Village might contribute toward this item. Considerable discussion followed on this issue and it was agreed that many problems existed regarding this path such as the possible need for a retaining wall, potential damage to nearby trees, and the possible need for some ADA considerations because of the slope of the path. Mrs. Najarian advised that Bill Nelson "agrees with their endeavor" and that she just wanted us to approve the sidewalk "putting dollar amounts aside".

Trustee Hickey added, and President Kurfirst and the Board agreed, that Bill Nelson had indicated that the Village would only work with Mrs. Najarian on this issue if it had the "blessing of the Park District". President Kurfirst added that this was new information to us, we had never discussed a sidewalk versus landscaping, and that from our perspective was not a clear cut issue.. It was agreed that a decision on this matter could not be made this evening, that Bill Nelson would be contacted and more information obtained regarding financing and the route of the path, and the matter put on hold.

The Board approved the paper rendering of the plaque recognizing the Pasquinelli Family and the community donations which is to be installed in Laidlaw Park and also approved the plan for "thank you" letters to residents who made donations to this endeavor which will be published in the DOINGS newspaper. Mrs. Najarian and Commissioner Osborn will work together and agree on the material which will go to press.

### **Update on Long Range Plan**

Former Commissioner James Larsen attended the meeting to again discuss with Board members the updating of our Long Range Plan. He advised that he had worked on the Park Board's original Plan when it was written ten years ago but that Plan is now obsolete. He added that ten years ago we had listened to residents regarding material included therein, the Friends of the Park organization had been a result of our original efforts, Clark Park was a result of the original Plan, and that such a tool leads to long term financial management. He suggested that Board members start with focus group meetings in neighborhoods and then we also hold public input meetings before the full Board. He added that the larger the group of residents, the more information you obtain. Commissioners agreed that this subject would be added to the monthly agenda and that work would begin on it.

### **Resident Speaks Regarding Sereda Park.**

Paul May of 3954 Garden Avenue attended the meeting to express concern about proposed new playground equipment for Sereda Park having been put on hold. He observed that Sereda is a "great park", is used by hundreds of people weekly, but wondered why more funding had not been aimed in their direction. One of his suggestions was that when schools are close to parks the School District contribute funds to help support that park, though Sereda does not fall into this category. His primary concern was the fact that Sereda Park is heavily used but under funded. Mr. May also advised that parking on both sides of the street where the park is located is a

problem during heavy usage which President Kurfirst suggested he discuss with the Village's Traffic and Safety Commission.

President Kurfirst thanked Mr. May for attending our meeting, advised that limited financial resources were a constant problem for us, suggested that he might consider working with the Veterans of Foreign Wars as a fund raising start, and added that we would be happy to work with a fund raising group from the Sereda Park area to raise needed resources.

### **Trustee Hickey's Report**

Trustee Hickey advised as follows: (a) **Timber Trails:** Park Board funds due from this project should be received in approximately three months. She added that grading of the land and work on the detention area is now underway. (b) **Finances:** The Village is already working on their 2006 budget and the process is usually completed by the end of September. She suggested that Treasurer Gresge work through her on Park Board needs for 2006 as soon as possible.

### **Recreation Department Report**

Recreation Director Tracy Alden advised as follows: (a) **Fall Programs:** Summer programs are over and they are getting ready for fall and winter programs; (b) **Fall Brochure:** Give any new material to Tracy as soon as possible; (c) **Bocce Ball:** Countryside is working on a bocce ball program and Riverside already has one. However, he does not recommend that we pursue this since it could result in an alcohol problem.

### **Timber Trails Update**

President Kurfirst advised that the Village is moving ahead with their plan 1A for Timber Trails and that the Park Board should begin conferring with W-T Engineering regarding the plans for our park. He recommends that at the October Board meeting the Commissioners be prepared to discuss some of our issues, decide what we want to put in the park, and be ready in November for a public meeting with Village residents on their ideas for the new park.

### **Update on Western Springs Football Request to Exchange Fields with AYSO**

Commissioner Bruck advised that this matter has been finalized and the football players are using the lower area in Sereda Park for their games.

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

President Kurfirst advised that he has heard nothing from the Hilds and requested that this be kept on the agenda for the October Board meeting.

### **Update on Laidlaw Park Plaque**

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that a holder for a 10 x 12 plaque is in place in Laidlaw Park and that it has been approved by the Pasquinelli family.

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that the Board approved the installation of a “Thank You” plaque in Laidlaw Park to the community and the Pasquinelli family for their generous donation toward updating the park, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

### **Update on Spring Rock Park Pavilion Project**

The Bid Proposal will be in this coming Saturday’s Suburban Life, which bids will be presented to the Board at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Park Board meeting.

### **Update on Western Springs Little League Batting Cage Proposal**

Commissionr Bruck advised that Little League has requested permission to install a new batting cage in Spring Rock Park which will replace the existing unit. The approximate cost of \$19,000.00 will be covered by Little League and the unit will become the property of the Park District.

MOTION: Michael Kane moved, with a second by Matthew Gresge, that the Park Board approve the request of Western Springs Little League to install a new batting cage in Spring Rock Park, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

President Kurfirst added that the Park Board thanked Little League most sincerely for their generous donation to Spring Rock Park.

### **Proposal from W-T Civil Engineering Regarding Site Improvements for Spring Rock Park**

Commissioner White advised that he has received from W-T Civil Engineering a revised proposal for the initial costs related to the development of the Spring Rock Park West End Multi-Purpose Field. Phase One of the proposal includes the Site Plan, Storm Water Management Analysis, Soils Report and Photometrics at a total cost of \$15,050.00. It was agreed that the first step is to determine whether or not another field is a practical possibility in that area. Commissioner White suggested that we begin this process with the \$6,000.00 soil report and advise W-T Eng. that should this report be negative we do not have to go forward with the remaining \$9,000.00 cost of Phase One.

Commissioner Gresge requested that the cost of work done in Phase One be paid half in 2005 and half in early 2006, which Commissioner White agreed to check with W-T Engineering.

MOTION: Matthew Gresge moved, with a second by Michael Bruck, to go forward with the Phase One proposal from W-T Engineering with the provision that we split the expense one-half in 2005 and one half in 2006, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

## **Safety**

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that one of his employees had suffered a bee sting which had incurred some cost and that the father of a child who had locked himself in the tennis shed had damaged the shed door as he removed his son, both of which items are detailed in the Superintendent's Report, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes..

## **Consideration of Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Park District and the Village of Western Springs Regarding the Timber Trails Special Assessment – Ordinance 2505-3**

Attorney Ekroth has prepared Ordinance 2505-3 – An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the Village of Western Springs and the Western Springs Park District Related to the Timber Trails Special Assessment District, a copy of which is attached hereto and becomes as part of these minutes.

**MOTION:** Michael Kane moved, with a second by Deborah Lyons, that Ordinance 2505-3, An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the Village of Western Springs and the Western Springs Park District Related to the Timber Trails Special Assessment District, be approved, which motion was approved by all on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Kurfirst, Lyons, White, Gresge, Kane, Osborn, Bruck. Voting nay: None. Motion approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**MOTION:** Michael Kane moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that the July 31, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$76,351.85 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$279,791.31, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

**MOTION:** Michael Kane moved, with a second by Phyllis Osborn, that the August 31, 2005, Financial Report be approved as prepared and that checks written in the amount of \$45,200.22 be approved for an ending cash balance of \$246,777.63, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

## **Suiperintendent's Report**

The Superintendent's Report is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes. The Superintendent did add that at Northeast Park someone had painted a circle on the new tennis court which can be removed but at a cost of \$375.00. President Kurfirst suggested that the damage be repaired.

## **Commissioners Reports**

**MICHAEL KANE: Tree Trimming Proposal:** He suggested that we move forward with our tree trimming plan and accept the proposal received from Nick Johnson.

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Michael Bruck, that the Board accept the \$7,200.00 bid received from Nelson Johnson to trim 70 green-dotted trees in all but Spring Rock Park, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary