

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
536 EAST AVENUE, LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS**

JANUARY 25, 2010

President Kelpas called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Ashby*, Kelpas, Walsh

ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman, Recreation Supervisor Andrea DeFrancesco

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Rob Bush, Kevin Shields, Jim Boo, Joe Sonopoli from the Suburban Life, Joan Johnson, Joe LaRocco, Thom Rae, and a few other residents

* Commissioner Ashby arrived at 7:49 P.M.

President Kelpas welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for changes to the agenda.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/ Participation

President Kelpas read a letter of resignation from Commissioner Metzger dated January 21, 2010. A copy of the letter is attached. President Kelpas stated Commissioner Metzger advocated the right thing and added a great voice and direction to the Board. He will be missed.

Laura Gallagher introduced Andrea DeFrancesco our new Recreation Supervisor. Andrea spoke about her background and how happy she is to be working here.

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Consent Agenda

Commissioner Penicook stated her arrival time in the December 17, 2009 Regular Board Minutes should be changed to 7:33 P.M.

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve as amended Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 17, 2009; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 19, 2009 and December 17, 2009; Item 3.3 Acceptance of the Financial Report dated December 31, 2009; Item 3.5 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 21, 2010. Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Kelsas, Ashby
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

Staff Reports

None

Attorney Report

None

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

None

*Commissioner Ashby arrived at 7:49 P.M.

Board Business

Review of Board Policy Section #126 Naming of Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities

After discussion of the proposed policy, Commissioner Walsh motioned to replace our existing Board Policy Section #126 Naming of Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities with the amended policy proposed. Commissioner Penicook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Kelsas, Penicook, Ashby, Walsh
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

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Review of PDLG Rental, Sponsorships and Donations

Board consensus was to use the new policy Section #126 approved above for room sponsorships. President Kelsas asked staff to research license, guidance and fees for sponsorships.

Public Commissioner Communication

President Kelsas stated he would like periodic letters from the Board to the public. The Board discussed mailing a newsletter, putting it on the website, or inserting a letter in our brochure. Director Bissias stated this should be discussed with staff at the next MBO meeting.

The Board discussed the nomination procedure for Commissioner Metzger's vacated Board position. A statement of interest and qualifications or a resume would be due by March 1, 2010. Of those applicants, the Board would choose 6 to interview to find a candidate. This information would be posted on our website, in our email blasts, and in the newspaper.

Counter-Offer Expiration Date

President Kelsas stated the Park District of La Grange has tendered two counterproposals for the Gordon Park lawsuit. This item would be discussed in Executive Session and any action item would be voted on after Executive Session.

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

Marketing Committee

Commissioner Penicook stated the committee met a few times since the last Board meeting to discuss long term planning and assessing the present marketing strategies. She was pleased that this committee was mainly staff driven. Staff was working on the next brochure and Family Fest. Director Bissias stated if enough money was raised through sponsorships, there would be fireworks.

Finance and Capital Projects Committee

None

Recreation Committee

Commissioner Ashby stated his committee is in the process of developing a survey for feedback from users of recreation programs. They are hoping to use the survey for developing programs that are more useful and valuable to the community.

Board Member Comments

Commissioner Walsh stated he was sorry to see Commissioner Metzger leave the Park District Board. He stated Commissioner Metzger was easy to work with, calm, analytical, not cold and truly concerned about the Park District and his neighbors. He noted that Commissioner Metzger made sacrifices for the betterment of the community.

Commissioner Penicook agreed with Commissioner Walsh.

Commissioner Ashby agreed with Commissioner Walsh and added he enjoyed working with Commissioner Metzger.

President Kelsas thanked Andrea for her introduction and welcomed her as a new member of the Park District staff. He thanked the audience in attendance for showing interest in the Park District. He stated he would miss Commissioner Metzger's stable voice and told everyone to thank him for his great service to the Park District whenever you see him around town.

Executive Session

At 8:30 P.M. Commissioner Walsh motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 11.1 Potential Claims and/or Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11; Item 11.2 Acquisition, Lease and/or Disposition of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5&6); 11.4 Review of Closed Executive Minutes. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Kelsas, Ashby, Penicook, Walsh
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

The Board Meeting resumed at 10:20 P.M.

Commissioner Penicook motioned to keep closed the Executive Minutes currently closed. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Kelsas, Ashby, Penicook, Walsh
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

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Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve the license agreement with IPRA as amended. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Kelpsas, Ashby, Penicook, Walsh
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Metzger

Adjournment

Commissioner Walsh moved for adjournment at 10:22 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ashby and carried.


Constantine Bissias, Secretary


Tim Kelpsas, President

Approved 02/18/2010

January 21, 2010

Park District of LaGrange
536 East Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

To: The Members of the Board of Commissioners

The purpose of this letter is to formally communicate my resignation from the Park District of La Grange Board. While I will be happy to remain a Commissioner until a suitable replacement is found, I am hopeful this can be accomplished in a month or two.

I've really enjoyed being on the Board for the last eight years. I think we've accomplished a lot and have greatly improved the recreational opportunities for the citizens of La Grange. While I am proud of what we accomplished, I am equally disappointed that we have been unsuccessful in completing the redesign of Gordon Park, which I believe is the greatest need that the District currently has. I am hopeful that my replacement can pick up where I left off and continue the efforts that will be required to see this milestone through to its proper conclusion.

I'd like to thank all of my fellow Commissioners for your collective camaraderie and support during my tenure. With few exceptions, I found the group to be focused on the greater good of the residents of La Grange and not on the wishes of special interests. In addition, I have a lot of respect for the tireless effort and determination put forth by you all - the work has been tough and the demands have been significant. This job requires a lot of dedication and perseverance, and with the significant demands that I currently have within my professional and family life, I simply do not have the required bandwidth to be a productive member of the Board.

I wish you all well and I look forward to remaining an active supporter and advocate of the Park District.

Best regards,

Rob Metzger

Cc: Secretary of the Park District of La Grange Board of Commissioners