

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Community Park District of La Grange Park  
August 10, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

President Boyd called the meeting to order in room 101 of the Recreation Center, 1501 Barnsdale Road, La Grange Park, IL at 6:31 p.m. Other Commissioners present were Bob Corte, Jeff Kilrea, Tim Ogden, and Lucy Stastny. Also present was Executive Director Aleks Briedis, Office Manager Peggy Ronovsky, Recreation Supervisor Darla Goudeau, and Financial Coordinator Phil Mesi.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PARK DISTRICT MISSION

President Boyd recited as follows: The Community Park District of La Grange Park shall offer high quality, affordable and accessible park and recreation facilities, programs and services in a financially responsible manner.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There are none.

5. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Stastny made a motion; seconded by Commissioner Corte to approve the July 13, 2015 regular meeting minutes as revised. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Kilrea made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ogden to approve the July 13, 2015 executive meeting minutes as submitted. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tim Albores, Brian Anderson, Jeff Kevorkian, Mary Kevorkian, Jason Sisk, Don August, Gert August and Bob Lautner all from La Grange Park were in attendance. Also in attendance was Jamie Wilkey from Lauterbach & Amen.

Tim Albores spoke on behalf of the residents in attendance, along with other residents regarding the removal of drinking fountains in the parks of La Grange Park. Prior to the meeting, he submitted a couple of articles for the Board's review. In his presentation, he focused on the following points:

- 1.) There are multiple activities that go on in the parks and the participants relied on the fountains to quench their thirst.

- 2.) Related to the articles submitted prior to the meeting, youth obesity can be prevented by keeping the fountains in the parks because water is more accessible. If there is no access to water, children will rely on sugar drinks.
- 3.) Adult runners rely on the fountains in the parks to stay hydrated while exercising. By knowing the fountains are in the parks, it is a strong motivator to maintain a healthy lifestyle and maintain their health.
- 4.) Parks are a place of gathering for families and communities and water fountains in parks should be accessible.
- 5.) 2010 Forbes wrote the article that we are in the 20 best communities to live in. By taking the fountains out, the residents will eventually feel it and change the value of the community.

Brian Anderson expressed concern that by taking away the drinking fountains in all of the parks, it will increase the littering of water bottles. A resident asked the Board if removal of the fountains was strictly financial. President Boyd answered yes. The Board explained that the fountains were constantly being vandalized and it started to get difficult to find the parts to fix the fountains. The maintenance department was constantly fixing fountains a few times a week. The cost of maintaining the fountains had become a large expense. Bob Lautner confirmed the statements the Board made as he was on the Board a few years ago. He stated that it might be time to investigate if there is new technology that is available that is more vandal proof. Director Briedis stated that checking with our architect, the cost to install a basic drinking fountain is \$7000. The Board asked the visitors that if there is availability in the budget, would they be ok with us installing fountains at only a couple of the parks. The group agreed, but made a suggestion to put fountains at parks on opposite ends of town. President Boyd commented that there is a very good chance that there will be a property tax freeze for the next two years, which will limit the amount of funds available. The Board recommended Director Briedis to do research on what other communities do in regards to drinking fountains.

Commissioner Corte made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Kilrea to research on the total cost of purchasing and installing fountains, working with Maintenance Department on the cost of maintaining them, and contacting other communities regarding fountains in the parks. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Jamie Wilkey from Lauterbach & Amen presented the 2015 financial report. She emphasized how smooth the process went this year. As it was a smooth process, there were neither recommendations nor new management notes. President Boyd thanked Director Briedis and staff for their hard work this year preparing the information for the audit and making it a smooth process.

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

### A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A written report provided prior to the meeting was introduced by Executive Director Aleks Briedis. He reminded everyone that the last concert of the summer is Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. This concert will also serve as the volunteer appreciation event. Volunteers will be given a ticket to present to the vendors for a free meal. The park district is providing the beverages for the evening. The Board asked Director Briedis if he needs to go in front of the Village Zoning Board in regards to the temporary shed at Robinhood Park. He informed the Board that he needs to speak to the Village Board and not zoning. He is going to request to keep the permit until September 2016. He explained how a VOIP system works and that he is looking into costs of such a system. There is no update on the Forest Road bike trail. He informed the Board that the meeting with the railroad went well and that we are waiting for the tax certificate.

**B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

A written report provided prior to the meeting by Maintenance Supervisor, Martin Healy was introduced by Executive Director Briedis. There were no questions or comments.

**C. SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION**

A written report provided prior to the meeting by Superintendent of Recreation Dean Carrara was introduced by Executive Director Briedis. Director Briedis added they are looking into starting a Pickle Ball league at Park Jr High for the fall/winter session.

**D. RECREATION SUPERVISOR**

A written report provided prior to the meeting by Recreation Supervisor Darla Goudeau. She informed the Board currently there are 161 students enrolled for Ready Teddy this fall compared to the 154 that were enrolled last August. Out of the 161 students, 70 are non residents. She also did research on the previous years of fundraising and said no matter what the enrollment was, the fundraising profit is always the same, which is around \$5,000. In 2011 we had the highest enrollment of 189. Recreation Supervisor Goudeau said she will have the rental analysis ready for next month's meeting. She also noticed other communities are charging a different rate for rentals after 9:00 p.m., which she will also do some more research on and get back to the Board.

**E. MARKETING SUPERVISOR**

A written report provided prior to the meeting by Marketing Supervisor Dave Romito was introduced by Executive Director Briedis. There were no questions or comments.

**F. OFFICE MANAGER**

A written report provided prior to the meeting was introduced by Office Manager Peggy Ronovsky. There were no questions or comments.

**G. SAFETY COORDINATOR**

A written report provided prior to the meeting by Safety Coordinator Megan Jadron was introduced by Executive Director Aleks Briedis. The Park District received a 98.5% from PDRMA for the Recreation Section.

#### H. FINANCIAL COORDINATOR

Financial statements provide prior to the meeting for the month ending June 30, 2015 was introduced by Financial Consultant Phil Mesi. Commissioner Stastny briefly asked questions about the vehicle repair costs regarding last month as she was not in attendance.

#### 8. APPROVE MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Ogden; seconded by Commissioner Kilrea to approve the monthly disbursements in the amount of \$119,218.71. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

#### 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. APPROVE 2015 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This item was discussed during Recognition of Visitors.

Commissioner Stastny made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Ogden to approve the 2015 Financial Statement provided by Lauterbach & Amen. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

##### B. UPDATE ON MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT

There are no updates at this time. Director Briedis informed the Board that nothing is coming from the State. He will be in contact with the architect to see when it will be appropriate to put the project on hold before the winter.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

As the committee has been disbanded, this position has been created. Director Briedis brought the job description to the Board for review. This position is for a two year term and will report to the Executive Director. As this is a volunteer position, it can be appointed at this time. However, Board recommendation to advertise in the proper media channels and see what the interest is. Applicants will submit a letter on why they should hold this position. Letters will be due a week before the Board meeting. If there are several interested candidates, they may be requested to attend the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Kilrea made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Ogden to accept the job description as amended. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Stastny made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Corte to direct Executive Director Briedis to search for candidates for this position through any means appropriate. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Director Briedis gave a brief overview of the proposal. Director Briedis included the PDRMA fact sheet in the board packet and why they recommend the study. President Boyd stated that she will be abstaining from the vote since her husband does business with some of the firms that bid.

Commissioner Stastny made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Kilrea to approve the bid from K Plus for the amount not to exceed \$1,700. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. President Boyd abstained.

C. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF USING SSCI FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS

Director Briedis explained to the Board that he used this company when he worked in Colorado. This program is a lot easier to use and gives a deeper background check than Illinois State Police. This program does cost a little more, but the benefit outweighs the cost.

Commissioner Kilrea made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Ogden to approve the Park District to use SSCI for background checks. MOTION CARRIED. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

11. OPEN FORUM

A. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

B. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners thanked Director Briedis and staff for their work on the audit.

C. COMMENTS FROM PRESIDENT

President Boyd encouraged the board members to attend the last concert of the summer, which will be a nice end of summer festivity. She also thanked everyone for their hard work put into this month's meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kilrea; seconded by Commissioner Corte to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:57 p.m. There was no further discussion and motion passed unanimously by voice vote.