

**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**

MAY 13, 2009

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Kelsas, Walsh,
Ashby, Metzger

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Attorney Rob
Bush, Superintendent of Finance Leynette
Kuniej, Superintendent of Recreation Laura
Gallagher, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Braun, Thom Rae, Kevin Shields, Board
Treasurer Steve Paczolt, Brad Belcaster, Jim
Delaney, Jean & David O'Brien, Lisa Sher, Liz
Asperger

President Kelsas called the special meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

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

Communications

Thom Rae from everythinglagrange.com stated there was an article in the Doings regarding a La Grange Police Department investigation on a sexual assault that occurred at the Recreation Center. President Kelsas stated the Park District of La Grange is cooperating with the police.

Jean O'Brien, 701 11th Ave, brought in pictures as evidence of the brightness of the ballpark lights in her home. Director Bissias stated Little League and Musco had been contacted to correct the problem.

James Delaney, 730 11th Ave., stated many times the lights were on and no one was playing. President Kelsas stated the control of the lights would be discussed in Board Business.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – MAY 13, 2009

Jean O'Brien stated there is some garbage and more noise at the park, but generally Little League is a good neighbor.

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher stated over \$8,100 has been raised for Family Fest to date. If our \$10,000 goal is reached, there may be a fireworks display at Family Fest on July 31, 2009 at Sedgwick Park.

Attorney Report

None

Action Items

Approval of Ordinance 09-01 the Combined Annual Budget for the Park District of La Grange

Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve Ordinance 09-01 the Combined Annual Budget for the Park District of La Grange.

Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Kelpsas, Ashby, Walsh, Penicook, Metzger

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Board Business

Little League Ball Field Lights

Tom Cushing, President of La Grange Little League, displayed pictures of our flooded Gordon Park. He stated Little League has about 900 children on 70 teams playing on all fields. The Park District of La Grange is working very hard to make Gordon Park playable however many games are cancelled. He asked to cut fields at Waiola Park as Little League did for Gilbert Park. He stated it would be done for no cost with Little League volunteers and the maintenance department. Tom Cushing also asked for their agreement with the Park District regarding no evening games during the week until June 1 be modified this year to make up some rain out games. Tom stated the lights are controlled on a website by Little League as well as key manually. Neighbors can call someone from Little League if lights are on unnecessarily.

Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve extra night games at Sedgwick Park until Thursday May 21. If lighting is corrected, then automatic extension will be given until the end of the month. If not corrected, this request will be revisited. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – MAY 13, 2009

Discussion with Staff on Items Related to Gordon Park

Jeffrey Braun of Cody, Braun and Associates, reviewed and discussed options in the 3 drawings for the redevelopment of Gordon Park. The Board discussed funding and an estimated budget for the project. Staff recommended \$3.37 million budget with the project completed in phases. Commissioner Metzger stated he would recommend putting \$500,000 in reserves and make a list of staff priorities. He also stated \$450,000 has been spent unnecessarily for legal expenses. This money could have been used for other amenities in the project.

Commissioner Penicook motioned to extend the meeting past 10:00 P.M. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Director Bissias reminded the Board of the grant money applied for. He stated he would review the 13-year capital and operating summary and discuss this with the Board. Village President, Liz Asperger stated a pedestrian overpass would be an attractive opportunity for Gordon Park. She understood the Village would construct the bridge and the grading paid for by the Park District or Atlantic Realty Partners. President Kelpsas stated the Park District would send a formal request to the Village for any supplemental funds to help with the project.

Board Comments

Commissioner Penicook stated her walks through Sedgwick Park found the fields in nice shape, the soccer fields littered with garbage, and the volleyball area littered with socks.

Commissioner Metzger stated Gilbert Park looks good after renovations by Little League. He stated Tom Cushing is doing a fantastic job.

Commissioner Kelpsas thanked staff for pulling together information for the meeting.

Executive Session

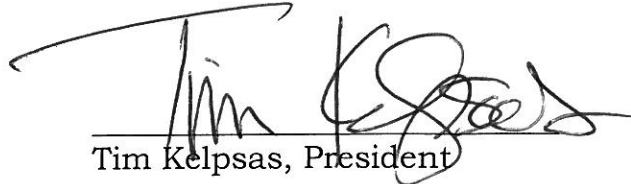
At 10:33 P.M. Commissioner Walsh moved that the Board go into Executive Session, pursuant to; *Potential Claims and/or Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11; Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)*. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a Roll Call Vote as follows:

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – MAY 13, 2009

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Walsh moved for adjournment at 11:15 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Penicook and carried.



Tim Kelsas, President



Constantine Bissias, Secretary

Approved 06/18/2009