

**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**

JULY 21, 2009

President Kelsas called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Kelsas, Penicook, Walsh, Ashby

ABSENT: Commissioners Metzger

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Orlando Coryell, Jim Boo

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

President Kelsas stated thanks and recognition was given from CEP to the Park District for our support for their Youth 5K Run and their Fitness Day and from the La Grange Library for allowing them to put a temporary computer station at one of our parks.

President Kelsas read the attached letter from Chief Holub of the La Grange Police regarding the alleged sexual assault, and their finding that there was no basis to believe an assault had occurred at the Park District.

Communications

Addresses from the Audience

Orlando Coryell, 115 S. Spring Ave., stated it was nice to hear the investigation on the assault was favorably resolved.

Director Bissias stated it was a difficult situation for the Park District of La Grange to keep quiet during the investigation. The Police Department has posted this report twice and no papers have picked up on it.

Written Correspondences

None

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Ashby motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 18, 2009; Item 3.2 Acceptance of the Treasurer Report dated June 30, 2009; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for July dated July 16, 2009. Commissioner Penicook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Kelpsas, Ashby

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Metzger,

Staff Reports

Director Bissias commended Laura Gallagher for the monetary donations she raised for Family Fest. He stated the fireworks were not costing the taxpayers a dime as they were paid for through donations. Director Bissias has met with La Grange Police and Fire Departments and has acquired a state and village license for the alcohol. He stated the Park District is going the extra mile to be safe.

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher updated the plans for Family Fest. There will be food vendors, raffles, inflatables, petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, DJ, Dueling Pianos, bags contest, bingo, White Sox batting cage, dunk tank and beer garden. Posters were delivered to downtown businesses and sponsors as well as signage on the corner of La Grange Road and Ogden Avenue for advertising. Laura stated the Doings newspaper is doing a trade agreement by giving us 2 ads for a \$500 sponsorship.

Director Bissias stated CEP would be notifying the Denning Park neighborhood regarding a meeting about their haunted house in the park.

Attorney Report

None

Action Items

Election of Officers (President)

Commissioner Penicook nominated Commissioner Kelpsas for President. Commissioner Kelpsas seconded the nomination. Commissioner Ashby nominated Commissioner Walsh for President. Commissioner Penicook seconded the nomination. Commissioner Kelpsas won the majority vote by paper ballot.

Election of Officers (Vice-President)

Commissioner Walsh nominated Commissioner Penicook for Vice President, she declined. Commissioner Walsh seconded the nomination. Commissioner Penicook nominated Commissioner Walsh for Vice President. Commissioner Ashby seconded the nomination. Commissioner Kelpsas nominated Commissioner Ashby for Vice President. Commissioner Walsh seconded the nomination. There was a split vote between Commissioners Walsh and Ashby. There was a revote and Commissioner Ashby won the majority vote by paper ballot for Vice President.

Appointment of Legal Counsel

Commissioner Penicook motioned to table the appointment of Legal Counsel until after Executive Session or next month. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Discussion and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Park Patrons Around La Grange

Commissioner Walsh stated Park Patrons Around La Grange was originally created as a not for profit 501c3 foundation to support open space and park related items around La Grange. He stated the report received from Park Pals was incomplete. No other progress has been made because there has not been a response from the officers despite numerous requests over the last several months. Residents have contributed around \$8,000 to Park Pals but Park Pals has only distributed \$100 of those contributions over a five-year time frame. Commissioner Walsh motioned for Dean Bissias to resign from the Park Pals Board, as his time is not used effectively on their board. Commissioner Penicook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Walsh motioned to withdraw the Memorandum of Understanding with Park Patrons Around La Grange and asked Director Bissias not to spend more than \$500 to legally sever ties with Park Pals. Commissioner Penicook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and Approval of Transparency Policy Section 728 “District Publications”

Commissioner Walsh recommended the board review his new memo regarding the transparency policy and then translate with attorneys. Commissioner Walsh motioned to table this item until next month. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Board Business

MBO’s for 2009-2010 for Possible Reconsideration

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Walsh stated this committee's work on the transparency policy was previously discussed. President Kelsas reminded Commissioner Walsh the revisions to the Board Policy Manual should be reviewed with Director Bissias.

Marketing Committee

Commissioner Penicook stated this committee is working on promoting Family Fest. Laura Gallagher stated there would be a Park District booth at Family Fest to distribute brochures, raffle, and update email information. Director Bissias stated they are also working on a collage of old pictures and articles to be hung in the Rec Center.

Finance and Capital Projects Committee

Director Bissias stated he is working on the capital budget and it would be ready for review at the August or September meeting.

Recreation Committee

None

President Kelsas stated Committee Assignments would be voted on next month.

Board Member Comments

Commissioner Penicook thanked staff for making an extra effort for the St. Francis Church Picnic at Denning Park.

Commissioner Ashby stated the plans for Family Fest look great so far. He thanked Commissioner Walsh for his proposal on transparency. He heard positive reports from the 4th of July fireworks viewing at Waiola Park. Commissioner Ashby was impressed with the CEP 5k Run.

Commissioner Kelsas stated he would like to gather more information regarding national recreation events and promote them in our community. He suggested a National Day of Play and promote outside play.

Executive Session

At 8:42 P.M. Commissioner Walsh motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 10.1 Potential Claims and/or Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11; Item 10.2 Acquisition, Lease and/or Disposition of Real Property,

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

304 WEST BURLINGTON
LA GRANGE, IL 60525

MICHAEL A. HOLUB
Chief of Police

Phone: 708-579-2333
Fax: 708-579-1085

July 14, 2009

Dean Bissias, Executive Director
Park District of La Grange
536 East Avenue
La Grange, Illinois 60525

Dear Mr. Bissias,

As you know, the La Grange Police Department was contacted in May of this year to investigate a possible assault that occurred sometime in 2008. The parent of a 3-year-old reported that her daughter was sexually assaulted sometime between January and May of 2008, when the child was 2-years-old. At that time the mother suspected a Park District employee and apparently this was for no other reason than the fact that her daughter had attended the Afternoon Errands Program.

Upon learning of this claim, we immediately contacted the Department of Children and Family Services. Subsequently a "*victim sensitive interview*" was conducted at the Southwest Children's Advocacy Center. Our efforts were very thorough and methodical and the investigation even required us to examine Park District records through the subpoena process. We conducted interviews with several past and present employees of the Park District and received their complete cooperation during that process. We also assured that a sexual assault exam was conducted.

At the conclusion of the investigation, we were not able to obtain any evidence that positively identified an offender. We certainly do not doubt the claim of the young victim, and we do believe that something of an unacceptable nature likely did occur in 2008. But we cannot identify an offender nor the location of where this might have occurred. In other words, there is nothing to indicate that any such activity occurred on Park District premises, or that any Park District employee was even involved. We have informed the Department of Children and Family Services of the conclusion of the investigation by the La Grange Police Department and at this point, no further inquiries are likely.

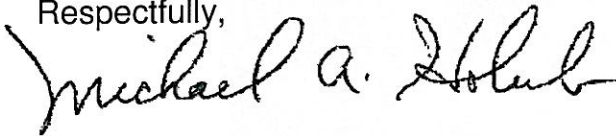
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Dean Bissias, Executive Director
July 14, 2009
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Via this letter, I would like to officially inform you of the conclusion of the investigation. I would also like to acknowledge and thank you personally, Dean, for your openness, cooperation and willingness to aid us during this process. This was a case in which we went to great lengths to ensure that a proper and thorough investigation would be conducted. Without the fine support of you and the Park District staff, the effort would have been hindered. Please accept my gratitude and please pass along our appreciation to the members of your staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Holub". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "H".

Michael A. Holub
Chief of Police

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - JULY 21, 2009

5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1); Item 10.3 Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). Commissioner Penicook seconded the motion, which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

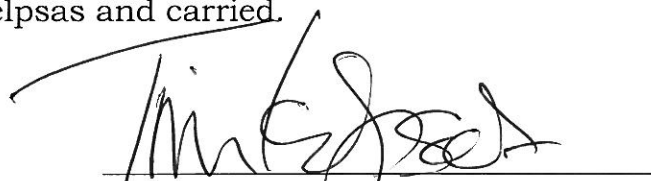
AYES:	Commissioners Kelsas, Penicook, Ashby, Walsh
NAYES:	None
ABSENT:	Commissioner Metzger

The Special Meeting resumed at 10:10 P.M.

Adjournment

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


Constantine Bissias, Secretary


Tim Kelsas, President

Approved 09/17/2009