

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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**

APRIL 14, 2011

President Penicook called the meeting to order at 7:43 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Belcaster, Kelpsas, Ashby

ABSENT: Commissioner Walsh

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Beth Brace, David Wilkinson, Thom Rae from lagrangetoday.com, Ken Manson from patch.com

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

Director Bissias changed the agenda to add an additional Public Comment under Item 9.6.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/ Participation

None

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Belcaster motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of Amended Minutes from the September 20, 2010 Board Meeting as Recommended by the Attorney General's Office; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of March 14, 2011; Item 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of Executive Board Session of March 14, 2011; Item 3.4 Approval of the Minutes from Board-Staff Workshop of March 14, 2011 and April 4, 2011; Item 3.5 Approval of the Financial Report dated March 31, 2011; Item 3.6 Approval of the Consolidated

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Vouchers for April dated April 14, 2011. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Belcaster, Kelpsas, Ashby
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Walsh

Staff Reports

Director Bissias made note of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting presented to the Park District of La Grange by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated this certificate is not required but expected from a quality agency. The Park District of La Grange has been awarded this certificate for 15 years.

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher stated that due to inclement weather, the Easter egg hunts would take place indoors at the Rec Center. Information would be put in an email blast, on the website, signage at Denning Park and at the train station. All participants registered for the Flashlight Hunt would be contacted.

Laura Gallagher also stated she attended the District 105 Health & Wellness Fair and the LGBA meeting on social media.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated indoor and outdoor rentals were flourishing. He and Katie created a pamphlet for using the Park District of La Grange as a destination for field trips. It was mailed out to many Park Districts.

Director Bissias stated the La Grange Highlands School service day cleaning Denning Park was a success.

Commissioner Kelpsas stated the Indian Guides are scheduled to clean up Sedgwick Park on Saturday April 23, 2011.

President Penicook stated the boy scouts volunteered their services at our Halloween Party.

Attorney Report

Attorney Rock stated Orlando Coryell has filed a motion to hear his case again as well as motion to consolidate cases for appeal. We are waiting for the judge's answer.

Commissioner Kelpsas asked for all Gordon Park legal fees to be tracked. Director Bissias stated he would add it to the Board Report.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 11-01 General Operations Budget for 2011-2012

Commissioner Belcaster motioned to approve Ordinance 11-01 General Operations Budget for 2011-2012. Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Auditors for Fiscal Years 2011, 2012, and 2013

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated four certified public accounting firms submitted bids for the next three years. She checked references and spoke with representatives from each firm and recommended a change for a new perspective. Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve staff recommendation for Lauterback & Amen, LLP in the amount not to exceed \$33,225.00 total for 3 years subject to \$2,000.00 per grant when required. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

New Business

Discussion and Possible Approval of Community Garden Program and Possible Sites (Elm and Denning Parks)

Director Bissias stated Beth Brace came to him with the idea for the La Grange Community Gardens. After he and Commissioner Belcaster studied all parks, Director Bissias would like to grant permission for the first plot at Elm Park. Beth Brace, 100 N. Peck La Grange, stated the community gardens are 4x8 raised plots that are paid for yearly and used as a service for growing food with the excess crops donated to local food pantries. After Board discussion, Commissioner Ashby motioned to pursue setting up the Community Garden Program at a location other than Elm Park with Beth Brace to head it up. Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion, which passed by Voice Vote.

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Discussion of Gilbert Avenue/ Willow Springs Road Traffic Study

Director Bissias reviewed the traffic study with the Board. President Penicook stated the report had useful information necessary for Denning Park renovations. She reiterated board consensus that no more funds would be committed to this study.

Old Business

Discussion and/or Approval of PDLG Goals for 2011-2012

Commissioner Belcaster requested removing the word “the” before benefits in Goal #3. The Board agreed. Commissioner Belcaster motioned to approve the PDLG Goals for 2011-2012 as amended. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Discussion and/or Approval of MBO Process Template 2011-2012

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the MBO process template described in pages 3-8 of the draft document. Commissioner Belcaster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Kelsas identified items to put in a press release last week and this week.

Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee

Commissioner Ashby stated there would be a capital budget meeting in May with Board approval in June.

Recreation Committee

None

Park and Facility Committee

Commissioner Belcaster stated after thorough discussions to find a location for the Community Gardens, he felt Elm Park was the only choice.

Public Comment

David Wilkinson, 600 S. Waiola La Grange, questioned the timeline and priorities for major park improvements. Commissioner Belcaster explained when the 10 year Comprehensive Plan is adopted, any major renovations would be contingent to funding. He stated the implementation has a process that includes community meetings and involvement. President Penicook explained the MBO's are a process of priorities on a year by year basis.

Board Member Comments

Commissioner Ashby thanked staff and the Board for their time to complete the processes for the budget. He thanked Commissioner Belcaster for his service. He commented that the document from the Illinois State's Attorney office took up staff time. He stated the Board is all volunteers trying to do the right thing and getting more confrontational relationships than necessary.

Commissioner Kelpsas thanked Director Bissias and staff for all their work on the budget and creating the MBO Template Process. He thanked Superintendent Leynette Kuniej and staff for achieving the Excellence Award. He noted legal fees continue to be incurred with foia requests. He was glad to hear about the Park District representation at the volunteer expo at Lyons Township High School and our interest in a Community Garden. Commissioner Kelpsas spoke of an active foundation for the Park District where monies given to the Park District would be tax deductible. He thanked David Wilkinson for his attendance at the few meetings and his conversations.

Commissioner Belcaster stated it was a pleasure to work with everyone and was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

President Penicook stated she appreciates the detailed staff reports. She stated staff is doing an excellent job being creative and building revenue. She noted she has received positive feedback from the public and hoped staff keeps up the good work. President Penicook wished Director Bissias a happy birthday. She thanked Commissioner Belcaster for his time and commitment and looking forward to welcoming Lynn Lacey on the Board.

President Penicook added she did not anticipate any vote after Executive Session.

Executive Session

At 9:30 P.M. Commissioner Belcaster motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 11.2 Acquisition, Lease and/or Disposition of Real Property, 5 ILCS120/2 (c)(5&6). Commissioner Kelpsas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

The Regular Board Meeting resumed at 10:09 P.M.

Adjournment

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


Mary Ellen Penicook, President


Constantine Bissias, Secretary

Approved 05/09/2011