

**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**

JULY 11, 2011

President Penicook called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh**, Kelpsas, Ashby*, Lacey

ABSENT: None

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 Rob Bush, Alex Keown from patch.com, Jeffrey Braun from Cody Braun & Assoc., Executive Director of Seaspar Susan Friend, Safety Coordinator Ken Novak, Jim Boo, Thom Rae, Terry & Paul Lubenkov

* Commissioner Ashby arrived at 7:36 P.M.

** Commissioner Walsh arrived at 8:26 P.M.

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

President Penicook stated the Patriots in the Park at Waiola Park was a nice event that was well attended. Unfortunately a young girl was clipped by a car when crossing 47th Street. We have been told the girl is doing fine. President Penicook stated if the event takes place in the future, the Park District in cooperation with the police and fire departments, would work together to move the people safely to and from the park.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/ Participation

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, commented on the Denning Park project. He asked for an engineering perspective on the project. He reminded the Board that he turned in a list of suggestions at the last meeting. He stated he would like the vegetable garden removed as it does not make sense near the street and school.

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Jim Boo suggested moving the 15 spaces on the dead end street to the center of the park for security reasons. He asked the Board to narrow the scope of work.

Susan Friend, Executive Director of SEASPAR Annual Presentation

Susan Friend, the Executive Director of SEASPAR, presented her annual report with the Believe/Achieve 2011 slide show highlighting their services for persons with disabilities. They are celebrating 35 years of service this year. She stated SEASPAR works with 11 park districts, special ed cooperatives, not for profit groups and other agencies. Their monies come from member contributions, program fees and fundraisers. Director Friend explained their budgeting as Commissioner Ashby stated the districts have no control or input for the SEASPAR budget. Director Friend thanked Director Bissias for serving on the Board and speaking for the Park District Board.

Ken Novak, SSRMG Risk Manager Annual Presentation

Ken Novak, Safety Coordinator for the South Suburban Risk Management, presented his annual report. He stated Director Bissias sits on the board with three other park districts: Lanoak, Lemont, and Hazelcrest. He complimented staff for their cooperation working to reach a 95% score. The administrative review has been completed. Next week is the park review. In August is the recreation review. Commissioner Lacey questioned why no speed bumps in the alley by Sawyer Park. Ken explained it is not the Park District's responsibility however we have a working relationship with the village when it comes to safety and repairs. Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher stated as safety coordinator, she value's Ken's expertise and direction.

Commissioner Walsh arrives at 8:26 P.M.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Kelpas motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 13, 2011; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Report dated June 30, 2011; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for July dated July 11, 2011. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Kelpas, Ashby, Lacey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Staff Reports

Discussion of Denning Park Grant Renovation Project Plans

Jeffrey Braun of Cody Braun and Associates stated no MWRD permit is required for the Denning Park project. He reviewed the Denning Park Renovation Project Plans and requested the Board make a decision on the basketball area. After discussion, the Board consensus was for a 2/3 basketball court. The basketball

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AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Kelsas, Ashby, Lacey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

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court and parking lot on 50th Street would be alternate bids. The Board discussed each area of the park in question from the residents' feedback; the additional parking area location should be near the new park usage; the playground is 25 years old and the new playground would meet the new guidelines; the landscaping plan of the swale should be reviewed before going to bid; the community garden should be kept on the plan as it makes sense with our mission statement and a decision would be made later to build it or not; adding a washroom in the park would be cost prohibitive, safety and vandalism was a concern and a permit would be needed; staff is contacting ComEd to bury the electrical wires at the park.

Staff Comments

MBO Update

Director Bissias handed out a revised copy of the updated MBO's.

President Penicook stated Family Fest is Friday July 29 and hoped all the Board members would help.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated he was working on the capital budget, the safety committee, Family Fest, the tile wall, repairs in the building, and walked the parks.

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher stated she has been busy with summer programs and camps and getting the fall brochure ready for print. She also has been working with sponsors for Family Fest. She stated the senior Hawaiian Social would be sponsored by Meadowbrook Manor with 32 participants signed up so far.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated her time has been spent doing HR for new employees. She received the preliminary draft from the auditors this week. She is working with Treasurer Steve Paczolt on a fund policy that will be ready next meeting.

President Penicook and Commissioner Lacey suggested a calendar for upcoming events for the Board. Director Bissias stated he would add it to the MBO reports.

Attorney Report

Attorney Rob Bush stated there was no change in the pending litigation of Gordon Park. We are still awaiting a decision from the appellate court. Commissioner Kelsas requested staff to track the Park District's continuing court costs since we won the case.

Treasurer Report

None

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Commissioner Lacey motioned for the meeting to extend past 10:00 P.M.
Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed by Voice Vote with
Commissioner Ashby and Kelsas abstaining.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Denning Park Grant Renovation Project Plans

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the Denning Park Grant Renovation
Project Plans as discussed in Item 4.1. Commissioner Ashby seconded the
motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Authorization for Staff to Go Out for Bids for the Denning Park Renovation Project

Commissioner Walsh motioned to authorize staff to go out for bids including
alternate bids as discussed for the Denning Park Renovation Project.
Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll
Call Vote as follows:

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

*Approval of Contract Addendum #1 with Cody Braun & Associates Regarding the
Denning Park Project*

Director Bissias explained in order to avoid the expense of redoing the whole
contract with Cody Braun & Associates, an addendum would be added for the
smaller project at Denning Park. Attorney Bush stated this has been reviewed.
Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the contract addendum #1 with
Cody Braun & Associates regarding the Denning Park Project as amended by
changing the Timber Trails name to Lyons Township and removing the
particulars. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed
unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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Board Business

New Business

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the officers as solely nominated as based on the bylaws of this Park District. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Old Business

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Kelsas stated his meeting today was cancelled due to the weather.

Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee

Commissioner Ashby is reviewing the Capital Budget and would have a presentation at the next meeting.

Recreation Committee

None

President Penicook asked the Board to email their committee requests to her by next week.

Public Comment

None

Board Member Comments

Commissioner Ashby thanked staff for their hard work. He stated he would be out of town for Family Fest but sounded like it would be great.

Commissioner Kelsas stated he loves seeing the Park District work well. He told his experiences with vandalism at Elm Park to suggest looking into IAPD's Eagle Eye program.

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Commissioner Lacey stated this was a good board meeting.

President Penicook thanked everyone for their cooperation and apologized for the long meeting. She felt the discussion of residents concerns regarding Denning Park was positive and useful and made her feel a job well done. She stated she is looking forward to Family Fest and would like to see everyone there.

Laura Gallagher stated Family Fest starts at 5:30 P.M. with volunteers arriving at 5:00 P.M.

Executive Session

At 10:18 P.M. Commissioner Kelsas motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.3 Setting the Price of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6) and Item 12.5 Review of Closed Executive Session Minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21). Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Kelsas, Ashby, Walsh


NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

The Regular Board Meeting resumed at 10:38 P.M.

Adjournment

Commissioner Walsh moved for adjournment at 10:38 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ashby and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.


Mary Ellen Penicook, President


Constantine Bissias, Secretary

Approved 08/08/2011