

**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**

FEBRUARY 13, 2012

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh and Lacey
Commissioner Ashby*

ABSENT: Commissioner Kelpsas

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias
Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej
Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn
Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher
Superintendent of B.A.S.E. Leanna Hartung
Acting Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Rob Bush, David Wilkinson, Jim Boo and
Gwen Young

* Commissioner Ashby attended remotely by telephone.

Commissioner Walsh motioned for Commissioner Ashby to attend the meeting remotely by telephone. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

President Penicook welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for changes to the agenda, of which there were none.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments\Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason, La Grange, stated that Denning Park is in his neighborhood and he wants to offer his services as the project is finishing up. He would like to offer his ideas and would be willing to talk to neighbors for their ideas. Mr. Boo also commented that the location of the basketball court is not his recommendation and the backboards should not be next to each other in the middle as installed. He'd like neighborhood input considered before project is complete to avoid problems later. He is not happy with the project engineering.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2012

President Penicook stated that there were several opportunities for public input in the past, and she would take Mr. Boo's comments under advisement.

Director Bissias asked Mr. Boo to email him directly with his concerns and suggestions for Denning Park.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 9, 2012; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Board Session of January 9, 2012; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Report dated January 31, 2012; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for February dated February 9, 2012; Approval of Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting of January 11, 2012; Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Need to Amend General Operation Budget for 2011-2012 Rescinded

Director Bissias stated that there is no need to amend the budget as brought to the Board last month. It was originally proposed to amend the budget to accommodate the revenue and expenses for the B.A.S.E. Program. However, using actual figures from the last month as opposed to projected numbers from the school district indicates there is room in the budget to account for the program without an amendment to the budget.

Denning Park Grant Renovation Project

Director Bissias stated that retaining rolls have been installed at Denning Park to hold back the dirt from spring rains. When the weather breaks the lights and the pour-and-play surface will be installed.

Gordon Park Master Plan

Director Bissias stated that the Board is to review the proposed revisions for the Gordon Park master plan and bring concerns and questions to next month's board meeting when Jeffrey Braun of Cody, Braun & Associates will be in attendance. He also commented that there is a possibility of an extension for the OSLAD Grant for Gordon Park and that grant rules require that all items included in the original park renovation plans submitted to OSLAD still be installed, but we have the flexibility to reduce our costs by scaling back our plans, reorganizing the park layout and installing less fill dirt. President

Penicook stated that this could allow the District to save money and accomplish its goals at Gordon Park.

Miscellaneous Items

None

Staff Comments

Superintendent of B.A.S.E. Leanna Hartung stated that the B.A.S.E. program has acclimated to Park District oversight and procedures. She thanked everyone for being so helpful. She commented that some of the B.A.S.E. staff was trained in the software program and that 10 new families have joined the program, while 2-3 families left the program. There was a kindergarten information night held on 2/2/12 and 22 new families have already signed up for next year. Leanna commented that 2 of the 4 open job positions for B.A.S.E. have been filled. She also sent out a survey to gauge interest in a possible summer camp program for children attending summer school.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated that he continues to be busy with work at the recreation center. While in-house basketball activity slowed down in February, gym time is still in high demand. He has been contacted by a member of an outside adult basketball program inquiring about the availability of gym space to rent for 9 months. Chris commented that he has also been working on the banquet room remodeling and that the lighting company has completed revisions at the recreation center where energy efficient T5 and T8 lighting was installed. He would like to see the other park district buildings converted to energy efficient lighting as well.

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher stated that they are busy gearing up for summer programs, including their computer entry. She has also been busy with the budget. She commented that the date for Family Fest has been changed to July 20th and that she has already received sponsorship commitments. Laura commended Recreation Supervisor Kevin Miller for the great job he did with the girls' basketball tournament last weekend.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated she continues to work with Superintendent of B.A.S.E. Leanna Hartung and Administrative Supervisor Linda Muth on the B.A.S.E. Program and that it is going well. She also stated that real estate taxes are due March 1st, so we should begin receiving tax revenues.

Attorney Report

Attorney Rob Bush stated we are in the second round of 90-day status reports for Gordon Park and that we are waiting for the court's decision for the motion to dismiss. There is nothing to do now except prepare and file status reports.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

None

Board Business

New Business

None

Old Business

Discussion and Possible Approval of Hiring of Joe M. Sirridge (which is required under Section #210 Nepotism of the Board Policy Manual)

Director Dean Bissias stated that staff is seeking board approval to offer employment to an individual for a part-time maintenance position. There is a memo in the board packet written by Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn explaining the process for evaluating the Community Support Services clients for a part-time maintenance staff position at the recreation center, as well as an assessment prepared by Community Support Services.

Chris explained that increased use of the recreation center has created a need for expanding maintenance staff. An employment ad was placed in the newspaper and online at monster.com. He would like to improve building cleanliness and prepare for increased banquet rentals. Extra staff during the day is needed as the day custodian is also busy with additional duties. Chris stated that he believes that it is a great idea to work with Community Support on this.

Director Bissias commented that we would like to hire two Community Support Services clients plus one to two additional employees. One of the clients is Board President Penicook's brother, therefore requiring Board approval under the park district's Nepotism Policy #210. Attorney Bush stated that staff is responsible for hiring and the only thing for the Board to consider is whether the best interest of the district will be served by waiving the nepotism policy, and from there Director Bissias can proceed as he sees fit. Commissioner Walsh stated that the Board shouldn't direct hiring and that the Board anticipates situations such as this.

Commissioner Lacey was pleased that the positions were adequately advertised and stated that this is similar to the hiring program at Jewel and something that the park district should be involved in.

Commissioner Walsh motioned that Item 8.1 be taken off the table (from a previous meeting) and Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which was

passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Commissioner Walsh moved to empower Director Bissias to make the decision on filling the two maintenance positions, waiving Board Policy #210 Nepotism. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Walsh stating that Community Support Services is a non-profit that serves people with developmental disabilities and that they approached the Park District regarding a possible collaboration. He commented that during previous discussions the Board was uneasy because President Penicook's brother was the only candidate considered, but since then three individuals have been considered, skill tested and observed, with Community Support Services rendering judgment that all three were suitable. One individual has since taken another job and he is satisfied that the remaining two are qualified. Since one is related to a board member the Board needs to vote to allow Director Bissias to make the hiring decision. The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

Public Relations Committee

None

Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee

None

Recreation Committee

Commissioner Lacey stated her committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

Public Comment

David Wilkinson, 600 S. Waiola Avenue, La Grange, stated that in regards to the collaboration with Community Support Services he is not sure the District should be in the business of charity and it is unfortunate the Board voted as it did tonight.

Gwendolyn Young, 106 East Avenue, La Grange, asked President Penicook if she felt there was a conflict in voting since her brother was one of the individuals considered and also asked why only five board members vote. President Penicook responded that the Board only consists of five board members and that she did not feel it was a conflict of interest to allow the matter to come to a vote before the Board.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason, La Grange, stated that in regards to Gordon Park, it was brought up at the last meeting that there was a sketch and that the minutes indicate it was discussed with the village, which thought it was good. Again, like Denning Park, the public needs to be made aware of this. He also commented that the engineering services were legal, but doesn't understand why it was not put out for bid. Attorney Rob Bush replied that statute governs that the procurement of architect and engineering services not be based on price and those services cannot be bid out by law. President Penicook stated that the original plan for Gordon Park went through years of public input and all we're doing now is trying to scale back the original plan due to legal fees reducing the budget. We cannot afford to implement new ideas; we are only fine tuning and are limited based on topography and drainage.

Board Comments

Commissioner Lacey thanked the Board for approving her attendance at the IPRA convention. She enjoyed it and learned a lot.

Commissioner Walsh commented on the public comments made regarding Community Support Services and the possible hiring of Joe Sirridge. He stated he is very sensitive to claims that his actions as a board member are not impartial and fair. He explained his thought process on the matter and why he does not see a conflict of interest; also that no decision was made on hiring anyone, that the issue was allowing Director Bissias to make the decision.

President Penicook complimented staff on the progress in remodeling the banquet room and their efforts to keep costs low by completing much of the work in-house. She said Director Bissias is demonstrating effective leadership and commended staff for their work in improving buildings, revenue, parks and programs in an efficient cost-effective manner.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Lacey moved for adjournment at 8:17 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walsh and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Mary Ellen Penicook, President



Constantine Bissias, Secretary
Approved 03/12/2012