

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE PALATINE PARK DISTRICT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE PALATINE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER, IN SAID DISTRICT, AT 505 S. QUENTIN ROAD, PALATINE, ILLINOIS ON MARCH 14, 2006 AT 7:30 P.M.

These Minutes are not a verbatim record of what was said during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER @ 7:30P.M.

Commissioners Present

Susan Gould, President
John Cozza, Vice President
Robert Schultz, Treasurer
Andy McPherson
Jennifer Rogers

Staff Present

Ron Gbur, Executive Director
Pat Moser, Supt. of Parks & Planning
Debbie Smith, Supt. of Finance & Personnel
Keith Williams, Supt. of Recreation
Raul Zaldivar, Supt. of Revenue Facilities

Tina Becke, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Personnel
Donelda Danz, Asst. Supt. of Recreation
Cheryl Tynczuk, Landscape Architect
Bonnie Bennett, Secretary

Citizens and Guests

Bob Alexander, PHGA

Ray Sophie, Swim Team

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McPherson moved, and Commissioner Schultz seconded, that the Board approve the Agenda for the regular meeting of March 14, 2006. Upon a voice vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of March 14, 2006 was unanimously approved.

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Robert Schultz, John Cozza, Susan Gould

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the previously distributed minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2006. Commissioner McPherson moved, and Commissioner Cozza seconded, that the minutes of the prior regular meeting be approved as submitted. Upon a voice vote, the minutes of February 28, 2006 were approved as submitted.

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Robert Schultz, John Cozza, Susan Gould
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Finance and Personnel Report. Smith said she wanted to advise the Board of an issue not in her report regarding the new Health Insurance Administrator, BSSI. In negotiations with BSSI, it was agreed that we would retain our current drug card company, Drug Card, Inc.; BSSI has recently changed hands and wants all of their clients to use System Med Rx. We are investigating this matter. Responding to questions, Smith said that we don't have this item in writing but can cancel our contract, which expires October 30, with BSSI with sixty days notice; the want the new prescription program in effect as early as August 1; being a third party administrator, why are they making all their clients use a specific prescription company. Commissioner Cozza commented that he is glad that the Flex Plan is working so well. Answering his questions, Smith said that employees have until March 15 of the following year to use benefits – use to be December 31 with bills submitted by March 31 but Federal law extended it; staff pretty savvy about the 'use it or lose it' policy, and both Allied and BSSI sent out notices to employees regarding their balances; we rarely have money left, but if not used, it reverts to the Park District. Smith said that she would check the PYB registration numbers. Commissioner Cozza commented that the numbers from IMRF look more promising and Smith said that Palatine was above but we had retirees; bottom line is that IMRF is holding it own.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Recreation Department Report. Correcting an item on page two, Williams thanked Commissioner Rogers for leading staff to the "Walk Across Illinois" program (WAI) – not the Gymnastics program; WAI it is going very well. Williams said that Palatine Park District was recognized at an awards dinner at Hoffman Estates for creating and maintaining strong gymnastics program; Dorothy Erickson, mother of Lori Erickson Delgado - a Palatine High graduate recently inducted into the IL High School Girls' Gymnastics Coaches Association's Coaches Hall of Fame - started our gymnastics program. Regarding the WAI, Commissioner Cozza said that people like to have targets, and commented on good 'cross-marketing' - having pre-school classes make decorations for Date Night. Commissioner Rogers said to check out the 'feet' along the shelf wall. Responding to Commissioner Cozza regarding "The Full Monty", Gbur said we have not had any complaints, and Williams said that there will be no nudity.

Gbur said that there were no more Departmental Reports.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

No one present wished to be recognized at this time regarding an item not on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gbur said that there was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the previously distributed list of bills. Commissioner McPherson moved that warrant #5, in the amount of \$446,253.13, be approved and released for payment. Commissioner Cozza seconded the motion. Smith responded to a question regarding the new checks saying they can be processed more efficiently - printed and signed at the same time; one stub is mailed with check, one stays with vendor back-up; we ask each newly appointed treasurer how he/she wants to handle the warrant. Staff responded to questions regarding a check for the Pro Shop (cash drawer, returned at the end of the season) and repairs to the Dog Park gate. President Gould requested a roll call vote on the motion.

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Robert Schultz, John Cozza, Susan Gould

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion approved.

Gbur said there was no more new business.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Executive Director's Report. Gbur highlighted Item #3, recent FOIA requests saying that in speaking with other directors, these requests are becoming quite commonplace now.

Gbur said that Robin Park is closed due to the flooding caused by the rain over the weekend that washed away most of the playground safety surfacing which had just recently been 'topped off'; we will have to dig out the area from the silt and replace with all new material; the water came up over the bridge. Dove Park is okay; Wally Degner Park – which used to flood – is fine probably due to the culvert being cleaned out. At Robin, Cheryl Tynczuk suggested putting up a berm to help divert the water. President Gould said that Palatine Hills was like a lake, lots of water.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed site plans for Birchwood Pool replacement. Moser gave an overall breakdown of the components: a six-lane, 50-meter pool (total east/west) with a 25-yard practice area (north/south); kiddie pool with water feature; the 'doorknob' was shortened to a 'doorbell' - a step area with bubblers in 2' to 3' of water which tapers to 5' on each side; the 'shallow' area is painted a darker color to set it apart; Tot Pool has been 'flipped' for adequate room. He pointed out the areas with shade shelters, lounge chairs – on raised deck - and landscaped areas to be designed by our staff); noted that MWRD's now requires additional detention areas for parking lot which can go to Birchwood South. President Gould said children between five and ten years of age still come with parent(s), the seven to ten year olds are too big for Tot Pool but too small for deep water, we should have a splash feature. Gbur replied that the Tot Pool is for six and under and will be fenced; the rain curtain feature Commissioner Rogers suggested putting at the 'door bell' would block vision into the pool area; we might be able to put in some splash features. President Gould said she did not like the shark; it might scare the kids – needs to be happier. Gbur said that the committee discussed a spray area and decided against it. Discussion then ensued with staff responding to questions regarding age

demographics for different pool features; some kids going from Tots Pool to deep water as they progress with swimming lessons, but we don't necessarily want six and 7 year olds in deep water alone; do not want to duplicate FAC; resident email has shown support of this plan; pool toys can be safety hazard – cannot see under floating devices - and we discourage balls; look at items that can adapt to several age groups, e.g. dancing waters, sprays, geysers - maybe squeeze in between Tots Pool and concessions; geyser at FAC a dud; the Tots Pool fence will be three-four feet high; lawn space also serves as detention area; splash pad good idea – not worth the dollars to have just one feature; do not know if new pool laws require splash pad has to be fenced in – do not want a bunch of fenced-in areas, or have it isolated; when they first came out didn't know how to service, doesn't require a guard; whatever is in the plan has to be approved by the State; fencing could be ropes; could be something people want in the future, even if we don't maximize use right now we would have a spot for it; good idea but would add to cost; this item would be investigated. Regarding shade, it seems to be adequate.

Moser said another item of the project was to improve the traffic flow – the problem is the queue, parents waiting for their kids or pulling up to drop off; put in another line of diagonal parking; will not infringe on fields and will cost about \$300,000. Staff explained the ingress and egress, could be a straight road but would have to take space away from the drop-off area; even when crowded people don't always follow the pattern; stacking only occurs in afternoon but there is no easy solution; west side used for pre-school and playground, camp people have started using the back more.

President Gould then asked about the Scoreboard. Staff gave an overview and responded to questions saying that the sign is black not white; renderings show three different styles – Swim Team prefers the horizontal one; there is no way to attach sign at the northeast end; cannot be attached to the building due to roof line and people standing in front of it would block swimmers' view; will be ten feet off of the ground with three 17 foot poles; will landscape around standards with trees; trees outside of fence are just a buffer. Ray Sophie explained the swim team meet set-up and said that something could be put on the back but only way you could see it is to drive through park. Staff said that the manufacturer (Colorado Timing System) said that it can be read no matter where placed – rising or setting sun has no effect.

Returning to pool features, it was explained that the jets in the 'doorbell' are not like whirlpool jets – more like bubblers, the feature is something different; the area is wheelchair accessible; lifeguard requirements have been taken care of – at FAC try to measure before they go up slide – may need one for the drop-slide, if required we will have someone there to measure height; need just a couple more than using now; there are five guard stations with six chairs but do not use all of them all the time. Gbur summarized saying that we would go back to the architect with these items.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed conceptual site plans for Wally Degner Park. Moser asked C. Tynczuk to run-through her conceptual plan. Tynczuk explained the site plan and responded to questions. The playground had been shifted south; until the house is razed, the pathway from Middleton is only 4 feet wide - not ADA accessible entrance, park and playground ADA accessible from Leonard & Crescent; path is very wooded, lots of scrub, too steep for strollers; leery of putting in limestone or gravel on that portion of the path because you would make it too much like a ramp - attracting to skateboarders and dirt bikers; proposed asphalt 8' wide path from Crescent; water flowed out after the storm, some pooling around because not graded very well and neighbor drains down – not a whole lot we can do; not in design to link to Bike Trail now, maybe in the future, with Village of Palatine assistance, could use Crescent to link up with connection at Palatine/Quentin; not visible from streets – lots of trees are coming down because they are dying but will not make a difference. Commissioner Schultz at this

time expressed a big concern with security – has an issue with its seclusion, too isolated; can playground be put where house is? Staff said that the house is on three levels and the ground slopes south. Commissioner Rogers asked if we would wait a year and Tynczuk explained that it would take more than a year – demolition, fill-in, grading. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the location of the playground: distance from the parking lot, being a neighborhood playground anticipate more walkers; parking lot connects via bridge and path; one neighbor drains his septic tank drains into park and another has an out building on our property – they have been notified; most of the petitioners for the park live to the south and west, they would want security; a lot of new construction is going on to the east, along Crescent; even clearing out the scrub, the playground location is a 22 foot drop from the street grade, not visible at all from Palatine Road, trees are holding the ground in the stream bank so we only want to remove the dead/dying ones; it already is a hangout for teens. At this time, Commissioner Schultz stated that he would like staff to look at the option of moving the playground; would rather do it right than put \$100,000 into a playground that is not used. Gbur said that maybe we could make some arrangement with Mrs. Parker. Moser said that we still have to get the right-of-way from the Village, which will come about when we have the site approved; however we don't know if it will cost us dollars or not – they have changed the rules. Commissioner McPherson said that we have other playgrounds that cannot be seen from the street, i.e. Dove Park. Staff responded saying that Dove is surrounded by housing; Riemer was secluded and it was constantly vandalized, Plum Grove is off the road, but has a lot of traffic using Harper College and the Dog Park; none of our parks are isolated. Commissioner McPherson agreed that vandalism would be an issue.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Cozza thanked Gbur for setting up the Board Tour; excellent planning; saw a lot of features we would want.

Commissioner Schultz said that his son suggested that he visit the one in Libertyville; will try to get there. Gbur said that if any one wishes to look at other places we will try to arrange it; Williams suggested that we look at the YMCA, it has really changed and we don't want to duplicate services.

President Gould asked why there was a man with a metal detector around the recently purchased house on Palatine Road. Bennett explained the gentleman had permission; he looks for antiquities and gives them to the Historical Society. Gbur said the mailbox was stolen the almost immediately after the resident moved out.

Commissioner McPherson reiterated that he thought the tour was excellent; Glenview and Libertyville have good Recreation; land dedication base is good in that area.

President Gould requested additional future agenda items. Commissioner Cozza said that he would not be at the March 28 meeting as he would be out of town.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board on this date, Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was

unanimously approved by a voice vote at 8:55 p.m. as follows.

AYES: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Robert Schultz, John Cozza, Susan Gould

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bennett, Secretary

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary

President

Next scheduled Park Board meetings: March 28, 2006
 April 11, 2006
 April 25, 2006