

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, 505 S. QUENTIN ROAD, PALATINE, ILLINOIS ON MAY 10, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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Call To Order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Jennifer Rogers, Vice President  
Nicholas Sawyer, Treasurer

John Cozza  
Andrew McPherson

Commissioner Absent

Susan Gould, President

Director Gbur said that he talked with President Gould today and she would not be able to attend tonight's meeting due to not feeling well.

Staff Present

Ron Gbur, Executive Director  
Pat Moser, Supt. of Parks & Planning  
Raul Zaldivar, Supt. of Revenue Facilities  
Keith Williams, Supt. of Recreation  
Tina Becke, Asst. Supt. of Finance  
Donelda Danz, Asst. Supt. of Recreation

Pam Stoltz, Recreation Manager  
Kevin Romejko, Human Resource Manager  
Joshua Ludolph, Facilities Coordinator  
Kelli Hedding, Falcon Park Facility Mgr  
Trish Feid, Secretary

Citizens and Guests

Bob Alexander, resident/PHGA  
Cathleen Paprocki, resident  
Debra McDaniel, resident  
Grace Milota, resident  
Brian Mueller, resident  
Raymond Frech, resident  
Julie Holdeman, resident  
Missy Kline, resident  
Michael Henning, resident  
Pat Johnson, resident  
Colleen Lundell, resident  
Charlene Holtz, Park District Attorney

Jim Dietrich, resident  
Linda Raby, resident  
Bob Regal, resident  
Richard Mayer, Palatine Journal  
Gary Schwietz, resident/PHGA  
Kim Pohl, Daily Herald  
Jim Jessoghe, resident/PHGA  
Carolyn Rusin, Chicago Tribune  
Brian Slupski, Patch.com  
Caryn Bensmida, resident  
Representing Willow Pool kids: Megan, Emily and Susan

In addition to the residents who addressed the Board, the PHGA and the representatives of the press which are listed above, approximately 62 residents were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Cozza seconded, that the Board approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2011. By a voice vote, the agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

AYE: Andrew McPherson, John Cozza, Nicholas Sawyer, Jennifer Rogers  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Cozza seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2011. Upon a voice vote, the minutes of the prior meeting were approved as submitted.

AYE: Andrew McPherson, John Cozza, Nicholas Sawyer, Jennifer Rogers  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Finance and Personnel Department Report. Assistant Supt. Becke responded to Vice President Rogers's comment that the IMRF rate has decreased.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Recreation Department Report. Supt. Williams highlighted that the *Hound Egg Hunt* at Towne Square was a good event with the Jaycees' Easter Egg Hunt following; we had a nice windy day for the Flying 4 Kids event held at Margreth Riemer Reservoir. We had over 1,000 people attend the ECDEC's *Week of the Young Child* at Falcon Park Recreation Center; the parking lot was tested and the day was a huge success. Falcon Park also hosted a successful Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 6. Responding to Commissioner Cozza who asked about the three park district events going on the weekend of May 21 and 22 – why all over one weekend, Supt. Williams said that we work around *Mother's Day* and *Memorial Day*; Celtic's house soccer tournament, PYB's Casey Pohl tourney and Gymnastics' Mari-Rae Sopper Show. Commissioner Cozza commented that the performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Cutting Hall was great.

Vice President Rogers noted there were no more Departmental Reports.

#### RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Vice President Rogers noted that no one wished to address the Board at this time.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Board Summary pertaining to Willow Pool Closing/Demolition. Commissioner Cozza moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded that Willow Pool be closed and demolished following the 2011 pool season ending August 14, 2011 and further that repairs in 2011 (if needed during the pool season) be limited, to not exceed \$5,000. Vice President Rogers said that the floor was open to residents who would like to make a comment in regard to the closing of Willow Pool and that we would be following the same procedure from our last Board Meeting, but before hearing the comments patrons will be asked to

state their name and address as they approach the podium; and to keep their comments to a maximum of 2 minutes.

Cathleen Paprocki, 635 Stark Drive: Two weeks ago Mrs. Paprocki said that she emailed a legal opinion to the Board in regard to the April 10, 1962 agreement; as she began to read parts of the agreement, Mrs. Paprocki stated it was her intention to have this information recorded in the minutes (paper copy filed with official minutes). She said that within the land agreement was the acceptance of premises and the condition that the grant of land required the park district to maintain and improve the pool; she said that closing the pool is in violation of the agreement. Mrs. Paprocki returned to her seat, Commissioner McPherson asked her to come back up and read the first paragraph of the email which explained that the lawyer offering the opinion was not a real estate attorney.

Deb McDaniel, 711 N. Greenwood Drive: Mrs. McDaniel said that the population of Palatine increased in the last thirteen years; she talked about the aquatic study that was done by consultants from Minnesota; how many pools do they have there? Then she asked how many patrons attending the meeting ride horses, adding that the park district supports stables but all of us go to the pool. When stated that the Stables' financial information they were given for last year and this year shows the Stables being annually subsidized, Director Gbur clarified that the Stables' fund has accumulated a current balance of over \$600,000; last year the stables was subsidized as the Board and staff strategically decided not to raise the participants/borders fees due to the economy's financial state in an effort to retain customers and, in 2011 an \$87,000 planned capital roof replacement expense is the large majority of that anticipated subsidy.

Grace Milota, 545 N. Stark Drive: Mrs. Milota asked, "What's going to be there if the pool is closed, what's the plan?" Commissioner Cozza said that nothing is planned immediately, that will be a decision for a future time. Vice President Rogers said that it will be grass cover for now, and then suggested the gathering point (as neighbors described Willow Pool) can continue as a meeting place; consideration with future input from the neighborhood on what they would like to have.

Brian Mueller, 727 E. Stark Drive: Mr. Mueller said that he bought his house based on Willow Pool; many young families moving in Willowood. He added that the park district should build more parks in Palatine.

Raymond Frech, 736 N. Stark Drive: Mr. Frech said that there are a lot of emotions here tonight. He has safety concerns with kids crossing Hicks Road where people drive 40-45 miles per hour; big difference from Northwest Highway where they drive 30 miles per hour. He also commented that the aquatic study suggested having a pool east of Hicks Road; also said we should leave Willow Pool open until the park district can find an area to accommodate residents east of Hicks Road. Director Gbur replied that the aquatic study did not recommend to have a pool east of Hicks Road, the study took into account all of the park district's northern and eastern areas, narrowing down the top three locations for an aquatic site: Eagle #1, Oak #2, and Willow #3. Mr. Frech added that we should close the Willowood's baseball field to build a pool which can accommodate Willowood and other communities.

Megan, Emily and Susan: Addressed the Board representing the Willowood neighborhood kids with their reasons why Willow Pool is important to them. They said that they can walk to the pool; they have safety concerns about kids getting hit by cars. Willow pool is never crowded like FAC; the pool holds memories such as their first swim lessons; teen and pre-teens meet friends

there, the size of the pool is no problem for them. They ended by saying that they love Willow Pool, please vote to keep it open.

Julie Holdeman, 616 N. Rohlwing Road: Mrs. Holdeman said that she is a thirteen year resident, bought in Palatine for the wonderful park district's parks. Willow Pool is a great thing for us; we could go to the pool for forty-five minutes after a baseball game, a great time. Continuing she said that this pool is not just for the Willowwood neighborhood, it is a community pool; she understands this is not a light decision for the Board. Also said that she would like to see more facilities by her area, 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the park district's facilities are on the other side of Palatine.

Missy Kline, 735 E. Stark Drive: Mrs. Kline said that she grew up in Palatine; recently moved back and the number one reason was the parks and pool; she said that Willow is a good pool for her ten year old. She read from the Palatine Park District's Mission statement. Previously, their family had non-resident pool passes for two years; they were excited about going-green with walking to the pool. She said that she would like the Board to reconsider, leave the pool open.

Mike Henning, 442 N. Stark Drive: Mr. Henning said that when people asked him what he would say tonight, he started to draft points. On his way home from work he drove by the pool, stopped and ripped up his notes picturing kids in the pool from yesteryear and future. Continuing, Mr. Henning said that one word describes what the pool really means, that is *Community*, today, future, all about community.

Pat Johnson, 629 N. Greenwood Drive: Mr. Johnson said that he gave the pool financial numbers to his daughter Maggie, who worked at the pool and who is now a CPA. Maggie says that the cost per attendee (entry) is \$5.71 (not \$10.29), wants to postpone the vote since they feel the operating expenses seem off. Mr. Johnson said that we are reasonable people, why a yes or no, what middle ground. Commissioner Cozza said that we do pay attention, replacement of the pool is a big expense, and the pool is forty-five years old. Mr. Johnson also suggested exploring sponsorships for pool support and he would like to be part of a conversation for the pool site. Commissioner McPherson said that the park district has been struggling receiving corporate sponsorships for the past ten years, difficult times; continuing, he said we are listening, we have received your emails and letters, you did your homework many duplicate emails. It's hard to converse with people that call the Board and staff names and criticize their work ethics. Continuing he voiced concerns about the taxpayers, ones retired, people out of work, losing their homes, etc., and he said that ultimately the decision of the Board has to look at is what is in the best interest of the entire park district.

Colleen Lundell, 457 N. Stark Drive: Mrs. Lundell said that she apologized for the not nice things some people have said, would like to stay professional; she said that it comes down to finances. Asked to please postpone the vote that they are willing to do things, try different angles. They will find corporate sponsorships and fundraise for renovation; have a committee to problem solve. The pool is a sense of community, we will work with you; want to know if there is any possible way to keep Willow open.

Jim Dietrich, 620 N. Stark: Mr. Dietrich asked the Board to give us an idea of what's wrong with the pool; Director Gbur began to read the renovation list and improvements needed to bring the pool up to code. He said that the existing rim flow gutter system needs to be removed and replaced with a regular perimeter gutter system, a main drain system will also have to be added to the pool to meet the IDPH code for pool turnover, the shell of the pool is in poor condition and will have to be plastered or some type of new surface put on the pool. Steps will have to be fitted in the pool for ADA and because of the limited area of the pool and deck we will also need to

have a handicap lift. Also many improvements to the bathhouse, ADA accessibilities, toilet, drain, shower, gutting the entire bathhouse and re-pouring a new flooring to accommodate the new configuration for accessibility, etc. Mr. Dietrich asked if there was a mandated time frame to renovate and make the improvements, Director Gbur said no. In response to that, Mr. Dietrich asked why we can't wait, and Director Gbur said that we lose \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year; in fact \$44,000 this year. We have talked about this for twenty-eight years; the time has come. Mrs. Lundell added that we need a plan first; Director Gbur said that we have a plan.

Linda Raby, 522 Warwick Road: Mrs. Raby said that she and her husband are lifelong Palatine residents; they have always used the park district. With PHS vs. FHS, they chose PHS. Palatine is hometown to them; Willow pool represents real hometown.

Bob Regal, 634 Pompano: Mr. Regal said save Willow Pool now, save someone's life. He asked how much to fix the pool; is there enough information before you make your decision? Mr. Regal told the Board that thirty years ago when he was a scout master he held the hand of a young boy who was involved in a tragic accident on Hicks Road. Mr. Regal said please don't close the pool, keep it open, right thing to do.

Vice President Rogers asked if anyone else would like to comment; no one responded. Addressing the Board, Vice President Rogers asked for the Commissioners' thoughts and comments. Commissioner Sawyer said with what he has heard and seen, and stating that he lives in Willowwood, he presented a motion to the Park Board that they postpone the closing of Willow Pool until more information is obtained. Vice President Rogers said that with no second, the motion fails. A question was asked from the audience about President Gould, Director Gbur said that he spoke with her today and she didn't make a request to postpone; she said she was fine with the Board voting tonight; no need to delay. Continuing, Director Gbur said that she understands that the park district business moves on. Commissioner McPherson added that the decision needs three votes. Mr. Regal said that he would like to hear President Gould's opinion; Commissioner Sawyer added that he thinks President Gould should be here for the vote. Commissioner Cozza thanked the neighbors for their emails, power point presentation, input, comments, etc; he applauded the support for Willow Pool. He thanked staff and the parks department for all efforts to keep the pool operating to this point; difficult to run the pool, continuing Commissioner Cozza said that it is like *the little engine that could*. The devil is not in the details; we can not be spending \$1 to \$1.5 million plus to keep the same pool in that location; he has put a lot of thought into this topic and believes the park district will have enough pool space with the other three sites to support and satisfy our bathers. Commissioner McPherson said that this is a difficult thing and he understands the attachment to the pool; he lives east of Hicks Road. This pool is old and needs to be closed or rebuilt; the cost to tax payers – \$30,000 to \$40,000 park district expense annually for a service of 65 days a year. Commissioner McPherson said that he has seen a good demonstration of the pool's support. But in 2005, when Birchwood was being developed it was a different world; today he sees people struggling, those in need, out of work, fear of losing homes, and concern of our parents' retirement years: troubling times. Nearly all who use Willow Pool also use our other pools. Maybe the pool is wanted; he believes it is not needed by the park district. Vice President Rogers echoes the comments and feedback that has been received; not an easy decision. She said that since 1983 through 1993 and today there has been a dialog about closing the pool; now is the time to put this to rest. Mrs. Bensmida suggested to the Board that we need to include more bidders to lower the construction price so it is not so expensive. Director Gbur asked Supt. Moser to answer the question about how many bids are normally received for pool construction. Supt. Moser said that it is broken down by trades, each section (electric, concrete, etc.) of the construction goes out to bid; there are six to ten bids for each section. Mr. Mueller suggested that we take half of Eagle Pool's budget and give

it to Willow Pool's renovation. Director Gbur said that we should not have a bather load less than 500, cost recovery is difficult. Mrs. Lundell said how much would it hurt to wait until June or July to vote; giving us time to brainstorm; would it hurt the Board to work with our committee? Director Gbur said that comments have been heard; he suggested that Vice President Rogers consider calling for a vote on the motion. Vice President Rogers requested a roll call vote, the result of which follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, John Cozza, Jennifer Rogers

NAY: Nicholas Sawyer

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed Board Summary pertaining to the certification of votes of the April 5, 2011 election. As a result of the Cook County Clerk's Office canvass of all votes cast for the office of Palatine Park District Commissioner; an Official Certificate of Result with precinct detail was electronically available. The result follows:

Park District Commissioner Six-Year Term  
Jennifer Rogers 4,967

Commissioner McPherson moved, and Commissioner Cozza seconded, that the Board of Park Commissioners adopt Resolution #11-02, hereby declaring that Jennifer Rogers as duly elected to the office of Park Commissioner commencing May 10, 2011 until May, 12 2017. The request for a roll call vote was unanimously approved, the result follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, John Cozza, Nicholas Sawyer, Jennifer Rogers

NAY: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion carried.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Administering the Oath of Office, Secretary Feid swore in Jennifer Rogers as a Commissioner of the Palatine Park District Board of Park Commissioners for the term of 2011-2017. On behalf of the Board and staff, Secretary Feid congratulated Commissioner Rogers on her re-election victory.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Feid began the annual election process by requesting nominations for the position of President for the 2011-12 year. Commissioner McPherson nominated Commissioner Cozza for the position of Board President. There being no further nominations offered, Commissioner McPherson moved and Vice President Rogers seconded, that the nominations for Park Board President were closed; by a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Secretary Feid requested a roll call vote approving Commissioner Cozza for the office of Park Board President on behalf of the 2011-12 year; the result of which follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, John Cozza, Nicholas Sawyer, Jennifer Rogers  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed; Commissioner Rogers gave the meeting over to President Cozza.

President Cozza asked to receive nominations for the position of Vice President for the 2011-12 year. Commissioner Rogers nominated Commissioner Sawyer for the position of Vice President. There being no further nominations offered, Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded that nominations were closed; by a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. President Cozza moved that Commissioner Sawyer serve as Park Board Vice President for the 2011-12 year be approved. Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion was approved as follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed.

President Cozza moved that Commissioner Rogers's appointment of Treasurer for the 2011-12 year be approved. Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion was approved as follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed.

President Cozza moved that Trish Feid's appointment of Board Secretary for the 2011-12 year be approved. Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion was approved as follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed.

President Cozza submitted for Board approval the following appointments for the 2011-12 year. Ron Gbur: Executive Director, Secretary Pro Tem, Representative to the Northwest Special Recreation Association, and Alternate Representative to the Metro Risk Management Agency. Debbie Smith: Representative to the Metro Risk Management Agency. Raul Zaldivar: Representative to the Greater Palatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Pat Moser: Representative to the Upper Salt Creek Watershed Steering Committee. Commissioner

McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded that President Cozza's appointments for the 2011-12 year be approved. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAY: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed; those appointees present agreed to serve.

President Cozza said that with the concurrence of the Board, the regular meetings of the Board of Park Commissioners will continue to be conducted at the Palatine Township Senior Citizen Center, 505 S. Quentin Road, Palatine, Illinois on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month – excepting the second meeting of December which is to be held Tuesday, December 20; all regular meetings beginning at 7 p.m. Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded, that the dates and time of Board meetings be accepted as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYES: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed Board Summary pertaining to the annual commissioning of Park District Police Officers. Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded, that the following employees be commissioned as Palatine Park District Police Officers for the period May 10, 2011 through May 8, 2012: Ron Gbur, Patrick Moser, Raul Zaldivar, Keith Williams, Edmund Tynczuk, Bradley Helms, Dan Hotchkin, Toni Bruns, Donelda Danz, Jeff Greene, Joshua Ludolph, Kelli Hedding, and Louis DeAvila. Upon a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved as follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAY: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed list of bills. Commissioner Rogers moved that Warrant #9, in the amount of \$677,515.05, be approved and released for payment. Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion; President Cozza requested a roll call vote on the motion. The result follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAY: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion approved.

President Cozza noted there was no more new business.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Executive Director's Report. Gbur highlighted item five. We need to gather ideas for our annual fall newsletter; it is Commissioner Sawyer's turn to author this year's letter from the Board with assistance from the other Commissioners and staff. Director Gbur expressed thanks to Commissioner Gould for her year of service as the Park Board President.

#### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rogers said the Park District had a booth at Springfield's Day at the Capital: Deb Owen and Brenda Rivas did a great job. The Legislative Reception was also very good.

Commissioner Sawyer said his session at the Legislative Conference was very informative; good to have legislators who know the parks' area.

The Board gave thanks to Commissioner Gould for her year as President; great job.

President Cozza requested Future Agenda Items; there were none.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Cozza requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and convene in executive session for the purpose of discussion of the purchase or lease of real property, Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote, the result of which follows:

AYE: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAY: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed at 8:38 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:47 p.m.

#### ACTION ON MATTERS CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

President Cozza stated that the Board met in executive session for the purpose of discussion of the purchase or lease of property. No action at this time; Commissioner McPherson moved and

Commissioner Rogers seconded, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote. The result of which follows:

AYES: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board on this date, Commissioner McPherson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

AYES: Andrew McPherson, Jennifer Rogers, Nicholas Sawyer, John Cozza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan Gould

Motion passed at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trish Feid, Secretary

ATTEST:

/S/ Trish A. Feid

Secretary

APPROVED:

/s/ John F. Cozza

President

Next scheduled Park Board meetings:      May 24, 2011  
   June 14, 2011  
   June 28, 2011