

Minutes of a Regular Session of the Board of  
Park Commissioners of the Downers Grove Park  
District held on May 21, 2015 at the Village Hall,  
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Call to Order            President Cushing called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Cushing, Gelwicks, Livorsi, Mahoney and Souter; Executive Director, Bill McAdam; Director of Recreation, Jay Kelly; Director of Operations and Development, Geoff Penman; Assistant Director for District Services, Sara Rathsack; Assistant Director for Financial Services, Erik Brown; Superintendent of Planning, Paul Fyle; Supervisor of Marketing and Creative Development, Ian Everett; Superintendent of Parks, Kevin Rozell; Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services, Shannon Forsythe; IT Manager, Matt Slocum; Lauterbach and Amen Audit Manager, Matt Beran; Clerk, Pam Rank; ABSENT: None

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Pledge of Allegiance:        The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Changes to the Agenda:       None

Recognition of Visitors:       Laurel Bowen, questioned why information that she requested in her FOIA was not received. She also responded that with the purchase of the Walnut property, there would assuredly be debt to the taxpayers.

Correspondence:                No written correspondence

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**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX PARK BONDS**

President Cushing opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Gelwicks commented about the new property purchase, that it was never said that there would be no debt to the taxpayers only that there would be no increase in taxes. He also reiterated that though at this time there is no specific use for the new property, that this usually is the case when large parcels of land are acquired. Examples he gave were: McCollum Park and Doerhoefer Park.

Frank Falisch commented that the new property is on the edge of the village and why does the Park District need more land.

Bill Wrobel commented that at the last meeting he asked the Board if they had talked to the Alter Group about donating the frontage property or at least selling it to the Park District at a discounted price. He stated that he emailed two of the commissioners during the week and did not get a response.

Commissioner Souter responded that she had answered his email the following day and read the response from that email. She stated that the Park District always proposes charitable donations as part of their practice. The Alter Group was not interested nor were they interested in selling at a reduced rate.

Commissioner Cushing also responded that he had answered the email from Bill Wrobel the following day and had a copy of the dated email.

Bill Wrobel said he was sorry and that he must have missed the email responses.

Gordon Goodman is in favor of the land acquisition and in the use of the Park District's bonding power. He thought it was an excellent way to finance the new property. It shows the Park District's financial strength to not raise taxes. He also reiterated that the new land is adjacent to property that the Park District already owns. He congratulated the Board on moving forward with the land acquisition.

Laurel Bowen, looking through her FOIA information she commented that the last appraisal was from 1997. She also asked if the Board knew that the property is one third wetland. Again, she asked for all requested information.

Commissioner Cushing replied that it was opinion of the Board to move forward with the land acquisition. It is a great opportunity, at a great price, at a great time and with no increase in taxes.

The public hear was adjourned after a motion made by Commissioner Mahoney and seconded by Commissioner Gelwicks.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Commissioners Mahoney, Gelwicks, Cushing, Livorsi and Souter  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  Absent: None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Executive Director Bill McAdam listed the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Treasurer's Report
- Payment of Bills in the amount of \$1,424,486.27
- Payout #1 – Aqua Designs, Inc. – Walnut Avenue Irrigation Improvements
- Payout #4 – Merrell Bros. Inc. – Barth Pond Dredging
- Payout #4 (Final) – Hacienda Landscaping Inc. – Patriots Park Playground Renovation 2014
- Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Contract to coat Roof Area at Lincoln Center
- Approve Grove Players Memorandum of Understanding
- Authorize a one year extension agreement with District Employees that are members of Laborers' Local 681

Commissioner Souter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented including the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,424.486.27. Commissioner Mahoney seconded the motion.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Commissioners Souter, Mahoney, Cushing, Gelwicks and Livorsi  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  Absent: None

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Gelwicks moved to accept the Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Commissioner Mahoney seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Gelwicks, Mahoney, Cushing, Livorsi and Souter  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Commissioner Mahoney moved to grant authorization to Bid the Districtwide Asphalt Paving 2015 as presented. Commissioner Souter seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Mahoney, Souter, Cushing, Gelwicks and Livorsi  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

## **BOARD BUSINESS:**

### **President's Comments**

No Comments

### **Commissioner Comments**

No Comments

## **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director McAdam reminded the Board that the next Board meeting will be June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm and will consist of the annual Parks tour. He asked that the Board members let him know if there are any specific parks that they would like to stop at.

Bill attended the PDRMA membership meeting. They are in their 30<sup>th</sup> year and have 154 members. With this intergovernmental agreement cooperation, there has been no rate increase in 13 years. They offer many online training courses at no cost...most of them online. On 15 occasions the Park District has taken advantage of their legal advice.

The Park District partnered with Legion Post 80 in that the Memorial Day parade will end at Fishel Park.

Regarding the renaming of Ned Bell Park and Dan Cermak Clubhouse, Bill anticipates an early August timeframe.

Bill informed the Board that as of the next meeting, the Board packets will be 100% electronic.

### **Recreation Report**

Director Kelly informed the Board that there was nothing new since the written report and asked if the Board had any questions.

Commissioner Gelwicks asked how the new fee changes have been accepted at the Golf Course. Director Kelly said that overall, most comments have been positive.

### **Marketing Report**

Ian Everett informed the Board that early enrollment for the 5 Miler ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. He also informed them that this race is now "green certified". The Concert Series starts on Tuesday. Pocket sized concert schedules have been printed for distribution.

Commissioner Cushing asked if there was a shareable calendar on the website for events. Ian said that he would look into it.

### **Planning Report**

Superintendent of Planning, Paul Fyle reported that the Barth Pond dredging is now complete, the equipment has been removed and the parking lot is now open.

Commissioner Cushing asked if the results were satisfactory.

Paul answered “yes” that 10,000 tons were removed from the pond.

### **Parks Report**

Director Penman reported that 29 trees were planted; an Arbor Day event took place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Cumnor Park – two trees were planted with first graders from Whittier School.

### **District Services Report**

Assistant Director Rathack introduced the new IT Technician, Matt Slocum.

### **SEASPAR**

Executive Director McAdam reported that SEASPAR held their board meeting on Tuesday. Lemont Park District is now unofficially a member. They will be official on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Plan Commission**

No Report

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gelwicks expressed that several questions were brought up during the hearing and thought that there should be some kind of response. Executive Director McAdam said that he would compile a list of the questions and draft the answers. When this is approved, it will be posted on the website.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Tentative Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Schedule and Discussion*

Assistant Director Brown informed the Board that because the last budget process was so rushed; a schedule for the upcoming budget process has been compiled that allows for plenty of flexibility.

#### *Construction of Storage Building at Lyman Woods Discussion*

It has been determined that staff has outgrown the Interpretive Center and storage is at capacity. \$25,000 has been budgeted for this year to help alleviate this problem. Staff has determined that a 20' x 40' single sloped building with an 8 foot overhang would meet the outlined goals.

Commissioner Mahoney was concerned about how long this solution will last before they are out of space again.

Commissioner Gelwicks suggested going bigger now instead of in the future. He also suggested talking to the Forest Preserve District to help finance this.

The Board concurred to move forward with county approval, final planning and cost estimates.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Laurel Bowen asked if the Park District partners with other sources on projects such as asphalt paving to save money.

Commissioner Gelwicks informed her that the District does partner with School District 58 by maintaining their grounds. In return the District uses their facilities for sporting activities.. She also stated that she knew nothing about the fee changes at the Golf Course.

Gordon Goodman said he was pleased about the site chosen for the Lyman Woods out building. He also thought that a larger building would be a good idea and that the Village should also be consulted about possible funding for said building. He also stated that now that the beavers are back it's difficult to navigate some areas of Lyman Woods. Gordon thought that elevated walkways should be put in a future budget process.

Bill Wrobel was surprised that there was not a bulletin board on the Lincoln Center Active Adult floor. He was also not pleased to find that there was a sign-up sheet to see a video for \$5 that was common on TV. And a \$5 charge for the Senior Newsletter. He thought these issues should be discussed.

Commissioner Cushing announced that the next Board meeting will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Administrative Office for a Park Tour.

The next regular Board meeting will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Village Council Chambers

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#### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. following a motion made by Commissioner Livorsi and seconded by Commissioner Gelwicks.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Commissioners Livorsi, Gelwicks, Cushing, Mahoney and Souter  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  Absent: None

#### **FINAL ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. following a motion made by Commissioner Gelwicks and seconded by Commissioner Mahoney.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Commissioners Gelwicks, Mahoney, Cushing, Livorsi and Souter  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Damienne Souter  
Secretary