

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 23, 2013

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Petry presided over the meeting.

Present: President Joseph Petry, Vice President Alvin Griggs, Commissioners Barbara Kuhl, Jane Solon and Timothy McMahan, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall.

Staff: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Joe DeLuce, Deputy Director, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, J. R. Pope, Superintendent of Planning and Operations, Laura Auteberry, Director of Marketing & Development, Megan Kuhlenschmidt, Sports & Aquatics Manager, and Cindy Harvey, Executive Assistant.

Other staff as well as members of the public were also in attendance.

Call to Order

President Petry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He remarked that the Board loved seeing all of the people in attendance helping the Board understand priorities for spending tax dollars. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

CPD Highlights

President Petry asked if there were any objections to postponing CPD Highlights until later in the agenda as Commissioner Kuhl had not yet arrived at the meeting. There were no objections from the Commissioners.

Comments from the Public

President Petry called for comments from the audience. Ms. Herakovich reported that there were several individuals in attendance who wanted to address the Board about different items on the agenda. She asked the Board's preference about timing of the comments on the agenda. The Board decided to hear public comments on various items as they appeared on the agenda.

Scott Anderson, Jr., 4010 Clubhouse Drive, Champaign, spoke to the Board about the proposed Ebert sculpture project. He asked the Board to embrace the project, announce support of it through the newspaper and other media advertising, and provide recognition on the Park District's website. He also sought some funding and suggested that the Park District accept ownership of the sculpture, and pay for maintenance and insurance. He noted the Park District may have to lease the location from the City of Campaign. Mr. Anderson reported that the project was his wife's idea. The concept is a life-sized sculpture of Roger located outside the Virginia Theatre where people could sit and have their picture taken of "Roger" displaying his signature "thumbs up" gesture. Mr. Anderson reported that the sculptor has been identified and has completed a concept design maquette. He reported that the proposed budget for the project is \$122,500. Mr. Anderson discussed the reason to honor Roger Ebert with the sculpture and the reason for the Park District's involvement. President Petry thanked Mr. Anderson for addressing the Board about the project.

Commissioner Kuhl arrive at the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Presentations

Commissioners' Excellence Award

President Petry reported that this award is important to the Commissioners and this is the first time it will be awarded. The award was created to recognize service by staff which goes above

and beyond their normal duties. He emphasized that the Board wanted to make sure that staff know how much the Board appreciates their outstanding efforts. Ms. Kuhlenschmidt recapped the event as follows:

On September 2013 a mother walking with her 14-month old child at the Sholem Aquatic Center tripped and lost her child in the water. While in the water, the child stopped breathing. Chandler Stranc, lifeguard, did as he was trained by clearing the child's airway and the child resumed breathing. The mother and father expressed their gratitude and believed that their child is alive because of Mr. Stranc's quick actions. Ms. Kuhlenschmidt stated that she was proud of Mr. Stranc, all the aquatic staff, and Dan Dudley for training the staff. She stated that Mr. Stranc is very deserving of this award.

Mr. Stranc thanked everyone for being honored with the award. He thanked Ms. Kuhlenschmidt and Mr. Dudley for all the training that staff receives.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Chandler Stranc and the other lifeguards involved in the rescue effort will receive certificates of appreciation and gift certificates. President Petry noted that this was a team effort starting with Ms. Herakovich, Ms. Kuhlenschmidt, Mr. Dudley, and the entire aquatic team which did exactly what was needed. He thanked Mr. Stranc and the entire team.

Action Items

Consideration of Approval of a Contract with Halogen Supply Company Inc. to Rebuild a Filter for the Sholem Aquatic Center Activity/Lap Pool

Ms. Herakovich reported that the staff report details the need to rebuild the Sholem Aquatic Center Lap/Activity Pool Filter. She reported that Halogen Supply Company Inc. is the sole source provider for the manufacturer, Filtrex Incorporated of Wayne, New Jersey.

Mr. Pope reported that staff discussed whether to rebuild the filter in-house or outsource. After reviewing the options, it was determined that it would be more cost effective to outsource the filter. An additional \$7,000 to \$9,000 will be expended for additional electrical and plumbing work for this project. It will be warranted for 10 years.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve entering into a contract with Halogen Supply Company Inc., the sole source provider for the manufacturer, Filtrex Incorporated of Wayne New Jersey, in the amount of \$92,021 to rebuild the Sholem Aquatic Center lap/activity pool filter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Implementing the Purchase Card Agreement

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff was requesting approval of a resolution implementing the Purchase Card Agreement. She stated that use of the purchase card will streamline the Park District's operations. Ms. Herakovich reported that implementation will occur over the next 6-months.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve a resolution implementing the Purchase Card Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of the Appointment of a Park Commissioner to the Champaign Parks Foundation Board

Vice President Griggs made a motion to appoint Commissioner Solon to the Champaign Parks Foundation Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

CPD Highlights

Commissioner Kuhl congratulated the Youth Theatre Group on the successful presentation of "Shrek the Musical" and the outstanding fundraising it was able to do. She congratulated staff on the two new sculpture pieces that were installed in West Side Park and in Hazel Park. Commissioner Kuhl reported that she received an unusual comment from a pilates instructor who uses the playground equipment for her fitness routine. She shared with Commissioner Kuhl that she receives strange looks from kids because they think monkey bars are only for kids. Commissioner Kuhl stated that sometimes what we put in our parks are used for various things. She thanked staff for what they do. President Petry stated that the CPD Highlights is something that the Board began six months ago to highlight things that the staff has been doing fabulously. He thanked Commissioner Kuhl for sharing the information.

Discussion Items

President Petry asked if there were any objections to moving Discussion Item No. 3 to be heard first. There were no objections from the Board.

New Park Program Opportunities (BMX, Gaga Ball, Disc Golf)

Disc Golf

Matthew Barnes, 1112 Scoville Street, Urbana, requested that the Board approve funding for a disc golf course in Dodds Park. He stated that Wilbur Wallis, a professional disc golf designer, other individuals, and he assisted with the proposed disc golf design for Dodds Park. A packet of information about disc golf was distributed to the Board. Mr. Barnes reported that disc golf provides life time recreation for people of all ages. The group is interested in introducing disc golf to local students and staff as well as people with disabilities. Mr. Barnes stated that the group is requesting Board consider approval of the proposed design with necessary modifications along with funding the amount of \$16,200. The group would actively be involved with maintenance and upkeep of the course. He thanked the Board for its consideration. Discussion ensued.

President Petry thanked the group for attending the meeting and sharing with the Board the proposal.

BMX

Mr. DeLuce reported that he has been meeting with individuals interested in a Bicycle Motorcross (BMX) course. He stated that BMX is the fastest growing sport in North America. It is the latest sport added to the Olympic Games. Mr. DeLuce provided information on the history of BMX. It is a family sport and offers different levels of competition. He provided statistical information on age and number of participants. Mr. DeLuce discussed the economic impact BMX tournaments would have on the community. He also discussed the amount of land and preliminary cost projections for a basic BMX track.

Dave Kirby, 305 East Street, Mansfield, addressed the Board about a BMX course. He stated that he originally brought the idea to Mr. DeLuce. Mr. Kirby discussed the cost and equipment that would be needed for a BMX course. Discussion ensued.

Rob Llewellyn, 507 N. Willis Avenue, Champaign, addressed the Board about a BMX course. He reported that his daughter's goal is to race in the Olympics.

Scott Cramer, 2312 Butternut Court, Champaign, addressed the Board about a BMX course. Mr. Cramer reported that anyone can participate in BMX races. Discussion ensued.

Ga-Ga Ball

Mr. DeLuce reported that ga-ga ball is a variation of dodgeball. He showed a video clip of a game. A resident has requested that ga-ga ball be constructed in Clark Park and has offered to help pay the cost. The game is played inside a wooden octagon. Mr. DeLuce explained the rules of the game. The cost for a structure is approximately \$600.

2013 Aquatics Report

Ms. Kuhlenschmidt highlighted the 2013 aquatics report. She reported that it was a cooler and wetter summer. She highlighted some of the successes including adding swim lessons on Sundays, which were very successful. The District hosted more at risk swim lessons for children, with funds provided by Tony Clements, and offered a successful first free water safety day for kids and parents. Staff received numerous compliments about the diligence and training of the lifeguards. All Ellis audits were "exceeds" which makes 14 consecutive "exceeds" over the past five-and-a-half seasons. Staff performed 57 rescues this summer and handled 68 first aid incidents. 87.1% of survey respondents ranked their experiences either "excellent" or "very good." Respondents continue to request a diving well. The \$4 Friday discount day continues to be popular. There was an increase in rental income. However, season pass sales fell by over \$44,000 and daily admission sales fell by over \$100,000. Staff attributes much of the loss to bad weather and perhaps the opening of the new Crystal Lake Family Aquatic Center. Sholem was scheduled to be open 97 days this season but on 32 of those days the pool was closed all day or part of the day due to weather. Approximately 74,000 people visited Sholem in 2013. Non-resident attendance decreased. The Sholem Sharks Team won the Eastern Illinois Swim Conference for the third consecutive year. Ms. Kuhlenschmidt updated the Board on the Junior Lifeguard program, expanded Sunday programming including the "The Oasis" Concessions Stand. The Marketing Department took over the social media in 2013 which allowed aquatics staff to focus on operations. The Sholem's Leadership and Mentoring Program is in its third year and continues to be successful.

Discussion ensued regarding the aquatics report. Commissioner Solon reported that she received comments from a family which favors attending Sholem Aquatic Center in comparison with other local options. Commissioners Kuhl and Solon complimented staff on the aquatics report summary. Commissioner Solon stated that the Sholem staff does an outstanding job.

Circuit Training Equipment at the Leonhard Recreation Center

Ms. Kuhlenschmidt reported that there are two options for the new Leonhard Recreation Center: a field house model or a traditional recreation center, the latter of which includes some opportunities for everyone. She stated that there are no cardio or weights planned. The Community Needs Assessment indicates that 42% of respondents expressed a desire to have cardio equipment/weight room in a new facility. She presented options to the Board for providing this in the new Leonhard Recreation Center. Ms. Kuhlenschmidt reported that Dan Dudley, Aquatics & Fitness Coordinator, assisted with compiling the report. Staff suggested that one of the rooms be used to create a circuit and that cardio machines be installed in corners around the walking track. She also discussed reasoning and cost projections for membership dues. Discussion ensued. The Board will need to decide about generating revenue to offset costs or offer a free service.

Commissioner Solon stated that she favors charging a fee to use the cardio/weight equipment. Commissioner McMahon stated that he favors a non-fee facility but understands the concept of charging fees. He favors having equipment in a small room. Vice President Griggs stated that he favors charging a nominal annual fee to the new center and also favors having equipment placed around the track and in a room. Commissioner Kuhl stated that she is open minded about the alternatives and would like to see a budget before making a decision. President Petry is comfortable with adding fitness equipment and charging a nominal annual fee for residents, a higher fee for non-residents, and charging rental fees.

After discussion, Ms. Herakovich summarized that the Board would like staff to provide for consideration of an operating budget, more affordable options, options based on fees, and a request for authorization to seek bids for the equipment.

Recreation Department 2013 Summer Program Report

Mr. DeLuce highlighted the 2013 summer program report. He reported that the Sports and Aquatics Division hosted three fitness events: Pie Run during the Taste of Champaign-Urbana, Mini Tri and Micro/Nano Tri and the Zombie Run in August. The Pie Run and Micro/Nano Tri were new events and were very successful. The Zombie Run was very successful with 155 runners and 110 "zombie" racers. He reported that the partnership with First Pitch Baseball continues to be successful. The adult softball league had over 1,600 participants. Mr. DeLuce reported that Girls Fastpitch Softball and Pony League Baseball participation has decreased and staff is looking at different options for programs. He reported that staff is also reviewing different options for dates for the Taste of Champaign-Urbana. Mr. DeLuce updated the Board on CUSR programs and other programs and services. He also updated the Board on the Douglass Park and Cultural Arts programs as well as the Community Matters programs.

The Board complimented the staff on the number of programs offered and having a great year.

Capital Projects Update

Virginia Theatre

Mr. DeLuce reported that the targeted completion date for the Virginia Theatre roofing project is November 27, 2013. He also reported that James Bond is scheduled to begin building the new audio rack on November 11, 2013.

Leonhard Recreation Center

Mr. Pope updated the Board on the Leonhard Recreation Center construction project. He reported that all the trusses are being installed and the roof should be added soon. Mr. Pope stated that contractors are on schedule to meet the March completion date.

Ms. Herakovich reminded the Board about the beam signing event at 11:45 a.m. the next day at the new Leonhard Recreation Center.

President Petry complimented staff on doing a great job.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Solon commented that the recently installed statues look nice.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the Board heard presentations by several groups that would like the Park District to construct things or develop programs. They all talked about bringing groups and people into the community. However she expressed concern because use of resources needs to benefit citizens in Champaign who pay taxes. Ms. Herakovich commented that when trying to balance tax dollars the Board has tough decisions to make and that staff will do its best to provide the information to make those decisions.

President Petry reported that, thanks to staff and support from the Board, the Park District was awarded by the Arts Alliance Illinois the "Helen Doria Arts in the Park Award." The award was given on September 27, 2013 at the Illinois Association of Park Districts Best of the Best Gala in Wheeling, Illinois. The award recognizes leadership, passion, and imagination in using the arts to strengthen communities.

President Petry presented Commissioner Kuhl with a 10-year Certification of Appreciation from the Illinois Association of Park Districts for serving as a Park Commissioner for ten years. On behalf of the staff and the Park District residents, President Petry thanked Commissioner Kuhl for her service. He reported that he also received a 10-year Certification of Appreciation. He also thanked the Board for sending him to the Illinois Association of Park Districts Best of the Best Awards Gala.

Closed Session

Commissioner Solon made a motion as set forth below to convene in Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; Vice President Griggs – yes; President Petry – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl – yes. The Board convened in Closed Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS, Par. 120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body; and (c)(5) regarding the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

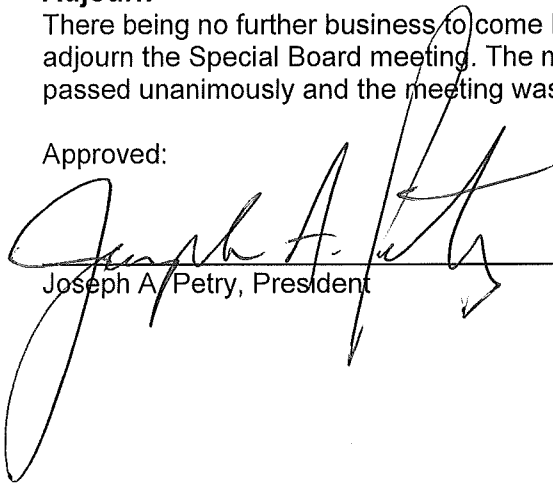
Reconvene into Open Session turn to Regular Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Closed Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn the Special Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:



Joseph A. Petry, President



Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary