

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**December 11, 2013**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 5:40 p.m. at the Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Avenue, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Petry presided over the meeting.

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

Absent: Commissioner Barbara Kuhl

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

Other staff were present as well as members of the public and special guests.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Petry called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance to Regular Meeting of the Champaign Park District for December 11, 2013. He noted that the Park District has a very dedicated staff and community support. Each year this meeting gives the Board the opportunity to thank members of the community for the strong support given to the Park District. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

President Petry called for comments from the public. There were none.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Petry circulated the communications.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Honorary Commissioner

President Petry reported that each year the Park Board of Commissioners chooses one or two individuals to serve as Honorary Commissioners. These individuals have gone above and beyond for the Park District. This year the Park Board chose two very special individuals from the community: Representative Naomi Jakobsson and Charlie Finn. They will join a very distinguished list of honorary commissioners.

President Petry reported that Charlie Finn developed a screenplay about Red Grange with the University of Illinois and the Chicago Bears. He transformed the screenplay into a one act play for the Virginia Theatre's opening night last August. It was a dream fulfilled for Mr. Finn. The fundraiser was successful in linking the Theatre to the U of I fall sports season. It resulted in over \$18,000 in donations for Virginia Theatre restoration efforts. Mr. Finn was presented with a plaque and joined the Board at the table.

President Petry reported that Representative Jakobsson has been a strong advocate for parks and open space in the Champaign. She has supported legislation positively impacting the Champaign Park District, particularly with grant efforts, most recently for the \$250,000 Public Museum grant for the Virginia Theatre and \$200,000 for Kaufman Lake, were vital to the Park District's operation and important to the residents of Champaign and beyond. She was unable to attend the meeting and will be presented with a plaque at a later date.

On behalf of the Board, President Petry thanked Mr. Finn and Representative Jakobsson for their support and dedication to the Park District.

### **Presentation by Youth Theatre Students**

President Petry introduced Patty Dudley, Youth Theatre instructor. Ms. Dudley introduced youth theatre students who sang songs from "The Fiddler on the Roof" and "Shrek the Musical." Ms. Dudley also introduced Lisa Isaccs, Youth Theatre producer. Ms. Dudley reported that an attendance record was set for "Shrek the Musical."

### **Building Champaign Parks Awards**

Ms. Herakovich presented "Building Champaign Parks' awards to several individuals and organizations who have given their time, resources, and talent to improve parks.

#### Geoffrey Steward, International Fine Arts Conservation Studios (IFACS)

Ms. Herakovich reported that Mr. Steward, historic consultant, conservator, and painting contractor (and donor) for the Virginia Theatre Phase 3 renovation during 2012-13, was recognized for the work on the murals he and his team performed at the Theatre. He was presented with a plaque and thanked for his efforts.

#### John Foreman, *The News-Gazette*

Ms. Herakovich reported that Mr. Foreman and *The News-Gazette* have long been supporters of the restoration of the Virginia Theatre, first donating a projector which allows the Park District to show classical films, continuing to offer *The News-Gazette* Classical Films, and with the recent donation of \$20,000 toward a digital projector through the Marajen Stevick Foundation. He was presented with a plaque and thanked for his support and dedication to the Park District.

#### Ed Tepper, Tepper Electric

Ms. Herakovich reported that Mr. Tepper was unable to attend the meeting. He received an award for his dedication in assisting with the restoration of the historic lights on the ceiling of the Virginia Theatre and his annual donation to the Park District's scholarship fund. He will be presented with a plaque at a later date.

#### Cathy McGlone, Sunset Ridge Park

Ms. McGlone received an award for being a community advocate for the skate area at Sunset Ridge Park. She was instrumental in its design and construction since 2010. Ms. McGlone was presented with a plaque and thanked for her support of the Park District.

#### Tom Krouse, TLC Pest Control

Mr. Krouse voluntarily provided termite control treatment for the new Leonhard Recreation Center and continues to support Park District by providing other in-kind service. He was presented with a plaque and thanked for supporting the Park District.

### **Community Partner of the Year**

#### Midland States Bank

Ms. Auteberry reported that with Champaign Parks Foundation members, Midland States Bank has agreed to fund the Youth Scholarship program at the \$15,000 level. The Park District is grateful for this new partnership and looks forward to working with Midland States Bank for many years to come. Mr. Nick Jones accepted the plaque on behalf of the bank.

### **Program Excellence Awards**

#### Youth Theatre

Mr. DeLuce reported that Program Director Patty Dudley and Youth Theatre Producer Lisa Issacs were being honored for their efforts with the Youth Theatre Program. Attendance hit an all-time high with 2,245 patrons seeing for "Shrek the Musical" at the Virginia Theatre. 71 participants (grades 4-

8) performed four times over the three days. Program revenue increased this fall. Ms. Issacs expanded the number of advertisers and sponsors. Ms. Dudley worked well with her team of assistant directors to present the best show Youth Theatre has produced to date. Ms. Dudley and Ms. Issacs were each presented with plaques.

#### Sholem Sharks

Mr. DeLuca reported that Jason Maddux and Matt Hopkins were being honored for their efforts with the Sholem Sharks. The Sholem Sharks had over 200 participants this past year. The Sholem Sharks have won the conference swim meet for the last three years. Mr. Maddux and Mr. Hopkins were presented with plaques. Mr. Maddux was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Awards**

#### Volunteer of the Year

Mr. DeLuca Announced that Jeff Goldberg and Suzanne Aldridge were chosen as Volunteers of the Year. Mr. Goldberg is director of CUTC and Ms. Aldridge is a Centennial High School English and drama teacher. They were chosen for their efforts with the Red Grange play. They were presented with plaques.

#### Impact Awards

Ms. Herakovich reported that this award was developed to recognize staff for going beyond their job description responsibilities and making a significant impact on others in the areas of customer service, finance, safety or maintenance.

#### *Champaign Heat Travel Basketball Team*

Ms. Herakovich reported that Jameel Jones was being honored for his efforts in creating the Champaign Heat Travel Basketball team and coaching several teams from Douglass Park. His efforts have had a profound and lasting impact on many teens in the community. Mr. Jones was unable to attend the meeting. He will be presented with a plaque and award check for his efforts.

#### *Park District Operations Staff*

Ms. Herakovich reported that Tim Hagley, Brian Murphy, Phil Dodd, Bob Ginger, and Doug Duff were being honored for their assistance with the Washington Park District tornado recovery clean-up efforts. Ms. Herakovich presented Mr. Duff, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Dodd with plaques and award checks for their efforts. Mr. Hagley and Mr. Ginger were unable to attend the meeting and will be presented with their awards at a later date.

#### Innovation Award

Ms. Herakovich reported that this award was created by Ms. Herakovich to recognize staff's commitment to offering new programs for residents. Participants receive \$500 of credit toward equipment and supplies in their program areas to supplement their program offerings.

#### *Pie Run*

Mr. DeLuca reported that Megan Kuhlenschmidt, Sports and Aquatics Manager, and the Sports, Aquatics and Fitness staff were being honored for their innovative efforts for the Pie Run race. The Pie Run race was held during the Taste of Champaign and had over 160 entrants. The run featured a 3.14 mile course with pie stops every mile and a "flying pie" finish at the end of the race. The Pie Run is being nominated for an IPRA Program Excellence Award.

#### *Cupcake Run*

Mr. DeLuca reported that Dawn Schaefer, CUSR Director, and the CUSR staff were being honored for their innovative efforts in developing the first annual Cupcake 5K fundraiser. The race started at Dodds Softball Complex and proceeded through Park College campus and adjacent neighborhood. 125 participants participated in the run. Each participant received a CUSR Cupcake 5K beanie in their swag bags.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wackerlin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2013. He stated that the Park District's finances have been reviewed and found to be in appropriate order.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 4-0.

### Attorney's Report

None

## CONSENT AGENDA

President Petry stated that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon by one motion. If discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately. These items were:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, October 16, 2013
2. Approval of Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, October 16, 2013
3. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, October 23, 2013
4. Approval of Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, October 23, 2013
5. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 13, 2013
6. Approval of Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, November 13, 2013
7. Approval of Park Board Meeting Dates for 2014

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahan. The motion passed 4-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Approval of Disbursements as of November 14, 2013

President Petry reported that staff recommended approval of disbursements for the period beginning November 14, 2013 and ending December 11, 2013.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve approval of disbursements for the period beginning November 14, 2013 and ending December 11, 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahan. The motion passed 4-0.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Champaign Parks Foundation Year End Report

Craig Hays, Foundation Board Member, reported that this past year \$133,678.47 in donations were received. He thanked Ms. Herakovich for her outstanding leadership. He thanked Midland States Bank for partnering with the Foundation.

### 2013: A Year of Building for Fun!

Ms. Herakovich summarized a PowerPoint presentation "2013: A Year of Building for Fun." She reported that in September of 2012 staff and Park Commissioners updated the Strategic Plan: A Decade of Excellence (2005-2015), which will focus on the next seven years to conclude with the Park District's 2020 Vision (2013-2020). Projects completed include Sunset Ridge Phase II; Porter Park Phase II; and the renovation and reopening of the Virginia Theatre. Construction began on the new Leonhard Recreation Center. New programming successes include programs such as Zombie Run, Mom Prom, Amazing Bike Race, Cupcake 5K, Pie Run, Howl'oween at the Bark Park, Tiny Tots Playground and Harry Potter School's Out Days. Ms. Herakovich reported that the Champaign Park District relies on volunteers and would not be able to support its many events without the help

of volunteers. In 2013, the Champaign Park District had 2,100 volunteers contributing 19,587 hours, resulting in a cost savings of \$433,656 for the Park District. She noted that the Park District enhanced its parks and program service levels through the following community partnerships: CUSR with the YMCA; soccer field at Human Kinetics Park; City of Champaign support of the Champaign Music Festival and a new park operations storage facility, as well as several agreements for joint use of facilities, assistance with programs and advertising and promotions. The Champaign Parks Foundation fundraising for the future included \$133,678 in donations; a \$25,000 grant from the Marajen Stevick Foundation administered through the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois for the Virginia Theatre; and \$15,000 from Midland States Bank to support the Youth Scholarship Program. Awards won this past year include a Government Finance Officers Award for Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Award; International Platinum Aquatic Safety Award to the Sholem Aquatic Center lifeguards; Level A Accreditation from the Park District Risk Management Agency, and the Helen Doria Award from the Illinois Arts Alliance for the park sculpture award. Ms. Herakovich was awarded the Illinois Association of Park District's Honored Professional Award and CUSR received the Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Association Outstanding Program of the Year Award for the Frunner Club 5K Training Program.

Ms. Herakovich stated that it was a great year of fun for the staff and the community. She stated that staff looks forward to continue offering excellent programs, parks and services, as well as working with the community and volunteers. She noted that she will not be the Executive Director in 2014, but that the new Executive Director is known very well. Ms. Herakovich asked everyone to join her in congratulating the new Executive Director, Joe DeLuce. He received a round of applause.

President Petry thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that although the Park District is very excited about the future with Mr. DeLuce, it is also very appreciative for everything that Ms. Herakovich has accomplished the past 12 years. He stated that the Park District would not be the same without Ms. Herakovich. She received a round of applause.

#### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

None

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Approved:

---

Joseph A. Petry, President

---

Cindy Harvey, Assistant Secretary