

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 26, 2014

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session Meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 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 and Jane Solon, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin, and Attorney Guy Hall.

Absent: Commissioner Tim McMahon

Staff: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, J.R. Pope, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Director of Marketing and Development, Jameel Jones, Director of Cultural Arts, Megan Kuhlenschmidt, Director of Recreation, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Andrew Weiss, Park Planner and Landscape Architect, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, and Stacey Cornell, Administrative Specialist.

A member of the public, Mike Martin with The Atkins Group, was present. Arthur Thoma from the Champaign Parks Foundation arrived at 5:47pm.

Call to Order

President Petry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CPD Highlights

President Petry called for CPD Highlights. There were none.

Comments from the Public

President Petry called for comments from the public.

Mr. Martin, 1818 Coventry Drive, Champaign, of the Atkins Group, addressed the Board about the topsoil pile at Toalson Park in the Ashland Park Subdivision. He reported that the topsoil is still needed for development of the subdivision. The developer (Atkins) is in the process of resuming building homes in the subdivision. The developer would like to work out an agreement with the Park District to continue to store the topsoil at Toalson Park until the development has been completed. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Kuhl, Mr. Martin responded that the topsoil would cover the remaining homes and hopes five years is enough time for the topsoil to be completely used.

President Petry recommended that Item No. E. 3, "Topsoil Stockpile at Toalson Park" be moved up on the agenda. There were no objections from the Board.

Discussion Items

Topsoil Stockpile at Toalson Park

Mr. DeLuce presented the staff report. Mr. Weiss and he responded to questions from the Board. The Board directed staff to work on an agreement with The Atkins Group that would address any safety issues, timeframe for storing the topsoil and securing insurance. Commissioner Solon abstained from participating in the discussion.

Presentation

Open Space and Development

Mr. DeLuce introduced Bruce Knight, City of Champaign Planning and Development Director, who attended to give a presentation on open space and development.

Mr. Knight presented an update regarding development in Champaign, what may be seen in the future and what kind of opportunities might be available for the Park District as it relates to open space and development. Mr. Knight responded to questions and comments from the Board. He stated he would provide a detailed report on the landfill as requested by Commissioner Griggs.

President Petry thanked Mr. Knight for his presentation.

Discussion Items

Quarterly Financial Update

Ms. Wallace presented the staff report. Information on the three major funds: museum, recreation and general were given. Revenues and expenditures are on track with budget. Capital is not included in the figures. President Petry stated having beginning and ending fund balances would be helpful.

PARC Grant Application Update

Mr. Weiss reported the Park District is proceeding with the application that is due March 10th for a 20,000 square foot facility with projected construction costs of \$3.3 million to be located in Spalding Park. He informed the Commissioners that there is enough in the budget for geothermal heating and cooling. Staff responded to questions. Expenses not included in the construction costs would be architect fees, audit for the grant and \$300 application fee along with fixtures, furniture and equipment.

Roger Ebert Statue

Mr. DeLuce presented the staff report. There are no funds set aside for the maintenance of this statue. Commissioner Solon spoke on behalf of the Champaign Parks Foundation and its request for the Park District Board's direction before making any contribution. Discussion ensued.

The Board is generally supportive and the current thought is that the Champaign Parks Foundation would fund the maintenance of the statue. Staff was directed to follow up on the maintenance costs of the statute and also follow up with PDRMA about insuring the statute. It has been suggested that the Park District take ownership of the statue. This item will be presented to the Board for further consideration in March.

Videotaping Board Meetings

Mr. DeLuce presented the staff report. Staff responded to questions and comments from the Board. Discussion ensued about costs and other aspects of the proposal. It was the consensus of the Board that videotaping its meetings was not seen as a need at this time. It will be revisited in the future if there is interest.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Kuhl asked about the opening of the new Leonhard Recreation Center. The grand opening is still on schedule for April 12th at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Solon asked about the landscaping at the new Leonhard Recreation Center. Staff reported that sod has been ordered.

President Petry stated Ms. Wallace, Mr. Wackerlin, Mr. DeLuce and he met regarding the possibility of a financial advisory committee. He stated that Mr. DeLuce and Ms. Wallace are preparing a memo summarizing this opportunity for the Commissioners to consider.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved:

Joseph A. Petry, President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary
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