

**Joint Champaign Parks Foundation and
Champaign Park District Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Bresnan Meeting Center
Wednesday, September 24, 2014**

Champaign Parks Foundation Board Members in Attendance: Bryan Banks, Joseph DeLuce, Newton Dodds, Craig Hays, Louis Liay, Scott Miller, Penn Nelson, Jane Solon, and Art Thoma.

Champaign Parks Foundation Board Members Absent: John Frauenhoffer.

Champaign Park District Board of Park Commissioners in Attendance: President Joe Petry (*arrived at 5:22 p.m.*), Vice President Al Griggs, Commissioners Barb Kuhl, Tim McMahon, and Jane Solon.

Board Officers: Gary Wackerlin.

Staff in Attendance: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, Laura Auteberry, Development Director, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director, and Stacey Cornell, Administrative Specialist.

Open Meeting

Vice President Griggs called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Vice President Griggs welcomed all gathered and thanked them for coming. Each individual introduced themselves.

Purpose of the Champaign Parks Foundation

Chair Hays stated the mission of the Foundation is to provide support to the Park District.

Foundation Accomplishments and Current Activities

Chair Hays thanked the Foundation Board members for all their efforts and the Park District for their support.

Ms. Auteberry reported on the Foundation Board's most notable accomplishments since its creation in 2005. She stated the Foundation has created an awareness of the need for donations. The Foundation has raised over \$1.25 million for the renovation of the Virginia Theatre; over \$60,000 for youth scholarships through the following: annual appeals, the Illini Summer Opportunity Organization (ISOO), the Taste of Champaign-Urbana car raffle and an Outdoor Nation Foundation donation; over \$20,000 for the dog park; and over \$15,000 for the new Leonhard Recreation Center through brick sales and scoreboard sponsorship. Ms. Auteberry reported that the Foundation was also involved in the collaborative effort with Kraft Foods Foundation and Champaign Rotary on the Hazel Park playground Kaboom build. Trees and benches have been purchased with money raised in addition to sculptures, some of which are leased.

Ms. Auteberry reported the Foundation is preparing to send out its annual appeal in November seeking donations for the general fund. She also stated the Virginia Theater seat campaign is being relaunched. Additionally, a land donor reception is being planned and will be held at the Champaign Country Club on either November 6 or 13. She reported nearly half of the Park District's acreage has been donated.

CPD Strategic Plan Review

Mr. DeLuce reported the Strategic Plan provides the Park District direction on being effective and efficient. He stated that the Park Board's top four priorities are as follows: 1. Land and open space acquisition; 2. Connections of trails and parks; 3. Virginia Theatre improvements; and 4. Youth scholarship funding through the Foundation and the Taste of Champaign-Urbana event. Mr. DeLuce reported that the Park District was awarded a \$750,000 grant for new stage lights and sound system at the Virginia Theatre. He noted that the men's restrooms and emergency fire escape on the west side of the facility are in need of upgrading. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Dodds commented that the Foundation has a fine Board. In particular he mentioned the work of Chair Hays and Board Member Frauenhoffer on taking donors to lunch.

Commissioner Kuhl asked what the Board could do to help the Foundation. She asked if there was a better way of relaying where they would like to see funds directed.

Chair Hays commented that he thought having a Park Board liaison works well. He stated that when approving projects to fund the Foundation Board was in favor of it having finite goals so that future Boards were not committed to them.

Commissioner Kuhl stated the Foundation is valuable. Board Member Liay commented the Foundation is to support the Park District and help it achieve the strategic plan. The goal is to make it the best park district in the country. Board Member Dodds stated that most of the funds received are restricted to a certain area.

Vice President Griggs commented that he appreciates the Foundation and their support.

President Petry arrived at 5:22 p.m.

Mr. DeLuce recapped the Park Board's priorities of land and open space acquisition, trails, the Virginia Theatre and scholarships.

Joint Fundraising Priorities

Chair Hays stated the Foundation would support moving on the priorities to make the best park district possible.

Ms. Auteberry summarized the priorities as securing land either through donation or purchase, trails, the Virginia Theatre and scholarships. She will send the trails plan to the Foundation Board members.

Commissioner Kuhl congratulated Board Member Miller on being named Central Illinois Business magazine's Forty Under 40 Man of the Year.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved:

John Frauenhoffer, Secretary
Champaign Parks Foundation

Joseph A. Petry, President of Park Board

Cindy Harvey, Secretary of Park Board