

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

**March 11, 2015**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President Petry presided over the hearing.

Present: President Joseph Petry, Vice President Alvin S. Griggs, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Timothy P. McMahon, and Attorney Guy Hall.

Absent: Treasurer Gary Wackerlin

Staff present: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Megan Kuhlenschmidt, Director of Recreation and Marketing, Jameel Jones, Director of Cultural Arts, Tammy Hoggatt, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Risk, Bret Johnson, Grounds Supervisor, and Stacey Cornell, Administrative Specialist.

Several members of the public and media were in attendance.

**Open the Public Hearing**

President Petry opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss and receive comments on the amendment to the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY2014-2015. A Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The News-Gazette* on February 6, 2015 in compliance with State law.

President Petry called for comments from the public. There were no comments received.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 immediately following the Public Hearing at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Petry presided over the meeting.

The Commissioners, Officers, staff, public and media present at the Public Hearing were in attendance at the Regular Meeting.

**Call to Order**

President Petry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**CPD Highlights**

Commissioner Kuhl thanked staff for the excellent job done recently gathering information and organizing public meetings.

**Comments from the Public**

Eunice Rivers, 109 West Stanage, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. She objected to a suggested land swap proposition with the Champaign Unit #4 School District (Unit 4). Ms. Rivers expressed concern that it would need to be approved by the State of Illinois and the amount of additional traffic that would be generated near Dodds Park. She also expressed concern

about the attorneys' expenses. Ms. Rivers stated Dodds Park is a premier park which has achieved national recognition and has numerous amenities. She urged the Board to vote no on any exchange of land involving Dodds Park.

Marilyn Lindholm, 501 South Prairie Street, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. She asked the Board to say no to Unit 4's request for a portion of Dodds Park. It is a community resource, and the Park District already has less recreational area than comparable cities. Ms. Lindholm believes the school board has other options. She did not think Dodds Park should be used to solve the school board's issues.

Jane Pica, 2521 Pinehurst Drive, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. She stated she is against using Dodds Park for anything other than a park. Ms. Pica has a memorial tree there and finds the soccer fields comforting. She also stated concerns with the traffic flow and did not think it is a good school site. Ms. Pica urged the Board not to change Dodds Park and thanked them for listening.

Larry Meister, Sr., 2605 East Illinois Street, Urbana, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. He thought Dodds Park should remain a park. Mr. Meister questioned which 40 acres of the Unit 4 land on Interstate Drive the Park District would get if a trade were made. He was hopeful the Board would vote no to Unit 4's request for 40 acres of Dodds Park.

Dannel McCollum, 807 West Church, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. He commented that the Unit 4 tax referendum that initially failed was intended for the Interstate Drive location. Dodds Park is being pursued in an effort to "bail out" the referendum's second attempt at passage. He did not think Dodds Park needed to be considered as a school site, at least until after the referendum vote on April 7. He was not in support of any specific location for a new high school.

Rochelle Funderburg, 2622 Natalie Drive, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. She commented that Unit 4 did not do a detailed study of Dodds Park and questioned how it concluded that it is an ideal site for a new Central High School. Ms. Funderburg stated that much of what would make the site work would be an agreement with Parkland College that does not exist. In her opinion, the land exchange would set bad precedent. The only thing that changed from Unit 4's first request for Dodds Park was the tax referendum failed. She asked the Board to say no to Unit 4's request.

Cathy Harper, 604 West Washington, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding the Spalding Park. She commented that if the trade for Dodds Park happened, it could take funds from the Capital Improvement Plan dedicated for use at Spalding Park. Ms. Harper would like to see the plans for Spalding Park realized.

Theresa W. Truelove, 508 South McKinley, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding swimming pools. She stated the McKinley Aquatic Center closed and there is not another deep, warm water pool in the area. She encouraged the Board to include funding for a pool in next year's budget.

Gerald Pica, 2521 Pinehurst Drive, Champaign, addressed the Board regarding Dodds Park. He commented that he was against Dodds Park as a site for a new Central High School. There are numerous memorial trees that would need to be moved. The soccer fields would also have to be built elsewhere. Mr. Pica stated he thought Dodds Park should remain a park.

President Petry thanked all individuals for their comments.

### **Old Business**

#### Address the Request from Unit #4 School District on the possible use of Dodds Park for the new Central High School

President Petry stated the process of voting on the issue and that a super majority of 4 yes votes from the 5 Commissioners would be needed to approve a transfer of land in accordance with the

Local Government Transfer Act.

President Petry commented that trading land with Unit 4 fulfilled the mission of the Park District and could be a win-win. Since the law requires the land exchanged to be of equal or greater value, it is possible the Park District could receive more than 40 acres in return. He agreed that more park land is needed and a swap could achieve that. It is possible new playing fields elsewhere could better serve residents. As a professional educator, he thought it was important to provide learning spaces. President Petry stated that a high school at Dodds Park and new soccer fields could be beneficial for the community. He commented that Dodds Park must remain in consideration as a school site. President Petry stated it was important for the public to know if Dodds Park would be considered as an option before the tax referendum on April 7.

Commissioner Kuhl commented that she did not think there was sufficient time to resolve the issues before the referendum. She stated more information was needed.

Vice President Griggs commented that he would like to continue the discussion but more details were needed in addition to state and federal approval.

President Petry clarified his position stating that he was not voting for a definitive land swap. He was voting yes, but before any trade could take place more details would need to be determined.

Commissioner Solon commented that it was apparent the majority was against Dodds Park as a location for the new Central High School. She also stated she did not want to prolong the process any longer since it could take years to remove the restrictions on the park. Commissioner Solon stated she was voting no so that Unit 4 could move on and build the new school that the students need.

Commissioner McMahon commented Dodds Park is a signature park and he thought the issue should have ended when the Park Board denied Unit 4's request in July 2014. He stated he does not think it was a good site for the new high school. Commissioner McMahon commented that he believes Unit 4 would ask for more Dodds Park land later, and that Unit 4 would be hesitant to pay for the new soccer complex. There is also the issue of the grant restriction. He stated the Park District has already spent approximately \$20,000 on attorney's expenses, Freedom of Information Act requests, and meetings. He reported he was voting no.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion that the request by Champaign Unit #4 School District for 40 acres of the 110 acres of Dodds Park for the siting of a new Central High School be put to a vote (by roll call). The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion failed 3-2. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – no; Commissioner McMahon – no; Vice President Griggs – yes; President Petry – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl – no.

### **Communications**

President Petry circulated the communications.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### Consideration of Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2015

Ms. Wallace presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2015 in Treasurer Wackerlin's absence. She stated Mr. Wackerlin reviewed the Park District's finances and found them to be in appropriate order.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2015. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### General Announcements

Mr. DeLuce reported the diversity task force added a member from Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation. The taskforce is in the process of finalizing a plan to ensure a diverse and inclusive workplace. He stated that there was a small kitchen fire at the Douglass Annex. The smoke did go through the ductwork which resulted in the facility closing temporarily. Mr. DeLuce reported the Child Care Resource Service through the State of Illinois exhausted funds in February. This program provided \$80,000-\$100,000 in assistance to families for youth to participate in pre-school, day camp and afterschool offerings.

## **Committee and Liaison Reports**

### Champaign Parks Foundation

Commissioner Solon reported the Foundation had met on March 9, 2015. She stated that plans for the car raffle fundraiser are progressing. The winner will have the choice of one of four cars with the addition of Subaru as a raffle participating dealer. Marketing of the raffle has begun and the funds raised will be used for Park District program scholarships. The Foundation requested Board approval of Laura Shapland as a Director.

## **Report of Officers**

### Attorney's Report

Attorney Hall indicated that he would address an easement matter later in the agenda.

### President'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. The items are as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Joint Champaign and Urbana Park Districts Board Meeting, December 4, 2014.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, January 28, 2015.
3. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session, January 28, 2015.
4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 11, 2015.
5. Approval of Minutes of the Study Session, February 25, 2015.
6. Approval of Agreement with Developmental Services Center for park walkers for a two year term.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 5-0.

## **New Business**

### Approval of Disbursements for February 2015

Staff recommended the approval of disbursements for the period beginning February 11, 2015 and ending March 10, 2015.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve the list of disbursements for the period beginning February 11, 2015 and ending March 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of a Resolution Appointing an Additional Person as a Director of the Champaign Parks Foundation

Staff recommended that Laura Shapland be appointed to the Board of Directors for the Champaign Parks Foundation to fill an unexpired three year term.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve a resolution appointing Laura Shapland as a Director of the Champaign Parks Foundation to fill an unexpired three year term. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Ordinance No. 593: Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

Staff recommended adoption of Ordinance No. 593, the Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY14-15 in the amount of \$19,219,666.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 593, the Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY14-15 in the amount of \$19,219,666. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. 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.

Approval of Washington Park Easement

Attorney Hall reported that because the City of Champaign was granted the north/south sidewalks and platted streets, it should also participate in the Washington Park easement. Because of Park District requirement, the easement is to have a 99-year term. Rick Manner, Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Washington Park easement and responded to questions from the Board. He stated the sanitary district would pay for Park District expenses relating to the easement (in accordance with the Park District ordinance). Discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the sewer forcemain on the south part of Washington Park run north/south along the west edge of the property. It was also the consensus of the Board not to have a sidewalk installed, but rather amenities, such as trees and benches. Attorney Hall stated the change would be made in Exhibit A to reflect the easement being along the west edge instead of diagonally through the southern half of the park.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to grant the easement request and enter into the easement agreement with the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District with the revision of the location of the forcemain to the west edge on the south side of Washington Park; and other details as finalized and agreed to by the Executive Director and legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. The motion passed 5-0.

President Petry thanked Mr. Manner for his presentation.

Approval of Dental and Life Insurance Plans

Ms. Hoggatt presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve continuing dental and life insurance benefits with The Principal Financial Group at current benefit levels at a guaranteed increased rate of 5% for dental and the current rate for life beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Bids for Garments

Ms. Kuhlenschmidt presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. She stated staff clothing was not included this year as it had been in the prior year.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve the bids for garments from the low, responsible bidder for each item that meets specifications as follows in an amount not to exceed \$40,650.39:

Sunburst Sportswear in the amount of \$24,429.14; Marathon Sports in the amount of \$6,657.00; The Lifeguard Store in the amount of \$4,514.25; Kiefer Swim Products in the amount of \$2,650.00; and YBA Shirts in the amount of \$2,400.00. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

#### Approval of a Request for Proposal for Food and Beverage Concessionaire Services

Mr. DeLuce presented the staff report. He reported one request for proposal (RFP) was received and the Park District would incur a financial loss when compared to continuing with concessions in-house.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to reject the RFP for food and beverage concessionaire services from Rosati's. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

#### Approval of a Bid for Painting Services

Staff recommended accepting the bid from the low, responsible bidder, M.J.W. Painting, in the amount of \$7,500, and authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract for this work.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to accept the bid from the low, responsible bidder, M.J.W. Painting, in the amount of \$7,500, and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for this work. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

#### Approval of a Bid for the Repair and Re-coating of the Sholem Aquatic Center Waterslides

Brett Johnson presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. He presumed the large difference in bid amounts was due to one company being in Illinois and the other one being from Ohio. Mr. Johnson stated references were checked.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve the bid and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the low, responsible bidder, IPS Waterslides, Inc., in the amount of \$18,500.00 for the repair and re-coating of the Sholem Aquatic Center waterslides. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

#### Approval of a Contract for Portable Toilets

Jameel Jones presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. He reported an updated amount from what was listed on the agenda of \$9,682.50. Mr. Jones stated the total was less than the previous two years as a result of portable toilets being removed from some parks.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve a one year extension for portable toilets and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Midwest Pottyhouse, Inc., in the amount of \$9,682.50. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Discussion Items**

#### Proposed 2015-2016 Capital Budget including 4-year Capital Improvement Plan

Andrea Wallace presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. She stated that staff submitted requests to the directors. The directors then directed them to Kevin Crump, Director of Operations and Planning, who compiled the information. Each project was assigned a priority of #1. Safety or legal requirement; #2. Board priority; or #3. Strategic plan goal. The top #1 and #2 projects were selected. The major target areas were Hessel Park playground and surfacing, Operations facility and shop yard expansion, Dodds 3-Plex field lights, Dodds Tennis Center parking lot, and the beginning phases of Spalding Park redevelopment. All capital projects proposed total \$5,350,600. Ms. Wallace reported that State of Illinois grants have recently been suspended. It is not known if the Park District will be reimbursed for the \$300,000 in Douglass Park improvements.

Commissioner Solon commented that she thinks the Board should be very cautious regarding the Capital Budget based upon what was said at the recent legislative breakfast, and in light of state funding freezes.

Mr. DeLuce commented there is a significant amount of information to evaluate. He stated that Ms. Wallace and he were available to meet to answer questions.

President Petry commented he needed to further evaluate the budget. Ms. Wallace stated that the larger projects were listed on the back of the handout that was provided at the meeting.

Mr. DeLuce reported the Virginia Theatre sound system and lighting project was ready for bid. He stated that the Park District could move forward, but with the state suspending grant funding it was unknown if reimbursement for the project would occur. Mr. DeLuce commented that the Park District could do the sound system at a cost of \$530,000 without closing the theatre. The lighting project would require closure. He stated it is difficult to schedule performances at the theatre without knowing what the state will do with pending grants. Currently, the Virginia Theatre rents sound equipment in the amount of \$1,200 per month. If a new system were installed, this expenditure would be eliminated and performers could be charged a rental fee to use the theatre's equipment.

Commissioner Solon commented she would like to see rental costs in comparison with how much revenue would be received to offset the cost of a new system, as well as how long the return on investment would be.

Ms. Wallace asked the Board how much of the Park District's cash reserves it would be comfortable using? Commissioner Kuhl commented that it would depend on the merit of the in question. She also questioned if projects could be staged. Ms. Wallace noted that the fund projections did include the annual issuance of the General Obligation Bond.

#### **Comments from Commissioners**

Vice President Griggs reported the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation annual meeting is Sunday, March 29 at the I Hotel. Bob Toalson, former Park District Executive Director, is to receive an award. The speaker's topic is Dutch-Elm Disease.

Commissioner Solon commented regarding the IMET fund email she had received earlier that day. She stated she would appreciate being made aware of such situations sooner. Ms. Wallace stated the matter had been discussed with Treasurer Wackerlin and Mr. DeLuce.

Commissioner Kuhl commented now that the Dodds Park decision had been made, she thought that it would be beneficial to seek out Unit 4 and ways the Park District could work with it for the betterment of the community. She would like to see efforts of collaboration after the April 7 election.

Commissioner McMahon commented that he was in agreement with Commissioner Kuhl regarding reaching out to other entities for collaboration. He expressed various concerns.

Commissioner Kuhl commented that there were legal issues that had to be addressed, and the process is costly. She also stated the Park District has no control over Freedom of Information Act requests.

Commissioner Solon commented that if the Park District attorney is directed to research a matter, all Board members be informed. She also stated that if other entities have an attorney present at meetings involving the Park District, then the Park District attorney should also attend.

President Petry commented that the Dodds Park issue was complex. Many issues were involved, and he wanted answers with regard to the legal process.

Commissioner McMahon commented that perhaps some of the inquiries and related research were unnecessary. Further discussion ensued regarding several issues that were examined in the process.

Commissioner Solon inquired about the process for using Attorney Hall's services. She requested guidelines be established going forward.

President Petry stated it would be a good item to discuss at a Board retreat.

Commissioner Solon commented that she had heard the dance arts recital at the Virginia Theatre was fabulous.

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Solon moved as set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. 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 into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS, Par., 120/2(c)(11) pending litigation and 120/2(c)(21) for the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purpose of approval by body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

### **Return to Regular Meeting**

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

### **Executive Session Item**

#### Approval to Make Available for Public Viewing Executive Session Minutes

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve making available for public viewing a portion and/or entire minutes from Executive Session meetings on August 14, 2013 (entire); September 25, 2013 (partial); and July 9, 2014 (partial). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

### **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 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Approved:

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Joseph A. Petry, President

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Cindy Harvey, Secretary