

- Approved July 17, 2008 -

**PARK RIDGE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Maine Park Leisure Center
2701 Sibley Avenue**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Thursday, July 10, 2008
7:30 p.m.**

COMMISSIONERS

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Dick Barton, President
Steve Hunst
Marty Maloney
Nick Milissis (7:46 p.m.)
Jim O'Brien (7:34 p.m.)
Sal Raspanti
Mary Wynn Ryan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Lange, Director of Parks and Recreation
Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance
Bill Neumann, Superintendent of Dev. & Operations
Lori Lovell Knouse, Superintendent of Recreation
Kathie Hahn, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations
Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas G. Hoffman, Park District Attorney
See Sign-in Sheet

President Barton called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:33 p.m. Administrative Assistant Lucarz then took roll call.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on Non-Agenda Items

Resident Paul Sheehan said the Foundation had a meeting tonight and has an opportunity to fundraise by having a 50/50 raffle at the "Movies in the Park." He asked Attorney Hoffman if there are any restraints on games of chance either on the Foundation or Park District. Attorney Hoffman said he is not aware of any restrictions and has not looked into it before.

Terry Majewski, Park Ridge Swim Club II head coach, thanked the Park District for letting them host their meet at the Oakton Pool a few weeks back at which 350 swimmers participated. He said several problems occurred: 1) He was told no maintenance man works on Sundays; a water fountain on the west side was squirting water out so a dad on the other team, who was a plumber, fixed the problem; 2) Level of staffing – wondered what the responsibilities of the lifeguards are. Terry Majewski said there were a lot of compliments on the Oakton Pool from the other swimmers and parents. They believe the

pool is a real treasure, but were disappointed that it may not be there next year, but if it is, the Swim Club would like to use the pool the last weekend in June. Director Lange said he will need to look into the lifeguard issues. Commissioner Maloney asked how much does it cost for the Swim Club II to rent the pool. Terry Majewski said \$55 an hour. Commissioner Maloney wondered if the Park District subsidized the meet. Terry Majewski said it's pretty much breakeven.

Resident Paul Sheehan thanked the Commissioners and staff for the addition of the new Centennial Wading Pool.

Camp Fire Girls Fountain in Hodges Park – Park Ridge Garden Club

Resident Howard Sersen said the fountain was dedicated a year ago and people say they can not see the fountain from the street and believe new landscape is needed such as new plantings behind each bench. He said the Park Ridge Garden Club is interested in participating in the outer circle landscape project. Resident Sersen said he is arranging for all the project funding and they also believe a decorative new spray is needed. Some discussion ensued on the decorative spray and pump. Howard Sersen said he has a corporate donor who wants to stay anonymous and will contribute at least \$5,000 or more if the Park Ridge Garden Club has the final say so on the total landscape of the outer circle. President Barton said the Park District will need to have the final say.

President Barton asked if there are any comments from Superintendent Neumann on the landscaping or pump issues. Superintendent Neumann said there are two circles in Hodges Park and the other one honors the veterans. The two circles are treated pretty much the same with the landscape design with enclosed evergreens. He said landscape design is a personal interpretation. President Barton asked about the fountain pump. Superintendent Neumann said any size can be placed there and reviewed the mechanics of the fountain pump.

Marianne Janesku, past President of the Park Ridge Garden Club, reviewed the typical life of a mugo pine and said the present bushes are overgrown and you cannot see the fountain from city hall across a street. She said the inner circle is controlled by the City and the Garden Club has completed the inner circle plantings.

Paulette Carrion, Park Ridge Garden Club President; said she worked with the Eagle Scouts on the veterans memorial and she believes the evergreens would need replacement too.

Resident Sersen said the funding he has is designated for the fountain only. Some discussion ensued on costs for landscape planting and layout. Resident Sersen said he will arrange for the costs of the project and there is around \$16,000 in the account at the City and the extra corporate funding could be \$5,000 and believes these amounts would cover the costs for the landscaping around the fountain circle. Commissioner Maloney reminded Resident Sersen that the Park District and the Park Ridge Community Women came up with the bulk of the funding for the fountain renovation project. After further discussion on costs; fountain spray design; and landscape design; President Barton suggested that the Building and Grounds Committee look into this issue and come back at a board meeting with a recommendation.

Professional Service Proposal from Burnidge Cassell and Associates (BCA) Park Board & Staff Planning Workshop

Director Lange said the planning workshop will allow the Park Board and staff to figure out the next steps on where the Park District would like to go as an agency. He said the workshop would work best on a Saturday and is looking to schedule the meeting sometime in October or November.

Commissioner Maloney gave background information on how this came about. He said one of Director Lange's MBO's is to develop a strategic plan for the Park District. The Park Board was presented with a proposal back in December from Burnidge Cassell Associates and the dollar amount was fairly expensive and the Board was not interested. He said now the proposal came back and is affordable. After some discussion on board member terms; workshop costs and focus; Commissioner Ryan asked if the workshop is to be an open meeting to the public. Attorney Hoffman said "yes." Commissioner O'Brien asked that Burnidge Cassell Associates provide an example of a workshop they have provided in the past. Director Lange said the next step is to choose a Saturday date.

IAPD/IPRA Legislative Awareness Golf Outing

President Barton asked if there were any Commissioners interested in the outing. Director Lange said "not yet." President Barton took a consensus and no Commissioners will be able to attend the golf outing.

Finance Committee

Review Schedules

Superintendent Berman said the schedules are prepared each year. Commissioner Hunst said he likes the schedules.

Recreation Committee

Bid Information – Park District Website

Superintendent Knouse reviewed the procedure to find the "Doing Business with the Park District" on the District's website. President Barton asked how this came about. Commissioner O'Brien said at the last meeting Commissioner Hunst brought up a concern on how the District publicizes bids and thought it would be nice to post bid notices on the District's website.

Building & Grounds Committee

Centennial Wading Pool Construction Update

Superintendent Neumann said the punch list and inspections are completed and the wading pool is open. He said asphalt items will need to be addressed. Director Lange said there will be a grand opening of the wading pool on Saturday, July 19 from 11am-1pm for a ribbon cutting, refreshments, and prizes. Commissioner Maloney thanked everyone that was involved and he has received positive feedback. Commissioner Ryan also thanked staff and believes the layout was well thought through.

Update on 10 S. Western Property

Attorney Hoffman said on Monday, June 30 the city's planning and zoning commission held a required public hearing on the three pending applications which were site plan review, rezoning, and subdivision. He said there was no public opposition or public comment and there was unanimous support by the members of the commission who were present. The commission took final action on the site plan review so that does not have to go to the City Council. The commission took action in a form of a recommendation on the other two applications which will be sent to the City Council for proposed action on July 21. He said the engineer is moving forward with building permits, the landscape and site plans. Pending closing date is July 18 and a letter was sent out today to the owner requesting an extension to August 31. After some discussion on budgeting for this project, President Barton asked that budgeting be an agenda item at the next Committee meeting.

South Park Flooding

Superintendent Neumann reviewed the rainfall charts, equipment failure, flooding and power issues that occurred at South Park. After some discussion, Director Lange was asked to contact Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) for advice on this issue.

Policy & Procedures Committee

Review Environmental Impact Task Force Agenda – Commissioner Ryan

Commissioner Ryan said projects are moving forward which include: indoor garden at the Community Center; recycling paper bin at Maine South; and recycling bins in the parks. Commissioner Raspanti said he is planning to have a July joint city environmental meeting and will notify Commissioners and staff once it is arranged.

Advertising/Marketing Policies – Discussion

Commissioner Ryan said we need to look for revenue sources that do not require raising taxes or referendums or raising fees such as aggressive sponsorship marketing in the brochure. She would like to do this on a contractual basis. Commissioner Raspanti believes there are tremendous opportunities to generate additional revenue. After some discussion on sponsorship ideas, Commissioner Ryan was asked to gather information from staff and to work with Attorney Hoffman on the legal ramifications.

New Business

President Barton asked for an update on the letter from Jill Ponsi regarding the centennial path. Superintendent Neumann said the asphalt patching of the path will be addressed by the end of August.

Commissioner O'Brien said he read in the paper that District 207 is unhappy about the Park District benefiting money from the fireworks. He asked that staff provide the Commissioners in August a summary of the fireworks funding. Superintendent Knouse said the \$5 parking lot fee raised \$3,939 which went into the account to pay for the \$18,000 fireworks display. She said the parking fee was not revenue producing in any way for the Park District. President Barton asked that a Fireworks recap be an agenda item on the next Committee meeting.

Adjournment

At 9:48 p.m., President Barton moved the Board to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Milissis and passed by a voice vote. Motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wynn Ryan
Secretary

Recorded By: Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant