

-Approved May 15, 2008-

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

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 1, 2008
7:15 p.m.**

COMMISSIONERS

PHYSICALLY PRESENT:

Dick Barton, President
Steve Hunst
Marty Maloney
Jim O'Brien
Sal Raspanti
Mary Wynn Ryan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Nick Milissis

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
Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant
Kathie Hahn, Manager of Marketing and Public Relations
J.T. Malak, Community Center Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Thomas G. Hoffman, Park District Attorney (7:30 p.m.)
See Sign-in Sheet

President Barton called the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:15 p.m. Administrative Assistant Lucarz took roll call.

Recreation Committee

Community Center Fitness Equipment Bid

Commissioner Hunst moved that the Board approve Direct Fitness Solutions as the responsible bidder for Fitness Equipment in the amount of \$69,959.75. Commissioner Raspanti seconded the motion. Commissioner Raspanti expressed appreciation to staff, Coordinator Malak in particular, for putting together the strength equipment evaluation. He said the information gathered was well done and very thorough and as such will be supporting the motion. Commissioner Hunst asked if the statement in the first paragraph on page 9 is right. (... "As an additional point of reference, on multiple occasions, the Cybex representative canceled meetings at the last minute or canceled after failing to attend the scheduled meetings, sometimes days after. While this was not a determining factor in the selection of Paramount

over Cybex, it did raise concerns with staff.”) Coordinator Malak said “yes, that is what he recalls.” At this point, Jon Brozenec, Cybex International representative, said he would like to clarify that he does not remember ever missing a meeting or not phoning when he has missed a meeting. He has worked with the previous Coordinator for over a year and half on the project and wants to make sure that was stricken from the record and does not believe he ever did that. Jon Brozenec said he would like to find out what meetings he was late to or did not respond to. At this point, Commissioner Maloney asked Jon Brozenec if he was invited by anyone or invited by a Commissioner. Jon Brozenec said “no.” Commissioner Maloney asked Jon Brozenec if he was aware that the report existed before it was read by Commissioner Hunst. Jon Brozenec said “no.” Jon Brozenec said he is here tonight to see how the bid was going to be awarded since he did not submit a bid. Commissioner Maloney asked Jon Brozenec if he was aware that Coordinator Malak’s report reflected that meetings were missed. Jon Brozenec said he never saw the report, but would love to see it. Commissioner Maloney asked Jon Brozenec if anyone ever told him about the report. Commissioner Hunst said he showed the report to Jon Brozenec five-minutes ago. President Barton complimented Coordinator Malak on a very thorough report and will be supporting staffs recommendation. Commissioner Ryan said she is a little bit concerned on how much “Sturm und Drang” went into trying to get a second bid and trying to get additional information. She would like to see us be a little more proactive in getting comparable information in a timely fashion. Commissioner Hunst said he likes Cybex because they are the industry leader and he has seen the equipment and likes the looks of it. His concern of going with Paramount is that there was only one bid received. Resident Chris Keith said he is a member on the Community Center Advisory Council and has seen the Cybex equipment and is concerned that there has not been a full vetting of the equipment that is suggested to be purchased for the Park District. He has heard that it is the staff’s decision to make, but he is a taxpayer and pays money to the Park Ridge Park District and would like to see the best stuff for the people who use the facility. Commissioner Maloney responded that staff has gone through a full vetting of the pieces of equipment and he believes that it is better that the recommendation comes from staff than from the Park Board. At this point, Commissioner Raspanti reviewed the council members’ role on the Community Center Citizens Advisory Council. President Barton asked Coordinator Malak on how the bid dollar amount was arrived at and did we have competitive bids. Coordinator Malak said typically strength equipment is sold through regional sales. An invitation to bid was mailed to multiple vendors that carry the line of equipment and because they only sell regionally the District only received one response. President Barton asked if they have protective territories. Coordinator Malak said “pretty much.” Assistant Lucarz said the invitation to bid was also advertised in the Park Ridge Herald Advocate. President Barton asked if that is the normal bid process. Assistant Lucarz said “yes.” Commissioner Ryan asked if there was only one vendor that could satisfy the equipment in this region. Coordinator Malak said the specifications were made for one brand and the reason why is that in the past there were problems putting in the bid “or equivalent” because the equivalence is very difficult to measure. Superintendent Knouse asked Coordinator Malak to outline how he came to the determination of selecting Paramount for the fitness center. Coordinator Malak said he met with sales representatives from seven companies that provide strength; spoke to patrons of the Community Center to find out what things were most important to them in that area; attended the Club Industry trade show in October to view and try out the equipment. He said after the trade show he was leaning towards the Paramount equipment but wanted to make sure that he was not the only one that had an opinion on it so he asked Fitness Center Manager, Roberta Smaha, and the Fitness Program Manager, Diane Murphy to visit a location that had the equipment. After trying out the equipment, we discussed the pros and cons of the equipment. At this point, Jon Brozenec

said he would like to make sure that the record states that he did not miss any meetings. Commissioner Ryan said that Attorney Hoffman should be involved in the bid process. She would submit as a matter of philosophy, that all things being equal or nearly equal that if we have a substantial number of taxpayers and member due payers that prefer item A over B, we would default to their request. President Barton asked Attorney Hoffman if he was familiar with the bid and if the District was compliant. Attorney Hoffman said “yes.” **The motion was passed by a roll call vote. Motion carried.**

AYES:	Maloney	NAYS:	Hunst
	O’Brien		Ryan
	Raspanti	ABSENT:	Milissis
	Barton		

Adjournment

At 7:39 p.m., President Barton moved the Board to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maloney and passed by a voice vote. Motion carried.

The Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wynn Ryan
Secretary

Recorded By: Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant