Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
218 Madison Street-Hedges Administration Center
Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, October 27, 2005

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: President Kindler, Commissioners Bracco, Gartland and Graves and Attorney Mark Burkland. Commissioner Philion arrived at 7:33 p.m.
Park District Staff present: Gary Balling, Executive Director; Kent Newton, Superintendent of Business Operations; Matthew Ellmann, Superintendent of Recreation; Lisa Lightcap, Business Operations/HR Assistant; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bracco and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to approve the agenda with one revision. The Temporary Dogs Off Leash Permit discussion would take place immediately after the Visitor/Public Comments. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.

III. VISITOR / PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **F. Pignutur, 1223 Linden Avenue,** stated that she has been a resident of Oak Park for 18 years and a taxpayer for 14 years. She has no children, is single, has a dog and has been going to Lindberg Park for the dogs off leash area for nine years. She finds the discontinuance of the dog park disturbing when Oak Park is suppose to be a progressive Village, yet does not have a dog park or an animal shelter. She is saddened by this situation and feels people will think twice about moving to Oak Park and paying high taxes when they cannot have one area in the Village for dogs.
- **Mike Farley, 825 Woodbine,** has lived in Oak Park for over 20 years and has been the owner of a dog, Sampson for 2 ½ years. At first he was a little apprehensive about raising a puppy and also apprehensive about visiting Lindberg Park with all of the large dogs that play there, but over time he and his dog have made close friends there. Two years ago, Oak Park was faced with the possible cessation of dog activities in all parks. A group of dog owners met with the Board and the Director and came up with a solution to continue at Lindberg and Ridgeland. For two years, this situation worked until the Cook County Animal Control stepped in. Mr. Farley feels that there is generally compatible use of the parks and he supports dog-related businesses in Oak Park. He came to ask the Park Board to demonstrate urgency in solving this issue. He suggested a potential solution in using Ridgeland Park, which is not quite compliant, but feels by working with the dog owners it could become compliant. This way, there could be an operating dog park on a temporary basis until the comprehensive plan is done. Mr. Farley concluded by thanking the Board for their time.
- **Nan Hammond, 1033 Ontario,** stated that he is a 20-year resident of the Village. He feels that in a Village with 50% multi-family homes there is a need for a dog park. He concluded by asking for a quick temporary solution and also a permanent dedicated dog park.
- **Bill McClung, 622 Woodbine,** is the owner of K9 Cookie and a resident of Oak Park. He sees a desperate need for a dog park.
- **Mike Brennan, River Forest,** feels strongly that the Park District needs to act quickly to provide the community with a dog park. He also stated that he has been in touch with Dr. Parmer's office who let him know that they did not initiate the letter describing the "Cease and Desist" order for the Park District's temporary dog's off leash permit. Mr.Brennan stated that the Park District requested this letter from Dr. Parmer's office.

- **Suzanne Green, 1212 Edmer,** has lived in Oak Park for 30 years and stated that her dogs are her life. She is a taxpayer and homeowner and feels her dog needs to run to be healthy. She asked that the Park District consider Ridgeland Common as a possible location for a dog park. She has lived near there in the past and feels the neighbors are used to activity in the park area. She feels that both a long term and temporary solutions are needed and feels Ridgeland Common could be the appropriate location for both of these solutions.
- **Nelson Taruc, 1035 N. Taylor,** thanked the Park District for the neighborhood meeting they organized. He is an owner of a dog and believes a dog park is needed. He thinks Ridgeland could be an immediate, short-term solution for a dog park location. He also feels that one park should be put on the "fast track" to become a permanent location solution. He asked the Board two questions: 1.) As far as a long-term site, does Park District have specific regulations for a dog park? 2.) Does the Park District envision a permanent dog park in 2006?
- **Carolyn Rickheimer** was part of original group who wanted a dog park back in the 90's. She hasn't used the park in years, but still feels a dog park is important and is a good way to meet people and to know her neighbors.
- **Jeff Jenks** had two concerns. He looked at 2005-2010 Capital Plan online and saw no line item in the plan related to a dog park. His second concern is whether there would be an expansion of hours if Ridgeland Common is used. He feels that once a solution is determined, more hours will be necessary because there will dog owners from the original two parks trying to use one smaller park.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Temporary Dogs Off Leash Permit.

Director Balling addressed public comment by stating that he had asked Dr. Parmer of Cook County Animal Control to document Dr. Parmer's phone conversation directing the Park District to cease and desist all off leash activities at Lindberg and Ridgeland Common parks. Commissioner Gartland reiterated that Director Balling did not ask that off leash activities be suspended, but asked that a letter be submitted to the Park District memorializing the direction Dr. Parmer gave Director Balling over the phone. Director Balling went on to state that staff is working to find both a temporary and long term solution to allow dogs off leash activities in Oak Park. The Park District's comprehensive master plan, completed in 2004, states that two dogs off leash areas are needed in Oak Park. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 6, the Park Board gave direction to staff to obtain a consultant to complete a district wide study to find a location for a permanent dog park. A proposal for these services will be brought to the Board for their consideration in December. Director Balling will be meeting with Dr. Parmer, the Village Health Department and Village Manager to discuss options for a temporary off leash location. Director Balling will suggest that this location be at Ridgeland Common, but Dr. Parmer has informed the Park District verbally that a dogs off leash area cannot be a multi-use facility. Director Balling stated that the Park District is committed to following Cook County regulations. **A motion was made by Commissioner Philion and seconded by Commissioner Bracco to recommend that the Executive Director seek short and long term alternatives for opportunities for dogs off leash on a "time is of the essence" basis in accordance with the regulations established by the Cook County Department of Animal Control and the Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health Dog Licensing Ordinance. Further, the temporary dogs off leash permit for Lindberg Park and Ridgeland Common Park shall not be continued pursuant to the "cease and desist" directive issued by the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control by letter on October 20, 2005. At such a time as authorization is received from the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control and the Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health to permit dogs off leash activities in a park or parks the Executive Director may proceed with the off leash permit subject to final review by the Park Board at the next subsequent regular Board Meeting. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 5:0.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bracco and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes **the Fund Status Report, Warrants and Bills dated October 27, 2005; Minutes from the 2005 meetings of September 22, September 29, October 6 and October 7.** The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report:

Executive Director Gary Balling discussed the following:

1. **Site Master Plan for Carroll Park –** Staff met with Altamanu this week to discuss their findings from the focus groups and public meeting. A Public Information Meeting to present three concepts to the public will be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 7pm at Carroll Center. Altamanu will be present at the Thursday, November 3 Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss the three concepts and information received from the public at the second public meeting. The Park District Citizen Committee has been asked to attend this Board Meeting.
2. **Site Master Plan for Anderson Park** – Planning has begun for three Andersen Park focus groups to be held on Tuesday, November 1 at 218 Madison Street. Planning Resources will conduct focus groups concentrating on Buildings & Grounds, Safety and Security and Creative, Passive and Sports Areas. An additional focus group will be organized for staff including the Andersen Center Preschool Teachers. Public Meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 and Tuesday, November 29 both at 7 pm at Andersen Center. Director Balling requested that all Board members attend the Park District Citizen Committee Meeting on Monday, November 28 at 7:30 pm at Andersen Center where Planning Resources will present 3 initial plan concepts for the site.
3. **Barrie Park** – A Community Meeting was held on October 11 at Barrie Park hosted by the Police Department, SEOPCO and the Park District to discuss concerns about safety and security in Barrie Park.
4. **2006 Capital Projects** – Staff will be meeting in coming weeks to discuss a timeline and begin planning for the 43 capital projects scheduled for 2006.
5. **Cheney Mansion Strategic Plan** – Howard Campbell, Linda Peterson and Director Balling will meet on Monday, October 17 to review information gathered to date; begin sorting and prioritizing, and then begin establishing an action plan and goals for the Mansion.
6. **Frank Lloyd Wright Races** - Registration for the Frank Lloyd Wright races is underway with 620 registrations to date which is slightly ahead of registration last year. Walk in registration and packet pick up is next week. The races will be held on Sunday, October 23. 2,000 runners participated. Director Balling thanked Dominican University for sponsorship.
7. **Pleasant Home Collections Appraisal** - Brett Davis, Technical Services Director from PDRMA; Laura Thompson, Executive Director of Pleasant Home; Kent and Director will meet on Thursday, October 20 to discuss the appraisal process hoped to be initiated in 2006.
8. **Transfer of Properties** – The week of October 10, a conference call was held with Park District Attorney Burkland, Assistant Village Attorney Jack Tibbetts and Village Clerk Sandra Sokol to discuss the logistics involved in the potential transfer of properties between the Park District and Village. On Monday, October 17, Mike Grandy and Director Balling will meet with Pete Dame and Jim Semelka of the Village staff to review conditions at LeMoyne Parkway and Randolph Tot Lot.

B. **Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information):** Lisa Lightcap presented the following information to the Board:

1.) Budget process for 2006 is proceeding with the final two budget study sessions held on October 11 and 13. The budget is scheduled to be placed on the table in tentative form at the Board Meeting on Thursday, November 10. 2.) Updates of the Park District web site are continuously being made. Meetings with Purple Monkey are taking place to make a

few major changes that cannot be completed in-house. Re-design of the introductory "splash" page is currently being discussed. Also, the teen web page is online. 3.) Jenni Berni and Diane Stanke provided a Customer Service Workshop to our Customer Service Staff (front line staff) on September 13. Numerous useful ideas were generated from this workshop to improve internal communication in our organization. Next will be a meeting with Managers to present information and discuss service improvements. 4.) The cutting exchange, held on September 17, was a great success with 37 people exchanging houseplants and 50 people swapping perennials. 5.) Resident registration for Breakfast, Lunch and Tea with Santa took place on Saturday, October 1. 6.) The weekday figure skating program got started on September 29 and weekend program on October 8. The number of participants is down from the same time last yearby about 40. Jenny Berni is serving as the Skate School Director this year and has assembled a very good team. They are all dedicated to improving the program, especially the quality of instruction. To that end they have held a number of staff training sessions, both on and off ice. The staff is very receptive to the changes and appear to be making strides already. 7.) The new Zamboni arrived on October 5. The staff is getting acclimated to it because it is slightly different than our older model. It runs very well and does a nice job of making ice. Its purchase will really improve ice quality. Having a quality backup is also going to improve our level of service when one machine goes down. 8.) The ASA will be closed starting October 31. 9.) The Gymnastics Center is currently serving 690 students per week and most of the classes are full. However, due to additonal staff and incredible planning and organization, we have been able to offer opportunities to more children leaving us with a small number of openings in our pre-school program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Procurement Policy

A motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Graves to approve the revised Park District of Oak Park Procurement Policy increasing the bid threshold to $20,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

B. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

1. Brochure Bids

A motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Graves to disqualify the bid from Hot Dot Graphics of Streamwood, Illinois and accept the bid from Hagg Press of Elgin, Illinois to print the Park District of Oak Park's 2005-2006 brochure series in the amount of $55,619.00 and accept the alternate bid for the printing of the 2006-2007 brochure series in the amount of $55,619.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

2. WSSRA Articles of Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Graves and seconded by Commissioner Bracco to approve Resolution Number 2005-10-27, a resolution regarding amendments to and restatement of WSSRA Amended Articles of Agreement. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

C. Buildings and Grounds Committee

1. Custodial Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Philion and seconded by Commissioner Bracco to approve the extension of the existing Jani-King contract from November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006 at the current rate of $6,876.00 per month. This will total $82,512.00 for the year. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII1. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Bracco** thanked everyone who attended the Dogs Off Leash Neighborhood meeting and stated that he appreciated the Board's approval of the WSSRA Share Formula.
- **Commissioner Gartland** volunteered for the Frank Lloyd Wright Races. He felt the event went very well and complimented staff.
- **Commissioner Graves** thanked everyone for the work on the dog issues. She expressed her thanks for sending her to the National Parks and Recreation Association Conference. She learned a lot and brought handouts for anyone who might like copies. She started ice skating lessons at Ridgeland Common and has been enjoying herself.
- **Commissioner Philion** thanked everyone for their work on Frank Lloyd Wright Race. He felt it was a great event.
- **President Kindler** attended the Pleasant Home Foundation bungalow fund raising event and had a great time. He has been enjoying the ice at Ridgeland Common. He concluded by stating that he appreciates Director Balling's patience for working with people with differing views and he truly appreciates his talent.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:05 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Philion to adjourn to closed session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the District and for the discussion of pending or probable litigation against, affecting or on behalf of the District in accordance with sections 2 (C) (2) and 2 (C) (11) which are exceptions of the Open Meetings Act. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 5:0.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:06 pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Graves, and seconded by Commissioner Philion to adjourn. Motion carried in a voice vote of 5:0.

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Secretary	**President**
Board of Park Commissioners	**Board of Park Commissioners**
December 15, 2005	**December 15, 2005**
Date	**Date**