

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 22, 2007

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Kuhl presided over the meeting.

Present: President Barbara Kuhl, Commissioners Alvin Griggs and Joseph Petry, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall

Absent: Commissioners Newton Dodds and Jane Solon

Staff present: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Terri Gibble, Park Planner, and Mary McGrew, Human Resources Manager

Call to Order

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

PROGRESS REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Herakovich thanked Park District staff for doing a great job while she was on vacation.

Ms. Herakovich reported that HB1670 that allows two park commissioners to talk to each other without violating the Open Meetings Act was signed by the governor.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Jan Plotner, new Director of Finance, will start on September 10, 2007. She reported that Park District staff will be assisting the Champaign County Forest Preserve to find her replacement there.

Ms. Herakovich reported that she met with U. S. Representative Tim Johnson's aide to discuss Park District issues. She stated that she proposed the idea of a minority scholarship for a Douglass Community Center student.

Ms. Herakovich reported that a new program, Shakespeare in the Park, will be held at 7 p.m. from September 23-25, 2007 in Hessel Park.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the bid to replace the Douglass Park basketball courts will be presented to the Board for consideration at the September 12th Board meeting.

Capital Projects Update

Trails/Parks/Paths

Ms. Gibble reported that staff has had several meetings with Marathon Oil representatives. She reported that staff has received and reviewed the list of do's and don'ts in the trail area. She reported that the next steps include meeting with neighborhood residents, preparing construction drawings and bid specifications and letting the project for bid.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry, Ms. Gibble responded that a curved linear path is greatly discouraged by Marathon Oil. She stated that it would also increase the cost of construction. Ms. Gibble will send a list of do's and don'ts received from Marathon Oil to Commissioner Petry.

Ms. Gibble reported that that the design will be presented to the Board for review. Commissioner Petry commented that the Park District should invest energy to help develop a relationship to get as much variation in design parameters as possible.

Ms. Herakovich stated that staff will get all the legal easement language to the Park District's attorney to see where the Park District may obtain enhancement and add the design to an agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Gibble reported that the Mattis Park path was a 100% completed. Mr. Spencer stated that a few minor items remain to be completed including installing the bridge floor. He reported that the items should be completed by the end of the week.

Ms. Gibble reported that the Morrissey Park design has been completed. She stated that staff will meet with neighborhood residents within the next month.

Ms. Gibble reported that consultant Bob Zolomij has had health issues and that staff has not heard from him within the last three weeks. She stated that staff will be following up with his partner to find out the status of the project.

Commissioner Petry commented that the Park District has done a great job with paths and trails. He noted that this is what residents wanted. Commissioner Petry suggested that completion of the projects would be great publicity and great for the public to see what the Park District is doing.

Ms. Herakovich reported that reported topsoil continues to be removed at Toalson Park and that legal counsel continues to iron out the legal description language. She stated that she will discuss options for parking with the City of Champaign.

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff created a fundraising brochure. She reported that the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District approved and signed the lease for park land for a dog park.

Ms. Gibble reported that the Centennial Park playground installation should begin within the next week.

Ms. Gibble reported that an intern provided a proposed layout for Hazel Park playground. She stated that the intern was discouraged when only one resident showed up for the neighborhood meeting. Ms. Gibble reported that bid documents will be prepared and the project let for bid.

President Kuhl asked whether staff sent out information to residents informing them of the Park District's plans to upgrade the park along with the proposed plan and requesting feedback. Ms. Gibble stated that a notice of the neighborhood meeting is sent out to residents within a certain radius letting residents know what the Park District is doing and inviting their comments.

Commissioner Griggs questioned whether staff does a follow up with residents saying sorry you missed the meeting and here is what we are doing. Ms. Herakovich stated that maybe staff could use the website to update residents on various projects.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Dodds Soccer parking lot is completed.

Ms. Spencer reported that a groundbreaking ceremony for the bandshell was held today. He reported that construction will start after Labor Day.

Discussion ensued about publicity regarding the bandshell project and using such publicity to generate interest in possible assistance with other projects, such as the Virginia Theatre.

Commissioner Griggs mentioned that he feels it is important to involve the interests of Central High School in West Side Park matters.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the design for Porter Park matters has been completed and will be added to an agenda for review and update.

Mr. Spencer reported that an engineer has been hired to complete survey and topography work for Powell and Johnston Parks paths.

Mr. Spencer reported that the Virginia Theatre contractor is waiting to receive the window frames and that the windows will be installed beginning on September 4, 2007. President Kuhl commented that the installation of the windows at the Virginia Theatre would be another great photo opportunity.

Mr. Spencer reported that once Sholem Aquatic Center closes, staff will be begin going through outstanding issues with the contractors the next day. Sholem Aquatic Center closes Labor Day weekend.

Discussion ensued on keeping the pool open longer. Staff reported that it was difficult to find lifeguards to keep the pool open.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District has not received any news from PROS Consulting. She staff that the report is 22 days late and that staff is very disappointed with the consultant.

BIDS/PROPOSALS

None

ITEMS OF BUSINESS *(Items may be moved forward to future Regular Board Meeting)*

Consideration of a Resolution Initiating the 2007 General Obligation Bond Issue and a Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on Proposed Bond Issue

Ms. Herakovich reported that the proposed resolutions are a requirement of the state statute and that the funds will be used for capital projects and payment of Alternate Revenue General Obligation Bonds. One resolution states the Park District's need and intent to issue \$975,000 of General Obligation Bonds for FY 07-08 and one is to set a public hearing for the discussion of issuance of \$975,000 of bonds for the purpose of providing funds for capital improvements. As required by law, a public hearing must be set for the purpose of receiving public comments on the Board proposal to sell bonds. She stated that staff recommends that the resolutions be placed on the September 12th Board agenda for consideration.

Consideration of a Lease Renewal with Illinois Central Railroad Company

Ms. Herakovich reported that the lease with Illinois Central Railroad for the bike path through Kaufman and Heritage Park expired on July 14, 2007. She stated that staff recommends that the Lease Renewal for an additional ten (10) year period at a rental of \$100.00 for the term be placed on the September 12th Regular Board meeting agenda for consideration.

Consideration of a Request to Grant two Temporary Easements to the City of Champaign

Mr. Spencer reported that the City of Champaign is requesting two Temporary Easements in Heritage and Dodds Parks. As part of the reconstruction of Bradley Avenue from Mattis Avenue to Duncan Road, the City will be constructing new sidewalks in the area at no cost to adjacent property owners. He stated that staff recommends that the Board approve the easements and accept the improvements to the Park District property. Mr. Spencer stated staff recommends that the Temporary Easements be placed on the September 12th Regular Board meeting agenda for consideration.

Consideration of Compensation of Officers and Employees Policy

Ms. Herakovich reported that this item was being tabled and that the policy will be rewritten and brought back to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Consideration of an Agreement with Williams Architects for Architectural/Engineering Services for the Sholem Aquatic Center Deep Well

Ms. Herakovich reported that several options for the completion of the deep well were discussed at the June 27th Board meeting with no consensus from the Board. She stated that she suggested that staff proceed with getting cost of the design and construction documents if there is no objection from Commissioners. Ms. Herakovich reported that staff met with representatives from Williams Architects to discuss a proposal for further services including design through construction drawings, bidding and negotiations and construction administration for a total cost of \$55,000 plus reimburseables. Three options were presented for Board consideration: Option 1, authorize staff to go forward with the design and construction document plus a portion of William Architects consultant fee for a total of up to \$27,000; Option 2, authorize staff to complete design through construction of the deep well and hire William Architects for a total of \$55,000 plus reimburseables; or Option 3, hold off on design and construction documents.

Commissioner Griggs stated that he favored Option 2, authorize staff to complete design through construction of the deep well and hire William Architects for a total of \$55,000 plus reimbursables.

Commissioner Petry expressed concern. He commented that he did not feel that there was enough Board support to move forward with the deep well. Commissioner Petry suggested an Option 4, get updated cost estimates from the architects for a minimal amount.

Mr. Spencer reported that the original bid price was \$450,000 and that with a change order the price increased to \$650,000. He stated that the cost is even higher now than \$650,000. Mr. Spencer commented that staff would likely approach William Architect's construction department management and development department to get better cost projections.

Commissioner Petry commented on the inaccurate cost projections received from Williams and issues related to the facility design that are William Architects responsibility.

Mr. Spencer discussed the options being reviewed to correct concerns.

President Kuhl stated that she is supportive of getting cost estimates and bringing them back to the Board.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Amy Crump, Aquatic and Facility Manager, will be putting together a comprehensive report on the Sholem Aquatic Center once the September bills have been received.

Ms. Crump updated the Board on challenges at the Aquatic Center. She reported that the main challenge was not having enough space due to increase in various programs including swim

lessons and aerobics classes. Ms. Crump stated that the diving well is the single most asked about amenity. Without the diving well, there is no place to teach children how to dive.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Ms. Crump responded that having many activities and the design of the facility makes it difficult for people to sneak into the Center. This has helped decrease the number of discipline problems. She commented that staff sees many more adults and fewer children by themselves. Ms. Crump stated that a deep well would help alleviate space problems.

Treasurer Gary Wackerlin left the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Ms. Herakovich thanked Ms. Crump and her staff for doing a great job. She reported that the Park District has received excellent reviews on the Aquatic Center.

Staff will use funds to get more realistic cost projections for future improvements.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry on whether the 4th of July Celebration will be held at Dodds Park next year, Ms. Herakovich reported the request will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Ms. Herakovich commented on identifying different subjects to bring the attention of the Board for future Study Session agendas.

President Kuhl recommended that a workshop for Commissioners to discuss issues and strategies be held in September 2007 on an afternoon, perhaps beginning at 2 p.m.

Ms. Herakovich reminded the Board of the upcoming 2007 NRPA Congress and Exposition from September 25-29th.

President Kuhl asked for suggestions on how to deal with the park consultants. Commissioner Petry suggested that a letter be drafted for President Kuhl's signature.

Ms. Herakovich reminded the Board that the Fraker Fountain Re-dedication ceremony will be held on August 30th at 4 p.m. President Kuhl asked if flyers were sent to neighbors in Clark Park regarding the ceremony.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Griggs made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petry to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Approved:

Barbara J. Kuhl, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary