

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

April 9, 2008

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 6:30 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, Vice President Jane Solon, Commissioners Newton Dodds (*arrived at 6:42 p.m.*), Alvin Griggs and Joseph Petry, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall

Staff present: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, and Mary McGrew, Human Resources Manager

Call to Order

President Kuhl called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Presentation

PowerPoint Presentation on Park Needs

Ms. Herakovich distributed a draft of the agenda for the Task Force meeting that will be held on April 17, 2008. She also distributed a copy of the proposed Task Force schedule and discussion of topics.

Ms. Herakovich reported that a Task Force to look at providing parks, trails and open space in new growth areas was a result of the Park District's request to the City of Champaign to consider a land/cash ordinance. She stated that the Task Force will look at recommending ways to get more park land.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the draft PowerPoint presentation on Understanding the Need for Park Land was put together by Terri Gible and staff.

President Kuhl stated that the idea for the presentation came about as a result of a statement made that did not appear to be in line with the philosophy of the Park District.

Ms. Herakovich presented the draft presentation on Understanding the Need for Park Land. She reviewed the Park District's vision and mission statements, current standards, results of the resident survey, strategic plan, and PROS Report.

Commissioner Petry questioned how 12½ acres per thousand came about. Ms. Herakovich responded that PROS Consulting recommended the 12½ acres per thousand standard in their report. She commented that there was a need to update the standard throughout the Country.

President Kuhl commented that if the Park District's standard is 10 acres per thousand, the information should be based on the standard of 10.

Commissioner Griggs questioned whether the landfill was included in the service map analysis. Ms. Herakovich responded no and that she would follow up.

Commissioner Petry asked staff to confirm that the 120 acres is additional based on the PROS Report.

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff was still finalizing the report and asked the Board for their comments.

Commissioner Petry stated that the presentation generally looks good. He expressed concern over PROS recommendations being portrayed as Board views. He stated that he was curious about how much land we are talking about and the definition of parks. Commissioner Petry noted that although we never talked about appropriate standards, he is glad to see PROS set a standard of 12½ acres per thousand and that 10 acres could be the minimum. He stated that the priorities of the Park District are neighborhood parks, trails, open space and Virginia Theatre as noted in the 2005 Survey. Commissioner Petry stated that neighborhood parks are part of open space as desired by residents.

Commissioner Petry commented on PROS suggestion for strategic partnership. He recommended adding information on land/cash benefit and information from the Resident Survey on how would you provide additional park space.

It was decided to continue this discussion at the Regular Meeting under the Executive Director's Report.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Vice President Solon to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved:

Barbara J. Kuhl, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary