

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

April 23, 2008

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, and published pursuant to notice duly given. Vice President Solon presided over the Hearing.

Present: Vice President Solon, Commissioners Alvin Griggs and Joseph Petry, and Treasurer Gary Wackerlin

Absent: President Barbara Kuhl and Commissioner Newton Dodds

Staff present: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Joe DeLuce, Director of Recreation, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Mary McGrew, Human Resources Manager, and Terri Gible, Park Planner

Call to Order

Vice President Solon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Approval of an Agreement with the Champaign County Freedom Celebration Committee

Staff recommended the approval of an agreement with the Champaign County Freedom Celebration Committee to host the 2008, 4th of July Fireworks Celebration at Dodds Park.

Discussion ensued as to why the fireworks were not going to be held at the University of Illinois. It was explained that there was still construction at the stadium this year and the request for Dodds Park is only for this year.

Sergeant Freidlein stated that the U of I will probably want a permanent relocation from their fields in the near future.

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve an agreement with the Champaign County Freedom Celebration to host the 2008, 4th of July Fireworks Celebration at Dodds Park. The motion passed 3-0.

Consideration of Painting Bid

Staff recommended approval of the low bid of \$34,189 by Midwest Commercial coatings of Mahomet for annual facility painting.

Vice President Solon discussed whether the pool gets painted every year or every other year. She also inquired how much it cost to paint the lazy river.

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the low bid of \$34,189 by Midwest Commercial Coatings of Mahomet for annual facility painting. The motion passed 3-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Scott Park Easement

Ms. Gibble gave a presentation of the City's draft Boneyard Creek agreement that they want to present to the Park District for approval.

Vice President Solon inquired who was going to be responsible for the maintenance of the features described, including the bridge. She also inquired about the lighting, and what the cost of maintenance was going to be over time. Vice President Solon wanted to make sure that the City was going to install something that was cost effective.

Ms. Gibble stated that the City would be in charge of the installation and maintenance.

Commissioner Petry inquired as to the time frame to get the park completed.

Ms. Gibble stated that the majority of the City's work will be done by mid August and hopefully will be finished in September. The Park District would get the construction area back sometime in the fall with the anticipated reopening to the public in the spring of 2009.

Commissioner Petry inquired about where the Boneyard Creek cleanup might be held next year. Ms. Herakovich stated that they should consider a different location for 2009.

FY 2007-08 Audit Update

Staff reviewed some of the issues in the management letter of the 2007 District Audit, and gave an update on how the staff has made changes with regard to some areas of internal control, including payroll and cash disbursement testing. The Commissioners thanked the staff for the update.

Review of FY 2008-09 New Audit Requirements

Ms. Plotner stated that one of the new auditing requirements is; prior to the start of the audit, the auditing firm must meet with representatives of the District. In particular the firm must meet with "those charged with governance" in order to describe the auditing firm's responsibility to gather input from the Commissioners about who they are to communicate with throughout the audit. The proposed representatives of the District that would participate in such a meeting are Gary Wackerlin, Bobbie Herakovich, and Jan Plotner. The Commissioners agreed with the proposed committee representatives.

FY 2008-09 Proposed Annual Budget

Ms. Plotner explained that the proposed budget will be presented at the May Board Meeting be made available to the public in time for Commissioners to vote on it in June. She also explained that the final tax levy was lower than expected, due to the lower consumer price index being used.

Ms. Herakovich included information about the Tax Increment Financing Districts and noted that when the money is released, it will be subject to tax caps.

Skelton Park Design Options

Ms. Gibble explained Champaign Rotary's plans to raise money and create a tribute to the Skelton family in Skelton Park.

Ms. Herakovich stated that the Rotary wanted to move on this quickly as the last remaining Skelton family member is elderly.

Mr. DeLuce stated that the Champaign Rotary already had at least \$30,000 in their common grant fund.

Vice President Solon stated that she wanted the Park District to pursue a plan that would result in low maintenance costs. A combination of "The Ring" plan and "The Entry" plan was suggested.

Vice President Solon and Commissioners Griggs and Petry all rejected "The Promenade" plan.

Ms. Gibble presented information on the Rotary Club's desire for a musicians' tribute or musical sculpture. She stated that a good location for this would be along the Boneyard but not in Skelton Park.

Goal Setting

Ms. Herakovich proposed to defer the discussion until a later date, in which all Commissioners could be present.

Vice President Solon and Commissioners Petry and Griggs were in agreement that all five commissioners should attend and that it will be at a mutually agreed upon time different from a regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Herakovich provided the Commissioners with a ten-year financial forecast.

Commissioner Petry inquired whether the Champaign Parks Foundation would be bringing in \$150,000/year as soon as next year, and Ms. Herakovich said the Foundation is working on that goal.

Comments from Commissioners

Discussion ensued as to whether the District should hire a full-time grant writer.

Ms. Herakovich stated that she thought it was a good idea to hire a full-time grant writer, due to the fact that staff had put together a list of missed opportunities including the Clean Air grant. She also stated that the Champaign County Forest Preserve District already hired a half-time grant writer.

Commissioner Petry questioned how much the Park District can bond toward new projects. Ms. Plotner responded that the Park District can bond eight million with a twenty year payback.

Commissioner Petry stated that until the land/cash ordinance gets passed, he felt that the Park District should only develop community parks.

Ms. Gibble explained that there are often limitations attached to land acquisition grants, as the land may have to be developed within a certain amount of time.

Commissioner Petry questioned why the Dodds Park master plan keeps reappearing on the capital projects list. He thought that the plans were completed during his second year on the board.

Treasurer Wackerlin encouraged staff and the Board to look at collaborative opportunities with for-profit entities in the community such as Flex-N-Gate. He stated that while Parkland may want to partner with us in the future, they may not have any money dedicated to a capital fund.

Closed session

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griggs to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS, Par. 120/s(c)(1) for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, dismissal, performance, or personal status of employees, officers and legal counsel for the park district. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as

follows: Commissioner Petry – yes; Vice President Solon – yes; and Commissioner Griggs – yes. The motion passes 3-0.

Return to Special Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Closed Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

Closed Session – Action Item

Consideration of Approval Setting the FY 08-09 Merit Pool

Commissioner Petry made a motion directing staff to set the merit pool at \$90,000 for FY 07-08 merit increases, Commissioner Griggs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:

Jane L. Solon, Vice President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary