

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

June 25, 2008

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 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, Vice President Jane Solon, Commissioners Newton Dodds, and Joseph Petry, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin, and Attorney Guy Hall

Absent: Commissioner Alvin Griggs

Staff: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Joe DeLuce, Director of Recreation, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Terri Gible, Park Planner, Andrew Weiss, Park Planner

Call to Order

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

Discussion Items

Landfill Closure Report

Eleanor Blackmon, Assistant City Engineer, updated the Board on the current status of the Closure Report regarding the former Municipal Landfill on West Bloomington Road. The Board received copies of the Executive Summary from the Closure Report which described the history of the landfill, the closure reconstruction of the landfill's cap in 1998, 2000, and 2002, and the costs related to the closure construction. Ms. Blackmon stated that steps that remain to finalize the landfill closure permit include submittal of and IEPA approval of responses to the Final Closure Report IEPA comments, and implementation of a revised groundwater monitoring plan after its approval by the IEPA. The Final Closure Report IEPA comments remaining to be addressed have questions about the summary clay cover table that documents thickness and compaction density, a question about the gas vent as-built diagram, and a comment on the hydraulic structure diagram. Ms. Blackmon reported that since the closure construction was completed, the City of Champaign has spent \$277,000 on the landfill closure permit and maintenance activities. She stated that the City Council approved a contract with Rapps Engineering and Applied Science, Inc. to provide professional services related to post-closure care and permit related issues and a contract with Prairie Analytical Systems, Inc. for quarterly sampling and testing of groundwater at the land fill.

Discussion ensued regarding the monitoring of the wells, leaching, and water leaks. Ms. Blackmon stated that the City can provide the Board with periodic updates about the landfill, including quarterly monitoring reports.

The Board thanked Ms. Blackmon for the update on the landfill.

Kaufman Lake Conceptual Master Plan

Brain DeMuyneck, Ratio Architects, reported that he is working on a master plan for Kaufman Lake and Park. He reported that a site analysis has been completed and that the vegetation and topography analysis are forthcoming. Mr. DeMuyneck presented the Board with conceptual plans. He stated that the park is now passive and that the apparent consensus is for the park to remain passive.

Mr. DeMuyneck stated that the first concept's view was coming into town and from I-72. He reported that concept one shows a shifted entrance, a widening of the Copper Slough, a new boathouse with restrooms, storage, deck and picnic shade, pedestrian bridge across the middle of the lake, prairie and nature plants with trails crossing throughout, and sidewalks to nearby apartments. Concept one

also shows approximately 75 parking spaces, open lawn areas, small picnic shelters, a bird habitat area and a couple of piers in addition to the accessible pier.

Mr. DeMuynck stated that concept two is similar to concept one. In concept two, the Copper Slough would not be moved. It shows a fishing pier, boathouse with a deck, smaller drop off and pick up area, bird habitat area, green area, fire ring, connection to nearby apartments and Swann Special Care Center. He reported that no shore work is proposed other than to fix erosion problems.

Ms. Herakovich stated staff is seeking input from the Board of what it would like to see. She stated that this would be a long range plan and that it is possible that this project could partially be accomplished through donations.

In response to a question relating to the Cooper Slough by Commissioner Petry, Ms. Gibble responded that all options are being weighed. She stated that the City has not approached the Park District and that staff is thinking ahead and working on options.

Commissioner Petry questioned whether or not it was too early to get preliminary costs. Ms. Herakovich responded yes. Ms. Herakovich stated that this is in the conceptual design phase. She commented that there is a water storage issue.

Commissioner Dodds commented that outside of the fishing pier there was no mention of fishing. He expressed his opinion about not doing away with the purpose of Kaufman, for fishing. He stated that the lake is stocked by the Park District and that it was originally a gravel pit donated to the Park District by the Kaufman family.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he does not want Kaufman or Heritage to be used as an escape for the City to use as a retention area. Commissioner Petry stated that he agreed with Commissioner Dodds in that he is not keen on the City using park space for detention. He stated that if there is a way to update Kaufman Lake and Park with funds from the City that are compatible with the Park District's vision, he would be interested in hearing what the City has to say.

President Kuhl indicated interest in exploring a trail connection under I-72.

There was a consensus to continue to look at Kaufman Lake and Park, and to put figures together and see if the City is financially able to help improve the site.

Mr. Spencer commented that the existing roadway is in poor shape. He noted that the roadway has been patched numerous times and that it is time to look at the whole area.

In response to a question by President Kuhl, Ms. Herakovich responded that the time to complete the pier has been extended a year and that the Park District is waiting for this in writing. She stated that Ratio Architects is addressing on all three piers.

Commissioner Dodds commented that he did not like the idea of trying to get a new entrance off a state highway. He stated that people drive to the park to go fishing. Commissioner Dodds expressed his desire to maintain the main parking area and improve the park.

President Kuhl thanked Mr. DeMuynck for the presentation to the Board.

Trails Report Update

Ms. Gibble reported that staff reviewed the draft document and has forwarded comments to Land Design Collaborative. She stated that staff met with Bob Zolomij on Friday and that a presentation is planned for the July 9, 2008 Board meeting. Ms. Gibble stated that the City of Champaign is joining in the effort to complete a transportation master plan. She reported that City staffers are trying to parallel

efforts regarding six major trails with new things, identifying lanes, connectors, bike lengths and proposed new trails. She stated that it is a work in progress.

Ms. Gibble updated the Board on the Pipeline Trail under construction. She stated that a few people are excited and a few people are not excited. A letter was sent out today to residents. Ms. Gibble reported that the trail is three-fourths completed. Mr. Spencer stated that the contractor will finish all major paving as the weather permits.

Commissioner Dodds commented on the history of the installation of the trail in Centennial Park. He stated that staff should have notified the residents by certified mail regarding the construction of the Pipeline Trail.

President Kuhl noted that there have been some issues in the neighborhoods with robberies and children misbehaving. She commented that it sounds like there is a neighborhood problem.

President Kuhl questioned if there were landscape issues. Mr. Gibble commented that there were no immediate issues. Mr. Spencer stated that there several existing encroachments on the trails. There are gardens and trees that have been there for years which is making it difficult. He stated that overall the contractors are doing a good job without having to redesign the path.

Ms. Herakovich commented that the trail will look much better after a couple of months and that staff contacted the engineers to make sure the grading is satisfactory. She stated that staff will make sure to use certified mail in the future.

President Kuhl stated that the Board would like to receive the trails report before July 9, 2008.

Finance Task Force

Ms. Plotner reported that Treasurer Gary Wackerlin suggested that an ad hoc committee be put together to explore various financing possibilities as well as long term finance issues for the Park District. She stated that committee would be comprised of Treasurer Wackerlin, Ms. Herakovich and herself. Ms. Plotner stated that the committee is looking for at least one commissioner to serve. Commissioner Petry volunteered to serve on the committee.

Recreation Facilities Year in Review

Mr. DeLuce reported that the recreation staff is trying to do a better job of tracking facility attendance. He presented the Recreation Facility Attendance for May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008 for the 12 facilities. He also presented overall Facility Attendance for Fiscal Years 2004-05; 2005-06; 2006-07; and 2007-08. Mr. DeLuce presented the construction and/or dedication date, square feet and components of each facility. He also presented the attendance information for the individual facilities for Fiscal Years 2004-05; 2005-06; 2006-07; and 2007-08.

Mr. DeLuce reported that attendance at Douglass Park has increased to 53,789. He stated that the users for gym classes during the day are now included in the attendance information. Mr. DeLuce reported that Douglass Center averages 250 users per day. He stated that the main reason for the increase in attendance is due to the increase in special events.

Mr. DeLuce reported that attendance at Hays Center has dropped since C-U Special Recreation and day camp moved. He reported that attendance at Leonhard Recreation Center has increased due to day camps and the popularity of volleyball. He stated that there is no air conditioning at Leonhard Center and that it is close to capacity.

Mr. DeLuce reported that a variety of different programs are offered at Prairie Farm and that attendance is down. He reported that for Fiscal Year 2007-08 attendance at Sholem Aquatic Center was 104,000.

Mr. DeLuce reported that attendance at the Skatepark was hard to track because there is no full time staff at the site. He stated that random checks are made and that the Skatefest for FY 2007-08 attracted 250 to 300 children. Mr. DeLuce reported that the Skatepark remains popular.

Mr. DeLuce reported that attendance at Spalding Pool was down for FY 2007-08.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry regarding number of attendants at Crystal Lake Pool in Urbana, Ms. Herakovich responded that the hours have been reduced and attendance has decreased.

Mr. DeLuce reported that C-U Special Recreation uses Spalding Recreation Center for after school programs. He stated that there are few rentals and that Spalding Recreation Center is not a large space. Mr. DeLuce reported that Springer Recreation Center continues to have 37,000 to 38,000 users every year.

Mr. DeLuce reported that the Tennis Center attendance has increased. He stated that tennis is very popular, and that the Park District has a great tennis pro and great teachers. Ms. DeLuce reported that it is hard to reserve the courts.

Mr. DeLuce reported that the number of users at the Virginia Theatre remains consistent. He stated that staff will concentrate on taking fewer risks and securing more partnerships.

Mr. DeLuce stated that the recreation staff's goal is to eliminate three programs and implement three new programs to keep things fresh each semester. Ms. Herakovich stated that staff are being encouraged to be creative.

President Kuhl thanked staff members for all their efforts.

Closed Session

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Vice President Solon to recess into Executive Session under the Illinois Opens Meeting Act, specifically 5 ILCS, Par. 120/2(c)(5) regarding the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, and Par. 120/2(c)(6) regarding the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Petry – yes; Vice President Solon – yes; President Kuhl – yes; and Commissioner Dodds – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Return to Regular Meeting

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

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Solon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dodds to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Approved:

Barbara J. Kuhl, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary