

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

March 25, 2009

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. Vice President Jane Solon presided over the meeting.

Present: Vice President Jane Solon, Commissioners Alvin Griggs and Joseph Petry

Absent: President Barbara Kuhl and Commissioner Newton Dodds

Staff: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, and Cindy Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Creason with the League of Women Voters was present.

Call to Order

Vice President Solon called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Bids/RFPs

Consideration of Bids for Concrete Replacement

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for the concrete replacement bids. He reported that the concrete replacement bid is to replace concrete at ten sites throughout the Park District, in particular at Prairie Farm, which staff hopes will be completed before it opens. The bid does not include the Crescent Drive sidewalks and curb cuts which will be bid separately. Mr. Spencer reported that staff recommends the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Duce Construction, in the amount of \$98,466.

Consideration of Bids for Painting the Sholem Aquatic Center Plunge and Activity/Lap Pool

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for painting the Sholem Aquatic Center plunge and activity/lap pool. He reported that these surfaces need to be painted due to the loss of paint from chemical action, UV exposure and water wear erosion. Mr. Spencer stated that once it is painted, the Park District should be able to achieve longer paint life with normal usage. He stated that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, Buckert Painting and Decorating Inc., in the amount of \$12,062.

Consideration of Bids for Morrissey Park Drainage Improvements

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for bids for Morrissey Park drainage improvements. He reported the drainage problems were not generated by the installation of the trail system, but have existed for years, and that last year it was significantly worse due to unusually heavy rain in the spring. He reported the improvements will correct the worst of these problems and should be able to prevent flooding in neighbors' back yards. Mr. Spencer stated that staff recommends the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Champaign Tree and Landscaping, in the amount of \$20,634. Mr. Spencer reported that Champaign Tree and Landscaping was a fairly new company and has only been in business approximately 3-4 years. The previous owner was a partner with Central Illinois Tile. He stated that Champaign Tree and Landscaping is doing a lot of work with developers. Mr. Spencer stated that he thinks that it will be good to give the firm an opportunity to undertake this project.

Discussion ensued about references for Champaign Tree and Lanscaping. Ms. Herakovich stated that staff will check on its credentials before the April 8th Board meeting.

Consideration of Bids for Tuck Pointing at the Virginia Theatre

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff does not want to complete any remodeling until leaks have been fixed. The 7,211 sq. ft. of proposed tuck pointing at the Virginia Theatre takes the Park District almost to completion of that aspect.

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for bids for tuck pointing at the Virginia Theatre. He stated this project will complete all of the west side of the Theatre and the west side of the north wall and parapet. Mr. Spencer reported that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, English Brothers, at the bid price of \$8.32 per sq. ft. with a not to exceed amount of \$60,000.

Vice President Solon stated that she talked to Commissioner Dodds who was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that Commissioner Dodds suggested that due to the uncertainty of the economy only \$30,000 be spent on this project.

Consideration of Bids for Dodds Soccer Entryway Improvements

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for bids for the Dodds soccer entryway improvements. He reported that in response to comments from patrons and staff, this project was designed to increase traffic flow into and from the parking lot for Dodds soccer. Mr. Spencer stated the design will offer a right turn only exit lane, and eases "pinch points" that currently impede traffic flow to allow for free flow of traffic. He reported that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, Duce Construction, at the bid price of \$55,705.73.

Consideration of Bids for Dodds Soccer Trail

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for bids for the Dodds soccer trail. He reported that this project will provide access to various soccer fields in the complex for those with mobility impairments as well as bicycle and walking access for students to and from Parkland College. Mr. Spencer stated that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, Feutz Construction, at the bid price of \$55,884.20.

Vice President Solon reported that Commissioner Dodds, who was unable to attend the meeting, suggesting not completing this project this year due to the economic situation.

In response to a question by Commissioner Griggs, Ms. Herakovich stated that the Park District will be able to use a portion of the special recreation tax levy for this project, however, she was not aware of any outside funding available.

Vice President Solon suggested that staff look into funding from the Kaufman Foundation.

It was the consensus of the Board members present, that the bid recommendations be placed on the April 8, 2009 Consent Agenda for consideration.

Action Items

Consideration of a Park and Trail Guidelines Policy

Ms. Herakovich reported that a revised version of the Park and Trail Guidelines was on the table for Board discussion. She stated that the revisions were suggested by President Kuhl.

Ms. Herakovich stated that a question was asked about providing for public open space in the guidelines. She reported the guidelines do not include the recommended 8.6 acres per 1,000 population and only address the Park District's parks and trails. Ms. Herakovich stated that staff has

the information on available open public space which is accessible to the public in the event developers want to consider those aspects as well.

Ms. Herakovich stated that there was discussion on lowering the Park District's standards. She suggested that no changes be made to the current guidelines, which leaves room for future consideration of viable alternatives.

Ms. Herakovich stated that she would like to add the changes suggested by President Kuhl and bring the guidelines back to the Board for approval at the April 8, 2009 Board meeting.

Vice President Solon stated that she was okay with the proposed changes. She suggested that staff follow up with Attorney Hall to see if changing the word "shall" as suggested by President Kuhl is appropriate.

Commissioners Petry and Griggs did not express any concerns with the proposed revisions.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be forwarded to the Regular Board meeting for consideration.

Discussion Items

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Ms. Herakovich stated that a question to come before the Board will be whether to remove all or some of the Ash trees in the parks.

Vice President Solon reported that Commissioner Dodds, who was unable to attend the meeting, suggesting removing the trees as soon as possible.

Mr. Spencer provided the staff report about Emerald Ash Borer problem. He reported that it is assumed that the infestation will come through Champaign County and every Ash tree will be severely damaged or destroyed no matter what staff does to prevent it. Mr. Spencer stated the Borers are moving at approximately 60 miles a year and could possibly arrive in Champaign County by next year. He reported that the Borers were first discovered in Detroit, Michigan in July of 2002 and were discovered in Chenoa in McLean County, Illinois in the summer of 2008.

Ms. Herakovich stated that challenges include not being able to mandate that residents remove trees in their backyards and convincing tree lovers of the need to remove the trees. She reported that no one knows whether there is an effective way to save the young or significant Ash trees as there is no real data on whether or not current methods work.

Ms. Spencer discussed the possibility of using inoculation to save some of the trees. He stated that this process would require inoculation of trees on an annual basis if this method was used. Staff noted that most of the trees are located in Robeson, Centennial and Dodds Parks.

Discussion ensued about inoculating and different ways of disposal of the wood once trees are removed.

Ms. Herakovich stated that she felt that it was important to update the Board on how the Park District plans to deal with the Borer situation in anticipation of questions that may be received from the public.

Discussion of different options for replacement of trees ensued. Ms. Auteberry stated that if removing the trees is the option the Park District chooses, staff will do an extensive marketing campaign to inform the public and encourage tree donations to help reforestation of the parks.

Ms. Herakovich stated that staff will present a plan for removal of trees to the Board for approval once it has been finalized.

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. 120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, dismissal, of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the park district, including hearsay testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity and Par. 120/2(c)(2) collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Petry – yes; Vice President Solon – yes; and Commissioner Griggs – yes. The motion passed 3-0.

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, Commissioner Petry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Griggs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

Jane L. Solon, Vice President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary