

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

April 8, 2009

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:00 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, Commissioner Joseph Petry, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin, and Attorney Guy Hall

Absent: Commissioners Newton Dodds and 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, Development and Marketing Director, Terri Gible, Park Planner, Katie Flint, Special Events Manager, and Cindy Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Other staff were present as well as members of the public.

Call to Order

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

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Presentation

Daughters of the American Revolution

Sandra Santas, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), introduced members Carol Castellon and Barbara Vierra.

Ms. Castellon stated that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-partisan patriotic organization. Ms. Castellon stated that DAR is proposing a new marker to honor patriots of the American Revolution. She stated that one side of the marker would bear the America's Creed and the other side verbiage about the American patriots who served in the Revolutionary War or supported the American Revolution. Ms. Castellon reported that DAR is proposing that the marker be placed in West Side Park. The Board received a folder of information from DAR. It has placed two other markers in Champaign County: one at the courthouse marking the 8th Judicial Circuit in which President Lincoln practiced law and one in Tolono commensurating Lincoln's last words in Illinois before he became the President. Ms. Castellon stated that a brochure with additional information about the DAR chapter was also included in the information disseminated to the Board.

Ms. Santas recited phrases from the American Creed. She provided background about how the Creed came to be written. She stated that West Side Park, formerly known as City Park, was established in 1854 and is historical due to a political rally given by Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. She noted the fountains, sculptures and memorials in West Side Park, and the revitalization of downtown Champaign as other reasons DAR would like to place the marker in West Side Park. Ms. Santas stated that the Alliance Chapter believes that the American Creed should be posted in West Side Park and expressed her hope that the Board would agree.

President Kuhl asked DAR members if there were other locations that would be acceptable. She noted that West Side Park has quite a number of statues and other markers and is used quite often. She stated Dodds Park has memorials as well.

Ms. Santas stated that DAR would be open to other locations. She stated that West Side Park is favored because it is used a great deal and it has historical significance.

President Kuhl stated that the Board appreciated DAR's time and effort in putting together the information. She stated that she is sure the marker would be a benefit to the community and certainly has a great deal of meaning, especially given current affairs.

Ms Santas asked if there were any questions about the proposed size of the marker. Ms. Herakovich stated that staff has reviewed the information on the proposed marker. She reported that staff expressed concerns with the proposed location and will suggest a different location for the marker.

President Kuhl stated that the Volunteer of the Month report will be presented at this time.

Volunteers of the Month

Katie Flint introduced Kaylan Wonser and Jacqui Lorio who were chosen as Volunteers of the Month for April 2009. Kaylan & Jacqui volunteered for the Park District's first Battle of the Bands event at the Virginia Theatre. Both Kaylan and Jacqui are Recreation, Sport, and Tourism students at the University of Illinois. They were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and tickets to the Jason Mraz concert.

Communications

President Kuhl circulated the communications.

Treasurer's Report

Consideration of Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the Month of March

Treasurer Wackerlin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2009. He stated that the Park District's finances have been reviewed and found to be in appropriate order.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2009. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

Executive Director's Report

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Agency Award

Ms. Plotner was presented with the GFOA Distinguished Agency Budget Award. Ms. Herakovich reported that Ms. Plotner's received this award in her first year with the Park District. She stated that only 5% of local governments receive this award. Ms. Herakovich also reported that the Park District was notified that it will receive the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Central Illinois Director's Meeting

Ms. Herakovich reported that she attended the Central Illinois Director's meeting on April 3, 2009. She stated that the meeting was held in Normal, Illinois and that approximately 30 directors attended. Ms. Herakovich reported that a park district in the suburbs decided that it was in its best interest to sue the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) because it did not receive a grant. As a result, IDNR contracted with the University of Illinois, Park and Recreation Department to conduct a study of all Illinois park districts to determine new average acres per 1,000 population standard. The results showed that 11.35 acres of park land per 1,000 people is the average now in Illinois. IDNR will be

amending its qualifications for grant awards so that if a district under this average, it will get more points for acquisition than it would for development. Ms. Herakovich stated that this makes it more important that the Park District work with developers in the community to obtain donated land.

Ms. Herakovich reported that IPRA is going through some difficult financial times and has enlisted assistance from retirees. She stated that IPRA lost a great deal of money in the financial markets.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Park District has set a new record for applications for summer employment received, up from 1,000 to 1,800. She stated that the process has been made easier since applicants can now apply online. Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District has the opportunity to hire staff funded with monies from the stimulus bill through a Parkland College program.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry, Ms. Herakovich stated that the Park District usually hires 400 part time staff. She stated that if the Park District hires 20-25 additional staff through the Federal stimulus package it would help to supplement staff or replace budgeted positions.

Pre-Bid Meeting

Ms. Herakovich reported that a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held for the energy savings project for the Bresnan Meeting Center and shop areas.

Study Session Change

Ms. Herakovich suggested that the April 22, 2009 Study Session meeting time be changed due to the Roger Ebert reception being held on that date at 5:30 p.m. She suggested that that the meeting begin at 7:00 p.m. Vice President Solon stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting.

President Kuhl suggested that Ms. Herakovich follow up with Commissioners Dodds and Griggs who were unable to attend the meeting.

Updates

Ms. Herakovich updated the Board on an article that appeared in the newspaper about the Park District's Holiday Egg Hunt and the Illinois marathon. She stated that the article was initiated by staff so the public could become familiar with routes to avoid the marathon.

Ms. Herakovich reminded the Board that Statement of Economic Interests forms are due by May 1, 2009.

Ms. Herakovich congratulated Vice President Solon and Commissioner Petry on their re-election Park Board Commissioners and stated that she looked forward to working with them again for the next six years.

Staff will follow up to see if Vice President Solon and Commissioner Petry are required to file an additional Statement of Economic Interest since both filed them as Park Board candidates.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with Hallbeck developers for the Thompson Tract had been finalized and signed by both parties. She stated that staff is proceeding with addressing drainage issues in Hallbeck Park.

Ms. Herakovich thanked President Kuhl for initiating discussion with the Wandell's about trees. She reported the Park District will receive several trees at \$35 each that will be planted in the fall.

President Kuhl asked if there would be a press release about the agreement with Hallbeck developers. Ms. Herakovich stated that as soon as it is officially annexed. President Kuhl suggested that Park District staff initiate the press release.

Mr. Spencer reported that for this current phase of Porter Park, there will be 318 trees planted around the pond. Ms. Herakovich reported that the construction of Scott Park is ahead of schedule. She informed the Board stated that discussion is needed about two parcels of land, Lo and Helm Parks near Boneyard Creek, which may require a license agreement with the City of Champaign due to the bridge.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Hall presented for Board approval Ordinance No. 539: An Ordinance Annexing Territory Pursuant to Petition (3401 North Mattis Street) into the Champaign Park District.

Vice President Solon made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 539. Commissioner Petry seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

President's Report

None

Consent Agenda

President Kuhl stated that Consent Agenda items were items that had been discussed at a Study Session meeting or were considered routine in nature. These items were:

1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, March 11, 2009
2. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, March 11, 2009
3. Minutes of the Study Session Meeting, March 25, 2009
4. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, March 25, 2009
5. Awarding the Bid for Concrete Replacement to the low bidder, Duce Construction, in the amount of \$98,466 and authorize the Executive Director execute said contract
6. Awarding the Bid for Painting Plunge Pool and Activity/Lap Pool at Sholem Aquatic Center to the low bidder, Buckert Painting and Decorating Inc., in the amount of \$12,063 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract
7. Awarding the Bid for Morrissey Park Drainage Improvements to the low bidder, Champaign Tree and Landscaping, in the amount of \$20,634 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract
8. Awarding the Bid for Tuck Pointing at the Virginia Theatre to the low bidder, English Brothers, at the bid price of \$8.32 per square foot with a not to exceed amount of \$60,000 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract
9. Awarding the Bid for Dodds Soccer Entryway Improvements to the lower bidder, Duce Construction, in the amount of \$55,705.73 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract
10. Awarding the Bid for Dodds Soccer Trail to the low bidder, Feutz Construction, in the amount of \$55,884.20 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract

Commissioner Petry made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

Action Items

None

New Business

Consideration of Approval of List of Bills for March 2009

Ms. Herakovich reported that the initial quote for computers from Micro Systems came in under \$20,000. She stated that staff realized that four additional computers needed to be purchased which

put the total amount of purchase at \$22,475. Ms. Herakovich reported that although computers do not have to be bid, the total amount of purchase was over her purchase authority limit. Thus, the purchase requires Board approval.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to approve the list of bills for March 2009, except for the bill for computers from Micro Systems. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to approve the payment to Micro Systems for computers in the amount of \$22,475. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

Consideration of Approval of Life and Dental Insurance Premiums

Ms. Plotner reported that staff recommended Board approval of the proposal for life insurance from Hartford with a two year guaranteed rate at a cost of \$667.65 per month and Delta Dental, Inc. for dental with a two year guaranteed rate at a cost of \$1,613.64 per month. She stated that the increase in dental of \$147.56 combined with the decrease of \$3,204.72 in life insurance calculates to a yearly savings of \$1,434. Additionally, Delta Dental included a third year rate cap of 7.5% regardless of claims.

Vice President Solon made a motion to approve the dental plan with Delta Dental and life insurance with Hartford. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 3-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Appointing Additional Members as Director of the Champaign Parks Foundation

Ms. Herakovich reported that the revised Resolution appointing members as the Directors of the Champaign Parks Foundation included changes as recommended by Attorney Hall. She stated that Foundation Board members Louis Liay and Barbara Hundley would like to continue serving on the Board. Ms. Herakovich reported that Mr. Liay does not want to continue as Chairman of the Board and new officers will be appointed at the annual board meeting as follows: Art Thoma, Chairman; Penn Nelson, Vice Chairman; and Tracy Sholem, Secretary. She stated Bob Ballsrud would like to be appointed as a new member of the Foundation Board. Ms. Herakovich reported that staff recommended Board approval reappointing Lou Liay and Barbara Hundley, and appointing Bob Ballsrud as Directors of the Foundation for two year terms, with such terms to commence May 1, 2009 and end April 30, 2011.

Vice President Solon made a motion to approve the reappointment of Louis Liay and Barbara Hundley, and appointment of Bob Ballsrud as Directors of the Champaign Park Foundation for two year terms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

Consideration of Approval of the Park and Trail Guidelines

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff is prepared to move forward with the Park and Trail Guidelines if the Board is prepared to do so.

President Kuhl stated that given the time spent with the mandatory land dedication committee and the discussions held the document presented sets the stage for the Park District's collaborative efforts. She stated that the document is important because it outlines the sets the guidelines for developers. President Kuhl stated that hopefully this is a document that the Board and staff feel comfortable with. She noted that the document probably will not be considered absolutely perfect by developers. However, the guidelines spell out clearly what the Park District is planning for in the donation setting.

Ms. Herakovich commented that the guidelines are important and City of Champaign staff will help enforce some of these guidelines. The guidelines give City staff boundaries to use.

Discussion ensued about the conveyance of streets. After discussion, Attorney Hall informed the Board that the language was sufficient as written in his opinion.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to approve the Park and Trails Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

President Kuhl thanked Terri Gibble and all staff who worked on the Park and Trails Guidelines.

Discussion Items

None

Comments from Commissioners

None

Closed Session

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Vice President Solon 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, performance, or personnel status of employees, officers and legal counsel for the Park District and Par. 120/2(c)(2) collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees of 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 President Kuhl – yes. The motion passed 3-0.

Return to Regular Meeting

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

Closed Session Items - Action

Consideration of Approval of FY 09-10 Merit Pool

Commissioner Petry made a motion to set the FY 2009-10 merit pool at 2.5% equaling \$62,965.33. The motion was seconded Vice President Solon. The motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Change

Commissioner Petry made a motion to set the April 21, 2009 Study Session at 5:00 p.m., with a Special Meeting to follow immediately thereafter. The motion was seconded by Vice President Solon and unanimously approved 3-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved:

Jane L. Solon, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary