

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

April 22, 2009

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Barbara Kuhl presided over the meeting.

Present: President Barbara Kuhl, Commissioners Newton Dodds, Alvin Griggs and Joseph Petry, and Treasurer Gary Wackerlin

Absent: Vice President Jane Solon

Staff: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Terri Gible, Park Planner, Kevin Crump, Landscape and Special Projects Supervisor, and Cindy Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Creason with the League of Women Voters was present, as well as other staff.

Call to Order

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

Bids/RFPs

Consideration of Bids for 2009/10 Painting Services

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for the 2009/10 painting services. He stated that each year painting services for various Park District facilities and structures are let for bid. Mr. Spencer reported that staff recommends the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Midwest Commercial Coating, in the amount of \$23,915.

Consideration of Bids for Crescent Sidewalk Installation

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for the Crescent sidewalk installation bid. He stated that this bid is to install curb cuts and a new sidewalk along the east side of Crescent Drive. Mr. Spencer stated that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, Feutz Contractors, in the amount of \$48,166.25. He reported that although \$125,000 has been budgeted in the 2009/10 Capital Budget for concrete renovations, approximately \$98,000 has been earmarked for other concrete projects, leaving the remainder for this project. Mr. Spencer stated that any shortfall in funding will be made up in savings in the facility painting bid.

Consideration of Bids for Renovation of Spalding Park Basketball Courts

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for the renovation of Spalding Park basketball courts bid. He reported that the bid is to remove the existing outdoor basketball courts and install new sub-base, asphalt and striping. Mr. Spencer stated that the courts have deteriorated greatly and are heavily used by patrons. He reported that \$100,000 has been budgeted in the 2009/10 Capital Budget for the renovations. Mr. Spencer stated that staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, Open Road Paving, in the amount of \$86,939.86.

Consideration of Bids for Ball Field Fence Replacement

Mr. Spencer presented the staff report for the ball field fence replacement bid. He reported that the bid includes replacement of portions of the backstop at Zahnd pony and the dugout fence at the Dodds 3 Plex; removal and installation of field fencing and installation of league field backstop in Hazel Park; and installation of backstops in Centennial Park at the Kenwest ballfield site. Mr. Spencer stated that

staff recommends the bid be awarded to low bidder, SK Service Corporation, in the amount of \$18,756.

In response to a question by President Kuhl, Mr. Spencer stated that the backstop at Hazel Park will be for neighborhood use only.

All of the foregoing bid items will be placed on the May 13, 2009 consent agenda for Board consideration.

Action Items

Consideration Approval of Resolutions Giving the Authority to Participate in the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund

Ms. Herakovich reported that just as a due diligence she asked Ms. Plotner and Treasurer Wackerlin to look at other ways of earning money since investments have not proved to be the best this past year. She stated that most of the Park District's funds have been put in Certificates of Deposits.

Ms. Plotner reported that 187 members in Illinois participate in the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMIF). She stated that they have assets of over \$400 million invested. Ms. Plotner reported that the participants invest a dollar amount and whatever the net asset value is for that day, one then divides the dollar invested by that net asset value to determine the shares owned. She stated that hopefully the asset value increases and a greater investment of revenue is received. Ms. Plotner reported that staff has been researching other investment alternatives and that IMIF has been marketing to park districts.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he does not have a problem with IMIF, however, he would like staff to get other opinions on investing in IMIF. He expressed the need for due diligence as these are public funds that will be invested in the Fund.

Ms. Herakovich reported that she talked with Richard Schnur, Finance Director for City of Champaign. She stated that the City invests approximately 20% of its cash on hand in IMET. Ms. Herakovich stated that Commissioner Dodds has suggested that staff talk to other local investors to make sure that fees are in line, and that the Park District would not be in a situation where it is a part of a longer term obligation that could be detrimental to the Park District in the long run. She stated that staff has more research to conduct before the next Board meeting.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry, Treasurer Wackerlin stated that he supports investing in IMET. He stated that he has reviewed its information and that all holdings are primarily invested in U.S. Treasuries and government bank securities. Treasurer Wackerlin noted that money market funds are invested in similar type of securities. He stated that to his knowledge the Park District has never invested in this type of fund. He also noted that there was some risk involved and that the funds would mature in one to three years. He stated that he will follow up with other investors.

President Kuhl stated that limits should be set and that staff should recommend a "not to exceed amount."

It was the consensus of the Board that staff will do more due diligence before a presentation to the Board for approval. This item may be placed on the May 13th Board agenda for consideration if all additional research has been completed.

Consideration of Sholem Aquatic Center 10-Year Capital Plan

Mr. DeLuce delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Sholem Aquatic Center (Sholem) 10-year capital plan for future amenities. He stated that there is approximately \$450,000 that could be used for additional amenities at Sholem. Mr. DeLuce reported that staff has attended several conferences, talked with various vendors, park district officials and asked Williams Architects to provide recommendations on possible new amenities for Sholem. He stated that after reviewing the conceptual ideas prepared by Williams Architects and considering the price ranges for each item, staff has prepared recommendations for features to consider adding to Sholem over the next five to 10 years. Mr. DeLuce stated that after all possible amenities were reviewed and price ranges considered for each item. Staff recommended three amenities to consider adding at Sholem over the next five to ten years.

Mr. DeLuce reported that staff recommends adding a speed-body flume slide and lily pads. He stated that construction could occur from September 2009 to May 2010.

Discussion ensued about whether there was enough room to add the items in the area proposed and whether the pool would need to be expanded. Mr. DeLuce stated that there is enough room to add the items, however, staff did not know if the pool would need to be expanded.

Mr. DeLuce discussed the pros and cons of adding a speed-body flume slide and lily pads. Pros include addressing the needs of small children and older children ages 9 to 17; not having to add additional staffing; increasing revenue; and having funds already set aside. Cons include having two existing slides; expanding the pool, if needed; and taking funds from projected carry over or capital improvements. Mr. DeLuce stated that the new slide and lily pads would be wonderful attractions for all ages and could open in June 2010. The estimated cost is \$390,960.

Mr. DeLuce reported that the second amenity staff recommends adding is a teen pool and spray ground. He stated that it could be designed, approved and bid from April through August 2012 with construction from September 2012 to May 2013 with a grand opening in June 2013.

Mr. DeLuce presented the pros of adding a teen pool and spray found. Pros of this feature include, serving the most age groups and activities of all the amenities proposed; addressing the needs of older children ages 9 to 13 currently not being served well; adding additional space for swim lessons and water fitness classes; and increasing admissions and pass sales. Cons include the need for additional staffing; placing this feature where the deep well is planned; and the need to identify additional funding. Mr. DeLuce stated that the estimated cost for this feature is \$597,564.

Treasurer Wackerlin departed the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. DeLuce reported that the third amenity staff recommends adding is a pre-teen spray pad. He stated that it could be designed from April through August 2015 and constructed from September 2015 through May 2016 and opened to the public in June 2016.

Mr. DeLuce presented the pros and cons of adding a pre-teen spray pad with giant bucket drops. Pros include addressing the needs of older children ages 8 to 17; adding minimal additional staff; using the feature to extend the season and generate more revenue; and increasing admissions and pass sales. Cons include adding additional staffing; performing annual maintenance on this feature; and the need to identify additional funding. Mr. DeLuce stated that the estimated cost is \$440,640.

Mr. DeLuce stated that the three projects presented are projects that staff felt are in an affordable price range. He noted that included in the Board packet was a comprehensive list of additional amenities that staff also has researched.

Ms. Herakovich reported that one of the Board's goals is to continue enhancing the fun experiences at Sholem by adding additional amenities.

Commissioner Griggs commented on water features in existing parks on a smaller scale that do not require supervision. Commissioner Dodds commented that the depth of water features determines the need for supervision.

Commissioner Petry stated that this is good information to have as priorities are assigned within the next month or so. He thanked staff for putting the information together.

President Kuhl commented that all the proposed projects seemed to be geared toward the same age group of teens. She questioned if the activities this age group participates in during the summer have changed with certain activities extending throughout the summer. President Kuhl commented that she is not aware of any problems at Sholem. She questioned whether Sholem is geared toward families and asked what would happen if the focus changed to one geared toward teens.

Ms. Herakovich commented that the staff receives feedback from families and this age group that there is not anything for this age group to do at Sholem.

President Kuhl stated that she agrees with adding to Sholem, however, she was surprised that all projects proposed are geared toward this age group. She commented that she thought the need for shade structure would rate higher on the list. Mr. DeLuce stated that shade structures have been added.

Amy Doll, Aquatics & Tennis Manager, stated that the proposed amenities address age groups of pre-teens and teens. She reported that teens over 16 years old usually do not visit the pool unless they are working. Ms. Doll reported that at the old Sholem there were more problems including fights and children being dropped off at the pool. She stated that at the new Sholem there are fewer problems which could be attributed to increased family attendance which means fewer children are dropped off. Furthermore, there is an improved relationship with the Champaign Police Department. Although there are still elements missing, the new Sholem is more entertaining than the old Sholem. Ms. Doll commented that staff would like to maintain the current atmosphere by adding new elements.

Ms. Herakovich stated that staff will be asking the Board to review current goals and new priorities and blend the two together at a future goal setting meeting.

Consideration of the Kaufman Lake Master Plan and Accessible Pier Location

Ms. Gibble reported that last year the Park District received the Accessible to Recreation Grant for the construction of a fishing pier at Kaufman Lake. The grant was a matching grant with the Kellogg Foundation providing \$120,000. She stated that prior to constructing the pier, staff thought it would be best to master plan Kaufman Park because of the pier and other factors such as the Fountain Head Drainage District and the City of Champaign addressing the drainage in that section of town and either redirecting or creating ponds along the Cooper Slough, as well as the need to resurface the road. Ms. Gibble reported that Ratio Architects was hired to master plan the park. She stated that after staff met with Ratio Architects to discuss the plans for Kaufman Lake and Park, two concepts were created. Concept 1 takes into consideration possibly addressing the drainage issues in that area of town along with plans for along the Cooper Slough and redirecting it. Concept 2 addresses the challenges that the park has including changing the Cooper Slough location as well as providing

additional picnic shelters and paths. Ms. Gibble reported that the final master plan is a combination of two concepts and comments from staff and the Board.

Ms. Gibble reviewed the map of the central activity area which is the area of the park just north of Springfield Avenue and just south of the existing deck. She stated that Ratio Architects was hired to do a more detailed study of the activity area, which is the area where the boathouse is and where the accessible pier will be located. Ms. Gibble reported that Ratio Architects was asked to come up with a design that will work with existing conditions and the future master plan.

In response to a question by President Kuhl, Ms. Gibble stated that the deadline to spend the money and construct the fishing pier is the end of the year.

Ms. Gibble reported that there are topography problems and that a lot of earthwork will be necessary. She stated that in order to construct the pier at 2-3 ft. above water, a long ramp that begins at the top of the bank down to the fishing pier is needed. Ms. Gibble reported that from the existing boathouse everything to the north adjacent to the road will be all landfill in order to have the overlook area about 3 ft. higher than the actual fishing pier, so that access to the fishing pier is to the north and then ramps down. There will also be parking and sidewalks that ramp down to the fishing pier. She stated that the design allows the area to be opened up to the boathouse for picnicking and gathering.

Brian Demynek, Ratio Architects, stated that the difference in grades is the biggest constraint.

Ms. Gibble reported that the estimated construction cost of the pier and the overlook is approximately \$315,000. She stated that \$240,000 is currently budgeted for this project. Ms. Gibble reviewed the project schedule if the design is accepted. She stated that it would take the remainder of the year to construct the project and reiterated that the grant money has to be used by the end of the year.

In response to questions by Commissioner Petry, Ms. Gibble stated that an extension on the grant has already been received, however, staff can request another one. Ms. Herakovich stated that staff wanted to discuss plans with the Board prior to having any discussion with the City.

In response to a question by Commissioner Dodds, Mr. Demynek discussed possible options for retaining the fill. He indicated that no sheet pile will be used only steel piling posts.

Commissioner Dodds commented on the dirt holding in place. He suggested that a correction be made to reflect elevation or overload instead of the use of both since it should be one or the other. He further expressed his concern about possible erosion problems in the future.

Mr. Demynek stated that fill would only be used from the road to the edge of the pier. He stated that Ratio is looking at different options to address these concerns and that the design is an early conceptual plan.

Commissioner Dodds stated that that with \$240,000 budgeted, the project will probably be \$80,000 over budget. He stated that there are ways to hold fill besides using sheet pile. Commissioner Dodds expressed his concern with having to address the fill problem in the future. He also expressed his concern with not having enough depth to the overlook and someone getting hooked while people are fishing. Commissioner Dodds suggested that this information be added to the drawings.

Further discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that the re-master planning of Kaufman Lake is a good idea. Commissioner Dodds stated that the project should have an attainable budget and should be designed for it. President Kuhl suggested that staff follow up and try to get an extension on the grant.

Consideration of Swann Special Care Center Easement Request

Mr. Spencer reported that Swann Special Care Center (Swann) is looking at the possibility of adding a geothermal system that would require a number of wells to be drilled to a depth of 150 feet or more. Swann does not have the land mass necessary to provide the wells and is asking if the Park District is willing to allow wells on its property. He reported that an alternate method was to connect to the lake but due to lack of depth this option will not work. Mr. Spencer discussed how the wells could be installed on Park District property. He discussed the pros and cons of this request. Mr. Spencer reported that staff was seeking Board direction. He stated he recommends continuing the conversation with Swann to get more specific and detailed information and see what kind of impact this will have on Park District land.

Commissioner Dodds talked about a company which has completed a geothermal project where all wells were placed underneath the slabs of the building. He suggested that Swann discuss their proposed project with someone who has already installed geothermal. Commissioner Dodds commented that he has no problem helping Swann if possible.

Commissioner Griggs suggested staff work out the details. Commissioner Petry stated that he was very supportive of Swann.

Consideration of an Agreement with The News-Gazette Inc.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park Partner agreement with *The News-Gazette Inc.* is a combined agreement with *The News Gazette* and WDWS/WHMS. She stated that the majority of the agreement remains the same with only a couple of changes. The most significant change is that the Park District will be charged a fee of \$2,500 for the paper insert maps for Taste of C-U, Downtown Festival of the Arts and Parade of Lights. Ms. Herakovich reported that staff recommends approval of the Park Partner agreement between the Park District and The News-Gazette, Inc. for a one year period.

This item will be placed on the May 13th Board agenda for consideration.

Consideration of Emerald Ash Borer Program Recommendation

Mr. Spencer reported that staff is requesting Board approval to proceed with removal of all ash trees.

Ms. Herakovich stated that staff would like to begin removal this summer and contract out stump removal. She reported that funds would come out FY 09-10 budget.

Commissioner Griggs questioned whether neighbors would be notified. Ms. Herakovich responded, yes.

Commissioner Petry commented that the Park District is bound to receive numerous complaints with this many trees being removed. He suggested staff be proactive and send a letter to the editor of the News Gazette explaining why trees are being removed and asking for donations.

President Kuhl commented that this may be a good way to mention Jeff Wandell and his contribution to the Park District.

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff plans to do a direct mail piece to neighborhoods and that a story in the News Gazette would be helpful as well.

Kevin Cump, Landscape & Special Projects Supervisor, reported that less than 20% of the tree population in Robeson is ash trees. He stated that the ash trees are spread out through 60 parks. Mr. Crump reported that the Landscape staff will be working with the Marketing & Development Director to get information out to the public about the removal of the trees.

President Kuhl asked if this impacted donated trees. Mr. Crump responded yes, and that the trees will be replaced.

This item will be placed on the May 13th Board agenda for consideration.

Consideration of Line Item Budget Transfers

Ms. Plotner reported that staff is requesting Board approval to transfer funds from one line item to another within the same fund for FY 2008-09. She stated that this is a housekeeping item and is done every year on an as needed basis.

This item will be placed on the May 13th Board agenda for consideration.

Discussion Items

FY 2009-10 Budget Presentation

Ms. Plotner provided an overview of the current FY 08-09 budget and the FY 09-10 capital improvements budget. She presented the preliminary budget for FY 09-10 and the budget schedule.

Ms. Herakovich stated that if the Board would like additional detailed information about any of the items or programs or have any questions, please let Ms. Plotner or her know.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Dodds expressed his dissatisfaction with a picture on the front page of *The News Gazette* of a different movie other than Ebertfest which is taking place this week at the Virginia Theatre.

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 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Approved:

Jane L. Solon, President

Joseph DeLuce, Secretary *pro tem*