

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

**May 13, 2009**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held an Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 6:45 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 Solon, Commissioners Newton Dodds, Alvin Griggs and Joe Petry, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall

Staff present: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Joe DeLuce, Director of Recreation, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Terri Gibble, Park Planner and Katie Flint, Special Events Manager, and Cindy Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Creason of the League of Women's Voters was present, as well as members of the public.

**Call to Order**

President Kuhl called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Swearing in of New Commissioners**

Attorney Hall administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Park Board Commissioners Joseph Petry and Jane Solon-Wetmore.

**Election of Officers**

Election of President

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to nominate and elect Jane Solon for the office of president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0.

Election of Vice President

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to nominate and elect Alvin Griggs for the office of vice president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0.

**Appointment of Officers**

Appointment of Secretary

Commissioner Dodds made a motion that Bobbie Herakovich be appointed as Secretary of the Champaign Park District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0. Attorney Hall then administered the Oath of Office to Secretary Herakovich.

Appointment of Treasurer

Commissioner Solon made a motion that Gary Wackerlin be appointed as Treasurer of the Champaign Park District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0. Attorney Hall then administered the Oath of Office to Treasurer Wackerlin.

## **Appointment of Board Members to Committees and Task Forces**

### Appointment(s) to Unit 4 Site Development Committee

Ms. Herakovich reported that President Solon and Commissioner Kuhl have agreed to represent the Park District on the Unit 4 Site Development Committee for B. T. Washington and Garden Hills Schools.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to appoint President Solon and Commissioner Kuhl to the Unit 4 Site Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

### Appointment(s) to Vision and Cultural Arts District Committee

Ms. Herakovich reported that Commissioner Kuhl and she worked to start this initiative to get community members to undertake long term discussions about downtown Champaign and cultural arts in downtown Champaign. She stated that there is a lot of interest and enthusiasm within the Committee. Ms. Herakovich stated that it would be very helpful for Commissioner Kuhl to continue on this committee.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to appoint Commissioner Kuhl to the Vision and Cultural Arts District Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodds. The motion passed 5-0.

### Appointment(s) to Open Space Task Force

Ms. Herakovich reported that Commissioner Kuhl has served on the Open Space Task Force since it began. She stated that Task Force is supposed to come to an end in July. Ms. Herakovich stated that it would be helpful for Commissioner Kuhl to continue on this committee.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to appoint Commissioner Kuhl to the Open Space Task Force. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Solon, seconded by Commissioner Petry and unanimously approved, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved:

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Jane L. Solon, President

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Joseph DeLuce, Secretary Pro Tem

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

**May 13, 2009**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Solon presided over the meeting.

Present: President Jane Solon, Vice President Alvin Griggs, Commissioners Newton Dodds, Joseph Petry and Barbara Kuhl, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin, and Attorney Guy Hall

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

Nancy Creason of the League of Women Voters was present, as well as members of the public.

**Call to Order**

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

**Comments from the Public**

Bill Bland stated that he lives at 1900 Roberta Lane, Champaign, in the Gardens Hills Subdivision which is two blocks east of the school. He informed the Board that he has lived at his present address for 38 years and that it has been his pleasure for the last two years to represent the Garden Hills Neighborhood Association. Mr. Bland thanked the Park District for its exemplary leadership shown by participating in the intergovernmental cooperation with the City and the School District. He stated that it has meant much to the Garden Hills residents and ultimately it will mean a great deal to all citizens of Champaign. Mr. Bland suggested that the Park District may have some additional opportunities coming up primarily because of the passage of the recent increase in the sales tax. He stated that it is going to provide the schools, and hopefully the Park District, with some tremendous opportunities in the long range planning efforts to accomplish some things otherwise not possible. Mr. Bland reported that with the expertise of the Park District, and with the sophistication and leadership shown to date, he thinks many doors will be open as the school district expands its facilities and services. He stated that Gardens Hills is slated to become a magnet school. Mr. Bland stated that the Garden Hills residents would appreciate any efforts the Park District may make in areas of volunteering and planning. He commented that it is important to optimize the use of facilities. Mr. Bland noted that currently the gymnasium is sitting empty. Mr. Bland thanked the Park District for what it has already accomplished. He stated that he is pleased to say that recent progress has been made. Mr. Bland thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to speak on behalf of the people that he represents.

The Board thanked Mr. Bland for his comments.

**Communications**

President Solon circulated the communications.

**Treasurer's Report**

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

Treasurer Wackerlin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2009. He stated that the

Park District's finances have been reviewed and found to be in appropriate order. Commissioner Dodds made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### Heritage Award

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District received a Historical Respectful Design award which was announced at the Preservation and Conservation Association's annual meeting for the Band Shell in West Side Park. She stated that the biggest compliment that she has heard was by architects who stated that the Band Shell looks like it has always been in its current location. Ms. Herakovich reported that she has certificates to give to the architects and Broeren Russo as well as Terri Bilbrey.

### Legislative Conference Report

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Off Track Betting bill was changed last year to have funds go to Urbana Park District when off track betting facility moved there. She stated that legislation is being sponsored by Representative Jakobbson to direct off track betting funds to city in which it is located. Ms. Herakovich stated that Senator Frerichs is taking the bill to the Senate and that the bill has had its third reading and has one more to go. It appears that there will not be any problems passage. She stated that hopefully about \$3 million will get appropriated through IDNR and come back to the park districts in Illinois which have qualifying museums. Ms. Herakovich reported that she hopes the Park District gets its funding back, of which \$50,000 was used for the Virginia Theatre.

Ms. Herakovich reported on the debt service extension bill. She stated that when tax caps came in 1991, park districts were frozen at bonding rates. Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District jumped ahead and made sure it was at the maximum allowed at the time. Not every park district did this, such as the Champaign Country Forest Preserve which finds itself with financial limitations. She stated that the proposed bill addresses tying tax calculations to the consumer index price so there could be an increase in the event a park district chooses to have one.

### Cultural Arts District Subcommittee

Ms. Herakovich reported the cultural arts district subcommittee continues to meet. She stated that the City is not interested in funding a cultural arts district at this point. However, there is so much enthusiasm and interest that the community may proceed without the City.

### Aquatic Task Force

Ms. Herakovich reported that she asked Mr. DeLuce to arrange a meeting with interested people to address long term plans for swimming. She stated that eventually Spalding Pool will need to be addressed and there is going to be a need for additional swimming facilities in the community. She stated that the task force discussed how to make this happen and determine if there is an opportunity for collaborative efforts.

### Refunding of Bonds

Ms. Herakovich stated that recently there was news coverage about the City of Champaign refinancing some bonds to get a better rate. She stated that Ms. Plotner checked with the Park District's financial advisor and determined that since the Park District issued bonds at 4.3% that it is already in a favorable position. The current rate for an AA credit is 4%. Ms. Herakovich reported that it would not be advantageous for the Park District to refinance at a 4% rate.

### Highway Reauthorization Act Application

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District and Parkland College submitted a Highway Reauthorization Act application for Parkland Way through Representative Tim Johnson's office. She stated that this is the second request, although the first request was for stimulus funds. Ms.

Herakovich stated that the Park District has also submitted a request to Senator Durbin for funding for the Virginia Theatre renovation.

#### 2009 EbertFest Update

Ms. Herakovich reported that once again Ebertfest was successful. She stated that \$13,500 in ticket sales will be transferred to the Virginia Theatre restoration fund. Ms. Herakovich reported that additional funds were brought in through rental fees and \$12,235 in gross sales at the concession stand. Ms. Herakovich thanked those who attend the event and those who volunteered.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she thought that Jameel Jones, Virginia Theatre Manager, did an outstanding job especially considering some of the issues that he faced during the event. She asked staff to extend to Mr. Jones the Board's thanks for a successful event.

#### Miscellaneous

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Daughters of the American Revolution request and Illinois Municipal Trust items will be presented to the Board for consideration at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### Police and Fire Memorial

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Police and Fire Memorial group is hoping to sell bricks as a fundraiser at the Taste of Champaign. She asked the Board to let her know if it had any objections. Ms. Herakovich stated that the bricks with names would be placed at the memorial site.

#### Volunteers of the Month

Katie Flint introduced Rick Katz who was chosen as Volunteer of the Month for May 2009. Mr. Katz is a University of Illinois student who volunteered at several Park District events including the egg hunt events. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, a restaurant gift certificate and a bag of goodies.

#### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Hall presented for Board approval Ordinance No. 540: An Ordinance Annexing Territory Pursuant to Petition (University of Illinois South Research Park) into the Champaign Park District.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 540. Vice President Griggs seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **President's Report**

President Solon thanked Commissioner Kuhl for dedicating two years of service as president of the Board. She presented her with Park District t-shirts for her service. President Kuhl thanked everyone for their support.

#### **Consent Agenda**

President Solon stated that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately. These items were:

1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, April 8, 2009
2. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, April 8, 2009
3. Awarding the Bid for FY 09-10 Painting Services to low bidder, Midwest Commercial Coating of Mahomet, at the bid price of \$23,915 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract.
4. Awarding the Bid for Crescent Sidewalk Installation to low bidder, Feutz Contractors at the bid price of \$48,168.25 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract.
5. Awarding the Bid for Renovation of Spalding Basketball Courts to low bidder, Open Road Paving, at the bid price of \$86,939.86 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract.

6. Awarding the Bid for Ballfield Fence Replacement to low bidder, SK Service Corp., at the bid price of \$18,756 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract.
7. Approval of the Park Partners Agreement with *The News-Gazette Inc.* for a one year period.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Action Items**

### Consideration of Approval of the Emerald Ash Borer Removal Plan

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval to allow staff to move forward immediately with the removal of all Park District Ash trees by in-house staff for a total cost of \$85,280 for removal plus an estimated \$25,000 for contracting stump removal.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to allow staff to proceed with removal of Park District Ash trees by in-house staff for a total cost of \$85,280 for removal plus an estimated \$25,000 for contracting stump removal. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

### Consideration of Approval of Budget Line Item Transfers

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval of line item transfers of the FY 08-09 budget be made within funds where lines will exceed their original budget. The transfers do not affect the overall budget as other line items will be decreased within the same funds. She stated that this is being done to comply with the Park Code and for audit purposes.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the line item transfers as presented by staff. The motion as seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

## **New Business**

### Consideration of Approval of the List of Bills for April 2009

President Solon reported that staff recommended that the list of bills for April 2009 be approved for payment.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the list of bills for April 2009 for payment. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

### Consideration of Approval Setting a Public Hearing on the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

President Solon stated that staff recommended that the Board set a Public Hearing on the proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center to receive public comments. Ordinance No. 541, the proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, is available at the Bresnan Meeting Center for public review.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for June 10, 2009 at 7 p.m. Vice President Griggs seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

### Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Appointing an Additional Member as Director of the Champaign Parks Foundation

President Solon stated that staff recommended Board approval of a resolution appointing Dan McCulley as a Director of the Champaign Parks Foundation for a two year term; May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2011.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the resolution appointing Dan McCulley as a Director

of the Champaign Park Foundation for a two year term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

#### Consideration of Approval Accepting a Deed for the Purpose of the Pipeline Trail

President Solon stated that staff recommended Board acceptance of a deed for certain lots in the Trails at Abbey Fields, Phase 2 Subdivisions for the Pipeline Trail.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to accept a deed for certain lots in the Trails at Abbey Fields and Trails at Abbey Fields, Phase 2 Subdivisions for the Pipeline Trail. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **Discussion Items**

None

#### **Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Dodds addressed a couple of observations he made while touring parks. He suggested that staff use funds to repair the three holes on Parkland Way before they get worse. He noted that since improvements have been made Parkland Way, there have been no new big cracks or deterioration to it. He stated that this is a pretty clear indication that the road was being destroyed by the buses. Commissioner Dodds suggested that buses not be allowed back on the road unless it is brought up to standards.

Commissioner Dodds commented that Porter Park looks nice and is coming along with the trees being planted. He suggested that staff clean up the six pine trees and replace the sign at Porter Park.

Commissioner Petry stated that the Unit 4 Site Development Committee is a great opportunity. He commented that obviously there are some opportunities there for potentially all kinds of things including facilities about which he does not have an opinion at this point. He stated that during his time on the Board he has heard about how complicated the relationship with the School District is. He stated that he thinks that this is an opportunity for the School District and the Park District to communicate. He also commented that he thinks that Park District staff should take this opportunity to communicate to the School District any issues it may have preferably in a clear, concise and conciliatory fashion so that the Park District can foster an atmosphere of really working together. He stated that he sees an opportunity coming and would like to see both entities understand each other's concerns and communicate those so that going forward both entities are able to work together.

President Solon stated that she believes this is the goal and that we want to see cooperation on both sides.

Commissioner Dodds stated that the Park District has never had an adversarial problem until the last 15 years. He stated that prior to this Gene Mellon worked very well with the School Board and the Park District. Commissioner Dodds commented that he did not want to see the Park District apologize for the way it has been. He noted all the parks along the schools as a sign of how both entities have worked together to create an atmosphere for children to play in areas adjacent to where they attend school. Commissioner Dodds expressed his concern that current School Board staff and officials were not aware of the contributions made to two school gyms by the Park District.

President Solon stated that the Park District was very easy to work with when Centennial School was needed a soccer field and there was an exchange of land. She commented that the Park District has worked well with the School District in the past.

Commissioner Petry stated that maybe he miscommunicated because he never thought the Park District was not cooperative. He stated that he was responding to feedback he has heard from staff in the past about how difficult it is to work with the School District. Commissioner Petry stated that now is the opportunity to proceed in a positive way to make sure that any concerns staff has about the way it has been done in the past are communicated so that the School District does not act upon assumptions of what the Park District thinks.

Ms. Herakovich made comments on how challenging park district/school district agreement can be. She stated that the current agreement with the School District needs to be updated and this would be an opportunity to do so.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Petry made a motion, seconded by Vice President 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, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, 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 and Par. 120/2(c)(5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, Par. 120/2(c)(6) 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; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; President Solon – yes; Commissioner Dodds – yes; and Vice President Griggs – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Return to Regular Meeting**

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

### **Closed Session Items - Action**

#### Executive Director's Annual Performance Review

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to award the Executive Director a 2% increase effective May 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Dodds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:

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Jane L. Solon, President

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Joseph DeLuce, Secretary *pro tem*