

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

January 13, 2010

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 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: Joe DeLuce, Director of Recreation, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Terri Gobble, Park Planner, and Tammy Hoggatt, Human Resources Manager

Absent: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director

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

Call to Order

President Solon called the meeting to order.

Comments from the Public

Terry Townsend, 2806 Rachel, Champaign, and Martel Miller, addressed the Board about park usage and programs to assist teenage youth in the community.

Communications

President Solon circulated the communications.

Treasurer's Report

Consideration of Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2009

Treasurer Wackerlin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 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 December 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. DeLuce reminded the Board that no Study Session meeting will be held in January due to the Illinois Parks and Recreation conference.

Volunteer of the Month

Mr. DeLuce reported that Tony Oligney-Estill, the new Special Events Manager, will present the Volunteer of the Month.

Mr. Oligney-Estill reported that Jamal Maatuka was chosen as Volunteer of the Month but was unable to attend the meeting because he was volunteering at a Park District event. He stated that over the last 5 years Mr. Maatuka has volunteered for several coaching positions. Mr. Oligney-Estill stated that Mr. Maatuka was very excited about receiving the award and thanked the Park District for everything it does and for providing such a great opportunity for the kids. He will be presented with his gifts at a later date.

Impact Award

Mr. DeLuce presented Mary Howell with an Impact Award. Ms. Howell has been employed with the Park District for 12 years. Mr. DeLuce reported that Ms. Howell began her employment with the Park District at the Bresnan Meeting Center and currently has been working at the Douglass Community Center for the

past 5 years. Ms. Howell received the award for the impact she has on the Douglass staff and the people in the community.

Attorney's Report

None

President's Report

None

Consent Agenda

President Solon 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 the Regular Board Meeting, December 9, 2009
2. Authorization to Apply for an Illinois Bike Path Grant
3. Approval of a 2 year Contract for Auditing Service with Martin, Hood, Friese & Associates, LLC
4. Approval of Seasonal 2010 Pay Rates

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

Action Items

President Solon reported that staff is requesting Board approval of the 2010-2011 Capital Improvements Budget.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. Discussion by the Board ensued.

Commissioner Kuhl questioned whether Heritage Park Trail was included in the Capital Improvements Budget. Staff responded that it was included in the budget. Commissioner Kuhl stated that there was not much discussion about Heritage Park Trail other than we would like to see it as a priority and be sent a map with a few alternatives.

President Solon stated that at this point she is not in favor of spending this kind of money on a trail in Heritage Park until we find out exactly what is going to be done.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that by approving this item, the Park District would be allocating approximately \$200,000 for this project. She noted that she did have a concern about it.

Mr. Spencer reported that there are two ways to accomplish the project. One is to attempt to achieve the easements necessary to build on land. He stated that the Park District has not had the time to secure easements yet. Mr. Spencer stated that the Park District does not have the land to build the path so the path would either have to go across the water as a boardwalk or add a boardwalk at the edge of the lake. He reported that there are other options including filling it. Mr. Spencer stated that either way the concrete would cost. Mr. Spencer reported that if the project was moved forward, staff would bring it back to the Board whether it was able to secure one way or the other.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he assumed Study Sessions were held to discuss these items prior to the Regular Board meetings. He stated that one question has not been asked and discussed, and as a result he withdrew his motion to approve this item. Commissioner Dodds stated that there is drainage coming down through a pump nearby that the City has to address before doing anything in that immediate area. The drainage ditch there is the Copper Slough. He stated that if this is the case the Park District should try and work with the City to kill two birds with one stone and drain the pond. He suggested that it could be drained, cleaned and pumped out. Commissioner Dodds suggested investigating whether the City wants to participate in cleaning it out. Otherwise the Park District may have to build on additional adjacent property, which he did not think the Park District would want to condemn. He concluded that the matter should be tabled until further

study is complete and apologized that he was unable to attend the last Study Session meeting.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that this item was discussed; however, the Board needed more information. Commissioner Dodds stated that it should not be a part of the Capital Budget.

Vice President Griggs called for point of order and stated that instead of removing the motion to remove the item or amend the motion.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he would be happy to do either one; however, it is quite evident that the Board can not approve the item with the information it has.

Commissioner Kuhl inquired about the procedural percussions of approving this item.

Commissioner Dodds stated that you can make a motion and come back and include it in the budget at a later date. Commissioner Kuhl stated that the trail is included in the capital budget now. She stated that a motion could be made later to remove this item if it does not work out.

President Solon stated that she would rather amend the motion and not have the item in the budget, and bring it back to be added at a later date.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the motion is on the table to approve the budget. Commissioner Petry stated that he seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dodds moved to remove his prior motion and made a new motion to approve the Capital Improvements Budget with the exception of the Heritage Park trail until further studies are appropriately completed and brought to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs.

Commissioner Kuhl questioned the procedure. Commissioner Dodds responded that it was suitable.

Attorney Hall stated that the Board can also reject the initial motion to approve the Capital Improvements Budget, and a member can make another motion to approve the budget without the Heritage Park trail project.

Commissioner Kuhl asked if Heritage Park trail can be put back into the budget once the answers to the questions have been received. Attorney Hall responded that the Board can make that determination if it wants to spend the money on it at any point. He stated that if the Board wanted to go with the original motion, and it obtains data down the road that suggest it does not want to go forward, then the Board can decide accordingly. Attorney Hall stated that making a motion to approve a budget item did not impose upon the Board the requirement of making an expenditure if the facts turn out differently than anticipated.

Commissioner Dodds doubted an expenditure would be made this year because of the need to involve the drainage district and City of Champaign.

Commissioner Petry stated the decision was made because the Park District did not want to wait a number of years to complete the proposed project.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the trail is an amenity that she would like to see happen at some point in time. Whether the budget gets approved with it in and the Park District continues to research it, she would like to keep it in the forefront until a solution is reached.

Commissioner Petry stated that it is pretty much in line with what the consensus was at the Study Session after this item was addressed.

President Solon stated that the Board has asked for more information to be brought back for consideration. She stated that it doesn't make sense to build if it will be something that will not last or not be worth the money we put in it. She expressed additional concerns about the implication of tax caps and future maintenance cost.

Further discussion ensued about the merits of the project.

President Solon questioned the trail being in this year's capital budget. Commissioner Kuhl responded that it would be consistent with the Park District's plans that the trail is completed.

Commissioner Petry commented that this issue has been talked about for a couple of years and that there are a couple of Commissioners who feel pretty strongly about this trail. He stated that this is about completing the trails that are the main priority of the community. He noted that while it is an expense and eventually there will be maintenance issues, there is no doubt that the Board will have to decide what priorities are worth spending for. The feedback from the use of the trails has been extraordinary. Commissioner Petry referenced the usage of Morrissey Trail and stated that he felt that the two parks have many similarities. In his view, one of the few ways to get people in that park is via a trail. He stated that that's similar to Morrissey Trail where people use it for a variety of reasons but the park could not be accessed without the trail.

Vice President Griggs reminded the Board that there was a motion on the floor. President Solon stated that the motion is to approve the Capital Improvements Budget without Heritage Trail. She called for the votes. The motion was approved 3-2.

Commissioner Petry asked staff about the follow up on the easements.

Vice President Griggs suggested that there should be a motion to approve Heritage Park trail at the time that all of the information has been received, work out the problems and bring it back to the Board.

Commissioner Dodds stated that in his view it would be preferable to wait until the legal research for easements has been conducted. Commissioner Dodds stated that there is a process which the Park District should go through.

Commissioner Kuhl moved to proceed with the research and the background information necessary to address placing a trail around Heritage Park.

Further discussion ensued about the course of action.

Commissioner Dodds reiterated the need to obtain engineering and other specific project cost associated with the project.

Attorney Hall restated that the motion by Commissioner Kuhl was to proceed with staff undertaking and researching background actions and costs necessary to develop a budget for the Heritage Park trail project. The question was called and the motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Consideration of Approval of List of Bills for December 2009

President Solon reported that staff is requesting Board approval of the list of bills for December 2009 for payment.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the list of bills for December 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of Bids for 2010 Bedding Plants

President Solon reported that staff recommends that the Board accept the bids and authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts to purchase 2010 bedding plants as follows: Flower Island Order #1 for 2,368 flats to Connie's Country Greenhouse for a total of \$34,206.25; Park Program Order for 2,496 flats to Jones Country Gardens for a total of \$35,177.25 and Flower Island Order #2 for 857 flats to Ropp's Flower Factory for a total of \$12,968.00. The total cost of the three recommended orders for 2010 will be \$82,351.50 and funds will be allocated in the FY10-11 operating budget.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she thinks a 17% increase in bids for fewer plants is high.

Commissioner Petry asked for comments from the staff. Mr. Spencer stated that he believes that the increase in prices is a result of the economy, fuel cost and where the bidders are in their own businesses. He reported that the flats and sites are relatively the same. He reported that the increase in prices are the cost of doing business with the vendors.

Commissioner Petry stated that the number of flats were down. Commissioner Kuhl stated that the number of flats were down by 121.

Vice President Griggs commented that the increase in cost of labor impacts the increase in cost.

Mr. DeLuce noted that the Park District collects 73% of the cost of the plants.

Discussion ensued about a vendor who did not submit a bid this year. Commissioner Petry asked staff if vendors are told about the policy of awarding a contract to three vendors. Mr. Spencer informed the Board that vendors are aware of the policy.

Commissioner Kuhl asked staff if it was possible to go back and lower the number of plants. She reiterated that she thinks that a 17% increase for flowers is excessive.

Discussion ensued about rebidding the bedding plants. Staff stated that staff would have to redesign flower beds, and there would be no guarantee that vendors could grow flowers and have them ready in time for planting in May. Mr. Spencer commented that he believes that it would be risky to try and rebid the bedding plants and obtain them in time to plant this season.

Commissioner Dodds noted that the plants are also supported by everyone that has a bed and not totally supported by the Park District.

Discussion ensued about a waiting list. Mr. Spencer stated that the Park District lose beds and gain beds every year. In response to a question by Commissioner Kuhl, Mr. Spencer responded that there is no waiting list.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she will probably vote yes, but commented that planning where the Park District encounters a 17% increase, she indicated that given these economic times there should have been better guidelines as to such expense.

Vice President Griggs stated that when the bids are awarded Commissioner Kuhl's concerns be addressed.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the bids for 2010 bedding plants as stated above. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of Bids for Mowing Services

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contracts with the low bidder on each respective site for mowing services for a period beginning May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011, 2012 or 2013, dependent upon contract length. It was also requested that in the event of a contractor forfeiting his contract prior to its completion, the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the next lowest responsive bidder for the remainder of the original contract.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the mowing contract as listed in the staff report (copy attached), and to authorize the Executive Director to execute the contracts, in the event of a contractor

forfeiting its contract prior to its completion, with the next lowest responsive bidder for the remainder of the original contract. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Appointing a Freedom of Information Officer (FOIA)

President Solon reported that staff recommended approval of a resolution appointing a FOIA Officer. Mr. DeLuce stated that this is a result of a new state law that took effect January 1, 2010.

Attorney Hall reported that originally it was suggested that the Finance Director be the FOIA Officer. He stated that changes were made to the resolution.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to the resolution appointing the Executive Director as the FOIA officer. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

None

Discussion Items

Garden Hills Gymnasium

Mr. Spencer reported that Unit 4 School District approached the Park District about supporting a larger gym at Garden Hills Elementary School. He stated that he met with the architect for the project and was told that the gym being proposed is approximately the same size as the Douglass gym. Mr. Spencer stated that programming should be available that would suffice without any input from the Park District. He also reported that drainage issues were discussed and the impact a new gym might have on Gardens Hills Park. Mr. Spencer stated that the architects will attempt to contain all drainage on the existing site. He reported that he does not feel that there will be anything done to help the Park District improve drainage in Garden Hills Park.

Commissioner Dodds stated that Unit 4 is required by law to maintain appropriate drainage on its property.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Spencer stated that the Park District still has its drainage issues in Garden Hills Park. He reported that City of Champaign staff suggested using rain gardens or bio cells to try to isolate where the drainage is in the park.

Unit 4 Easement Request

Attorney Hall reported that he received a letter from the attorney for the School District. He stated that the School District contemplated installing a geothermal heating and cooling system at the Booker T. Washington School. Attorney Hall reported that the apparatus goes below ground. He stated that the current easement that the School District has was for use of a parking lot. He stated that the School District has asked if the Park District would be willing to consider a modification to the easement to allow for the development of a geothermal system. He suggested that the Board think about the request and discuss it at the next Study Session meeting. Attorney Hall reported that he has not seen any plans.

Mr. Spencer reported that the parking lot on the north side of Washington School is Park District property which the Park District allows the School District to use for parking. He stated that the architects believe that the geothermal system will fit on the School District site; however, they would like to know if they run into an issue whether the Park District would allow the use of the parking lot.

Commissioner Dodds provided details on the process for installing a geothermal system.

Attorney Hall suggested that he contact the School District's engineer and request copies of the proposed plans for review at the next Study Session meeting which will not be held until February 24, 2010.

Employee Health Insurance

Ms. Hoggatt informed the Board that the Park District receives its health insurance as an outside group through the City of Champaign. She reported that the Park District is involved in the process through the benefits advisory committee. Ms. Hoggatt stated that last year dramatic changes were made to the plan by removing the PPO option and only offering an HMO option. She reported the change increased out of pocket expenses to employees. Ms. Hoggatt reported that the changes made an impact on the large losses Health Alliance was taking from this group. She stated that Health Alliance negotiated significant discounts. Ms. Hoggatt reported Health Alliance proposed an increase of 8.95% which has been the lowest in several years. She stated that the benefits advisory committee is going to recommend to the Champaign City Council that no changes be made to the plan this year and that the 8.95% increase be accepted. Ms. Hoggatt reported that Park District staff would like to continue with this health option.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Petry stated that he appreciates that there are issues that come up and that the Board receives a lot of material for the Board meetings. He requested that the Board receive a packet of materials that include everything for meetings so that they can read it and prepare for the meeting. Commissioner Petry requested that if material for the meeting is not ready that it waits until the next meeting unless it is an emergency.

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)(21) for the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purpose of approval by body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Petry – yes; Vice President Griggs – yes; President Solon – yes; Commissioner Dodds – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl. 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

Consideration of Approval to Make Available for Public Viewing Closed Session Minutes

Staff recommends that the Board approve releasing all or parts of closed session minutes for public viewing as presented.

Vice President Griggs made a motion to approve the list of certain Closed Session Minutes to make available for public viewing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Griggs 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 8:02 p.m.

Approved:

Jane Solon, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary