

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

**March 24, 2010**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hays Recreation Center, 1311 W. Church Street, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Solon presided over the meeting.

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

Absent: Commissioner Barbara Kuhl

Staff: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jim Spencer, Director of Operations, Laura Auteberry, Marketing and Development Director, Andrew Weiss, Park Planner, and Cindy Harvey, Administrative Assistant

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

**Call to Order**

President Solon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Bids/RFPs**

Consideration of a Bid to Purchase one Compact Hybrid SUV

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff recommended awarding a bid for one Compact Hybrid SUV to the low bidder, Freeway Ford, at the amount of \$26,885.00.

Discussion ensued. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the April 14, 2010 agenda for Board consideration.

Consideration of a Bid to Purchase Concessions Merchandise

Ms. Herakovich reported that staff recommends awarding bids for concessions merchandise to low bidders, Fox River Foods in the amount of \$24,597.20 and McCormick Foods in the amount of \$9,298.73.

President Solon stated that there were four vendors and only two were listed in the staff report. She asked who the other two vendors were. President Solon noted that bids total almost \$34,000 while last year's bid awarded to Fox River was \$29,394. She asked about the increase in cost. Ms. Herakovich responded that the bids are based on estimated use. She also noted that McCormick's, a local vendor, who has not been successful in being awarded bids in the past will be awarded a portion of the bid.

Commissioner Petry stated that usually the staff report includes all bidders with bid prices.

Ms. Herakovich stated that she will get answers to the questions and correct the typographical error in the staff report before the next April 14, 2010 Board meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the April 14, 2010 agenda for Board consideration.

## **Action Items**

### Consideration of Olympic Tribute Inductees

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval to induct Katherine Reutter and Jonathan Kuck into the Tribute to Olympic Athletes at Dodds Park.

Ms. Herakovich stated that the Olympic Tribute Ceremony will be held on July 3, 2010 at 10 a.m. She stated that the Olympic Tribute Committee also recommended that Ms. Reutter and Mr. Kuck be inducted.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he would like to see a booklet of all the athletes inducted into the Tribute published and ready for handout at the ceremony. He also stated that he would like the Commissioners to receive the booklet prior to the ceremony. Commissioner Dodds stated that he thinks the Tribute is great and that it is probably the only one in the United States. He reiterated that he would like to see more information made available. He noted that the press release could have been more descriptive and acknowledge past inductees.

Ms. Auteberry stated that a booklet is made available any time a ceremony is held. Commissioner Dodds stated that he thinks that the booklet should be available whenever an induction ceremony is discussed. He stated that there are between 25 to 30 athletes who have been inducted into the Tribute.

President Solon asked if past inductees were invited to the ceremony. Ms. Herakovich responded that they are invited and usually speak at the ceremony about their experience.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the April 14, 2010 agenda for Board consideration.

### Consideration of an Ordinance Providing for the Disposal of Property Owned by the Champaign Park District of Champaign County

President Solon reported that staff recommended that the Board adopt Ordinance N0. 547: An Ordinance Providing for Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Champaign Park District, which will allow staff to dispose of one 1995 GMC Jimmy.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the April 14, 2010 agenda for Board consideration.

### Consideration of Proposed Remodeling of the Douglass Branch Library

President Solon reported that Library staff is requesting Board approval for remodeling a portion of the Douglass Library. The Library received grant funds for remodeling the interior of the library.

President Solon asked if the Library intended for the Park District to help pay remodeling costs. Ms. Herakovich responded that the Library does not expect the Park District to pay for any of the remodeling cost. She reported that in accordance with an existing agreement between the Library and the Park District, the Park District pays for 20% of the supplies and the utilities. Ms. Herakovich stated that part of the remodeling plans eliminates an office designated for Park District use. As a result, she will need to negotiate a reduction in the Park District expense.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the April 14, 2010 agenda for Board consideration.

## **Discussion Items**

### Geocache Stach

Ms. Auteberry reported that Geocache Stach is a marketing tool to try to draw people to some of the Park District's lesser known and lesser utilized parks. She stated that there are five parks included as part of this program which runs through July 9, 2010. Ms. Auteberry explained that people use GPS coordinates to locate boxes that are stashed in parks. She reported that once the form is completed and turned in, participants are entered into a drawing to receive a Park District gift certificate. Ms. Auteberry noted that Geocache Stach is a nationally-known activity.

### Ameren Update

Ms. Herakovich reported that President Solon serves on the Utility Committee for the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that after President Solon informed her about proposed changes for Ameren lines, she and the park planners reviewed the proposed changes and suggested the changes which are included on the map included with the Board packet. Ms. Herakovich thanked President Solon for keeping staff informed. It allowed staff to put in writing to Ameren the Park District's desires.

Commissioner Dodds asked if there were Ameren lines proposed that will be close to proposed or existing parks. Ms. Herakovich responded that the closest one is west of Rising Road. She stated that it is not known how far it will be from Rising Road. Commissioner Dodds stated that he would like to request that service be provided at one or two locations to allow access to power.

### Virginia Theatre Restoration Update

Ms. Herakovich reported on the discussion that has occurred about the proposed Theatre remodeling. She stated that Mr. Spencer and Ms. Auteberry have been working on it daily.

Mr. Spencer reported that several local and non-local general contractors have picked up bid packets for the project. He stated that the Park District is most of the way through the permitting process with the City of Champaign. Mr. Spencer reported that the permit for the marquee is being held until after the Local Historical Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for April 1, 2010. He stated that he was not sure of the outcome of the meeting. The Park District has an honorary historic designation for the Virginia Theatre. Mr. Spencer stated that he believes the permit will be issued after the Preservation Commission meeting.

Ms. Herakovich reported that Ms. Auteberry has been monitoring the social networking. Ms. Auteberry reported that there are only few people initiating the majority of the conversation on social networking. She stated that up until Friday, no one had contacted staff to ask questions or get clarification. Ms. Auteberry reported that there is great deal of misinformation and inaccurate information being circulated. She stated that she posted her phone number and Ms. Herakovich's phone number on the site to call for accurate information. Ms. Auteberry explained that it is the sentiment associated with the current marquee, which people have become accustomed to, that is the cause for concern. She reported that Mr. Spencer and she will attend the Commission meeting to be available to answer questions and clarify any misinformation.

In response to a question by Commissioner Petry about the reader board marquee, Mr. Spencer responded that the reader board is no longer being considered. He stated that to do so would require a variance from the City of Champaign. Commissioner Dodds stated that it could take two months to a year to receive a variance. President Solon explained the process for acquiring a variance.

Ms. Herakovich stated that with limited storage at the Virginia Theatre, staff has to store the letters. President Solon indicated that is one of the main reasons that municipalities are so opposed to having numerous billboards. She noted that with digital reader signs, municipalities are very

particular about how often reader boards can changes their colors.

Discussion ensued about when the marquee was installed. After discussion, it was determined that the marquee was installed before 1947.

Commissioner Dodds stated that he preferred the original marquee, but wanted to update it. He stated that his intent in including the marquee in the bid was to get a budget number for someone to return the front arch to its original appearance or near as possible. Commissioner Dodds stated that the Park District may proceed and indicate that the entire project came in at a certain number, and there is money remaining to upgrade the marquee to a similar size with better lighting or modernize it. He commented that he was not for or against either one.

Ms. Auteberry commented that she received a call from a person expressing an interest in purchasing the current marquee.

Vice President Griggs suggested following Roger Ebert's suggestion to mount the Virginia's name and the facade beneath it on the Randolph street side of the building. President Solon stated that she did not think this was a good idea if the Park District's intent is to go back to the historical marquee look.

President Solon stated that one of the reasons people were upset was because the word "Virginia" was not included on the drawings submitted to the City of Champaign. Ms. Herakovich stated that the marquee had not been designed at that time.

Discussion on the marquee continued. Commissioner Petry commented that he recognizes that a variance may be a problem. However, he believes staff should pursue the variance. Commissioner Dodds suggested waiting to see what the bids are before proceeding.

#### Universal Design & Exercise

Ms. Herakovich reported that the universal design concept reflects an attempt to remove the stigma from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) designs and minimum requirements in order to make things easier for those who have disabilities. She said for example, a parking garage in Denver, Colorado uses color code, a number and an animal to identify parking levels because people sometimes have a hard time with memory. Ms. Herakovich reported that this may be an easier way to help someone remember whether due to aging or some other disability. She stated universal design is really about using design to remove the stigma of disability.

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District became involved in universal design because of the Kellogg Foundation. She stated that the Kellogg Foundation helped provide the funding for the universal design pier at Kaufman Lake. The pier part at Kaufman Lake has been completed. Ms. Herakovich reported that Joan Dixon is trying to raise another \$125,000 for an endowment fund and use those funds for future projects.

Ms. Herakovich spoke about universal design parking spaces, which leaves spaces for ramps. She reported that universal design is based on seven principles in order to avoid disadvantage to any particular group of people. The seven principles are equitable; use; flexibility in use; simple and intuitive use; perceptible information; tolerance for error; low physical effort; and size and space for approach and use. Ms. Herakovich then provided examples of the seven principles.

Ms. Herakovich introduced Dawn Schafer, new CUSR Director, who started this week. She reported that Ms. Schafer was hired because of her experience in hospital settings and expertise in special recreation associations.

Ms. Herakovich talked about the difference in cost to build ADA compliant versus universal design facilities. She reported on Southwind Park in Springfield, Illinois, which was built using universal design. Components of the park include: signage, maps, directional devices, trails, a tram for accessibility and system technology for people who have difficulty communicating.

Ms. Herakovich reported that in large parks there is an opportunity to do hand held tours. She stated that as the Park District gets into longer trails there is an opportunity to put GPS numbers on the trails to be used to locate someone in case of an emergency. She showed pictures of Southwind Park in Springfield, the Park District's pier, Champaign County Forest Preserve's pier, Urbana Park District's pier and various parks and playgrounds using universal design.

Commissioner Dodds stated that there is a code that has been in effect for the last 10 to 15 years established by the architectural community in this country called the accessibility code. He commented that the mandates have cost millions of dollars. Commissioner Dodds stated that the code has made many things accessible to people. However to undertake such efforts without having a reason to do so, will cost thousands and thousands of dollars. Commissioner Dodds also spoke about the cost to build to comply with ADA requirements. He stated that until the code changes, the Park District should comply with the current ADA code.

Ms. Herakovich stated that the discussion and materials on universal design were information only.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Petry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Griggs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Approved:

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Jane L. Solon, President

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Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary