

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

April 14, 2010

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 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, Attorney Guy Hall and Treasurer Wackerlin.

Staff: 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 Gible, Park Planner, Tony Oligney-Estill, Special Events Manager, 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 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public

Carolyn Baxley, 510 W. Main, Urbana, addressed the Board about the Virginia Theatre (Theatre) marquee. She stated that she is the current owner of the Urbana Cinema and was involved with the renovation of the Orpheum Theatre. Ms. Baxley applauded the Park District for agreeing to take over ownership of the Theatre. She stated that she feels that the Park District has done a fabulous job with the Theatre. However, she is adamantly opposed to the removal of the current marquee. In her opinion, to do so would fly in the face of every preservation principle that exists. Ms. Baxley reported that the Illinois Preservation agency also opposes the removal of the current marquee. She stated that the original marquee was only on the building for a short time and that the current marquee is the one that most people know. She reported that the current marquee, although not original, is historic. She reported that preservationist examine the history of the building and the progress and development of the building from the beginning to the present time since the current the current marquee has been on the building for more than 60 years it has become an icon not only to Champaign but the community at large, for Ebertfest and for anyone involved with theatre in this town. In her opinion, any preservationist will explain that the current marquee is the one that should be on the Theatre and the one that the community values. Ms. Baxley expressed her hope that the Board will give serious consideration to keeping the current marquee. She encouraged the Board to consult with Illinois Historic Preservation Association before making a decision. Ms. Baxley encouraged the Board to exclude the marquee portion from the bid tonight and give it more consideration before proceeding.

Susanne Skaggs, 904, W. White, Champaign, encouraged the Board to install a marquee based upon the original. She stated that the current marquee distracts from the architecture of the building. Ms. Skaggs stated that she would be pleased if the Board did not keep the current marquee just for sentimentality. She reported that as far as she was concerned, the current marquee is essentially signage, and signage can be changed.

Adam Smith, 911 Foley Avenue, Champaign, the vice-chairman of the Champaign Historic Preservation Commission, addressed the Board about the current marquee. Mr. Smith supported Ms. Baxley's remarks earlier in the meeting; suggesting that taking down the marquee files in the face of preservation concepts. He asked the Board to please reconsider removal of the current marquee.

Josh McNattin, 111 W. Park Street, Urbana, addressed the Board about the marquee. He stated that he belongs to a group on the Facebook website. Mr. McNattin reported that there are over 600 postings on the website about the current marquee. He stated that he thinks that the majority of the people favor the current marquee based on comments posted on the website. Mr. McNattin reported that there is a great deal of value to the current marquee because of its history in the community. He stated that the current marquee has been in Champaign over 60 years. Mr. McNattin reported about a similar situation that occurred in Chicago. He

stated that he read the article in The News-Gazette stating that the Board would be considering cost and public comments. He offered his service to assist with this matter.

Leonard Doyle stated that he has been involved with the Virginia since high school, approximately 1948 or 1949. His opinion was that the old marquee was a piece of history during that time and that the existing V-shaped marquee is similar during our time. Mr. Doyle stated his view that the current marquee is world reknowned because Ebertfest attracts people from all over the world to the Virginia. Mr. Doyle advised the Board to restore the current marquee and start a new history. In his opinion, the current marquee is the main door to the Park District's future.

Mark Chenail, 125 E. University, Champaign, member of the City of Champaign Historic Preservation Commission, addressed the Board about the marquee. He stated that like his fellow commissioners, he encouraged the Board to keep the current marquee.

Susan Enscoe, 3303 Halifax, Champaign, addressed the Board about the marquee. She thanked the Board for their efforts and stated that the current marquee has been there long enough to become historic in its own right. From a preservation point of view, it is always better to maintain an original piece rather than replace it with a reproduction. Thus the fact that it is an original part of the building in a sense enables it to reflect authenticity. She would like to see effort put into establishing definitive cost figures to restore the marquee.

Andy Bendel, 2040 Blackthorn Drive, Champaign, stated that he was a former member of the C-U Theatre Company with Leonard Doyle and former owner of the Virginia. He thanked the Park District for taking over ownership and operation of Theatre. Mr. Bendel addressed marketing the current marquee versus the original marquee. He stated that the current marquee is recognizable and unique. Mr. Bendel reported that as icons go, and from a marketing standpoint, the current marquee is something that everybody knows about. He encouraged the Board to analyze what it has before you take any steps in a different direction. Mr. Bendel encouraged the Board make other needed repairs to the Virginia before making changes to the marquee.

Ernie Martin, 908 Healey Street, Champaign, addressed the Board about the marquee. He stated that the current marquee is authentic and encouraged the Board to restore it.

Susanne Skaggs stated that it should not be ignored that the beauty of the building is obscured by the current marquee. She stated that if the Board decides to replace the marquee, the current marquee could probably be sold to another theatre with more proper architecture.

President Solon thanked everyone for their comments and thoughts.

Communications

President Solon circulated the communications.

Treasurer's Report

Consideration of Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2010

Treasurer Wackerlin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2010. 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 March 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report

Volunteer of the Month

Mr. Oligney-Estill reported that the following individuals were chosen as Volunteers of the Month: Adam Hoggatt, Ariel Hsieh, Mingshan Lai, Sartaj Grewal, Fangqiong Ling, Emma Swift, and Vincent Lp. He reported that the volunteers were chosen for their assistance with the Eggstravaganza. Mr. Oligney-Estill reported that Mr. Hoggatt has been the Easter Bunny for the Eggstravaganza and Nite Lite for two years.

He thanked the volunteers for their hard work. The volunteers were presented with Certificates of Recognition and a bag of small gifts.

Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Finance Department received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. She stated that a high standard has been set for the finance staff and that they continue to maintain it. Ms. Herakovich and the Board thanked Ms. Plotner and her staff.

Legislative Reception and Conference

Ms. Herakovich reminded the Board about the Legislative Reception and Conference scheduled for April 27-28, 2010. She reported that several Commissioners plan to attend the reception. Ms. Herakovich stated that she thinks it is important to meet with legislators because of issues affecting park districts in the State of Illinois.

Introduction of a New Employee

Ms. Herakovich introduced Dawn Schafer, the new CUSR Director.

The Board welcomed Ms. Schafer to her new position.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Hall stated that he is working on several Park District matters.

President's Report

President Solon stated that she had someone from the Champaign Unit 4 School Board ask her about the status of the requested easement. Attorney Hall responded that the details of the easement are being finalized.

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 Study Session Meeting, February 24, 2010
2. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, March 10, 2010

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

Action Items

Consideration of Approval of a Bid to Purchase One Compact Hybrid SUV

President Solon reported that staff recommended awarding the bid to purchase a Compact Hybrid SUV to the lowest, responsible bidder, Worden Martin Ford, in the bid amount of \$28,484.00

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve awarding the bid to purchase a Compact Hybrid SUV from Worden Martin Ford, in the bid amount of \$28,484.00. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of Bids to Purchase Concessions Merchandise

President Solon reported that staff recommended awarding bids to purchase concessions merchandise to Fox River Foods in the amount of \$24,597.20 and McCormick Foods in the amount of \$9,298.73.

Commissioner Petry made a motion to approve to approve the bids to purchase concessions merchandise as stated above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodds. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval 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.

Commissioner Dodds asked if anyone knew how many athletes had been inducted into the Olympic Tribute. Thirty (30) athletes have been inducted into the Tribute. Commissioner Dodds stated that the Tribute needs some renovation before the ceremony in July. Ms. Herakovich reported that sign has been ordered and the area will be cleaned up before the July 3, 2010 ceremony.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve inducting Katherine Reutter and Jonathan Kuck into the Tribute. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

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 No. 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.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 546: An Ordinance Providing for the Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Champaign Park District. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of the Douglass Branch Library Remodeling Plan

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval of the Douglass Branch Library remodeling plan.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the Douglass Branch Library remodeling plan. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Consideration of Approval of List of Bills for March 2010

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval of the list of bills for March 2010 for payment.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the list of bills for March 2010. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of an Agreement with IATSE Local #482

President Solon reported that staff recommended Board approval of the agreement between the Park District and Local #482 of the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States and Canada.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve an Agreement with IATSE Local #482. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of Investing in the IMET Convenience Fund

President Solon reported that staff recommended that the Park District transfer up to \$1,000,000 from the Illinois Funds to the IMET Convenience Fund.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the Park District transferring up to \$1,000,000 from the Illinois Funds to the IMET Convenience Fund. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Bid for Virginia Theatre Phase 2 Renovations

President Solon reported that staff recommended that the Board proceed with Option B; accepting the low bid of Johnston Contractors, Inc. at a base price of \$530,700 plus the storefront window replacement at \$31,700 and the lobby doors for \$32,700 for a total of \$595,100 plus additional time to further study renovation vs. replacement and design options of the marquee.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the bid for Virginia Theatre Phase 2 renovations as stated above. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

None

Discussion Items

None

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Petry stated that he appreciated the number of people who had taken the time to make their preference known regarding the Virginia Theatre marquee. He noted that the Board takes pride in what it is trying to do to rehabilitate the Virginia. Commissioner Petry stated that the Park District desperately needs support and values public input into the process. He informed Mr. McNattin that he would be interested in seeing the results of the comments on Facebook.

Commissioner Dodds thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that a Champaign Parks Foundation brochure was distributed and that it might be of interest. Commissioner Dodds stated that since audience members all expressed interest in the Virginia and the Park District they may be interested in donating to the restoration efforts. He welcomed everyone's support, citing Michael Carragher's donation and stated that any support would be appreciated.

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, dismissal, performance, or personnel status of employees, officers and legal counsel for the Park District, 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 and Par. 120/2(c)(11) litigation that has been filed or that is probable or imminent. 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. There was further discussion regarding the Virginia Theatre project and the marquee in particular.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kuhl 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 8:05 p.m.

Approved:

Jane Solon, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary