

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

December 8, 2010

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 5:30 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, and Attorney Guy Hall

Absent: Treasurer Gary Wackerlin

Staff present: Bobbie Herakovich, Executive Director/Secretary, Jan Plotner, Director of Finance, Joe DeLuce, Director of Recreation, Terri Gible, Park Planner, Tammy Hoggatt, Human Resources 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 5:30 p.m. She reported this is a special meeting where the Park District honors several individuals and organizations in the community that have been very good to the Park District throughout the year.

PRESENTATIONS

Honorary Commissioners

President Solon reported that the Park Board of Commissioners chooses individuals each year to serve as Honorary Commissioners for the evening. She announced that this year the Park Board chose two very special individuals from the community: Eric Robeson and Joan Dixon. President Solon asked Mr. Robeson and Ms. Dixon to join the Board at the table for the remainder of the evening.

President Solon reported that Mr. Robeson has been a supporter in many ways, through his leadership with the Boneyard Creek Cleanup; involvement with the cultural arts district committee; and activities on behalf of the Public Art League. President Solon stated that Mr. Robeson continues to carry on his family's long standing tradition of being civic minded and very active in the community.

President Solon reported that Ms. Dixon has been a true friend of the Park District through her leadership with the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. She stated that Ms. Dixon has brought many opportunities to the Park District, the most recent one being the Possibility Pier in Kaufman Lake Park, which was funded by a grant through the Kellogg Foundation. Additionally, Ms. Dixon manages the Prairie Farm bequest and a Virginia Theatre bequest from which the Park District benefits.

On behalf of the Board, President Solon thanked Mr. Robeson and Ms. Dixon for their continued support and dedication to the Park District.

IAPD Presentation

President Solon announced that the Park Board would like to honor a person who has given his time, resources and vast knowledge to the Champaign Park District for many years. Dr. Morgan Powell, former Illinois Association of Park Districts President and former Champaign Park District Board President, then joined President Solon to present the award.

Dr. Powell stated that it was an honor to present the 35-year service award to Commissioner Newt Dodds. The award from the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association was presented to Commissioner Dodds in recognition of 35-years as a member of the Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners. He was also presented with an Appreciation Certificate from the IAPD Executive Director, Peter Murphy, which certified and recognized outstanding service, contributions and community leadership in the advancement of parks and recreation, and conservation in the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Dodds thanked Dr. Powell for his comments and commented on Dr. Powell's hard work with the Park District for many years. He stated that he appreciated the receiving the award.

Building Champaign Parks Awards

President Solon reported that the Park Board of Commissioners was honored to present several "Building Champaign Parks" awards to several individuals and organizations who have given their time, resources, and talent to the residents of Champaign to improve parks.

KaBoom!

President Solon reported that KaBoom! is a national nonprofit organization which builds playgrounds across the country. The Park District's Hazel Park was the 1,801st playground built by KaBoom! since 1996. She added that it would not have been possible without a local company and nonprofit organization's commitment of funds and volunteers. Representatives from KaBoom! were unable to attend the meeting to accept a plaque.

Kraft Foods Foundation

President Solon reported that Kraft Foods of Champaign (Kraft) was the local company that sponsored the Hazel Park playground build day. She stated that Kraft was celebrating its Delicious Difference Week in 18 cities across the country and provided all the food for the KaBoom! playground build day. Kraft also provided staff for design and preparation days, all the t-shirts for volunteers, a semi-truck, and 130 employees to make the playground possible. The company truly made a difference in Champaign this year. Chris Hoisington, Materials Manager for Kraft, was presented with a plaque. President Solon thanked him and the many employees who worked with the Park District for their efforts.

Champaign Rotary Club

President Solon reported that the Champaign Rotary Club was the local organization that took on the partnership for the KaBoom! playground build day. The Rotary provided a \$7,500 commitment and more than 100 volunteers. She stated that these Rotarians helped build the entire playground in six hours. Connie Walsh, Champaign Rotary Club Foundation, was presented with a plaque. President Solon thanked her and all the Champaign Rotarians for their help.

Robeson Family & Roessler Construction

President Solon reported that Kyle and Phyllis Robeson and Kenneth and Lawrence Roessler were instrumental in building Champaign parks by donating approximately 40 trees and a flat bed trailer to move the trees from Rantoul to Champaign parks. She thanked them for their generosity and stated that the trees were planted throughout parks for everyone to enjoy. Kyle and Phyllis Robeson were presented with plaques, however, Kenneth and Lawrence Roessler were unable to attend the meeting to accept their plaque.

AMDOCS

President Solon reported that AMDOCS was instrumental in making a donation to purchase two pavilions in Mattis Park to benefit both AMDOCS employees and local residents. The pavilions will benefit employees and residents for many years to come. Mr. Tsar, Mr. Ellman, and Mr. Pinto, representatives of AMDOCS, were presented with a plaque. President Solon thanked AMDOCS for its efforts.

Program Excellence Awards

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Program Excellence Awards are given to individuals, groups and organizations that assist the Park District in furthering the mission of parks and recreation.

Aramark

Ms. Herakovich reported that Piper Harvey, Aramark, was the contact person for the Eager Beaver Preschool food program. She stated that in the past while the program met with declining enrollment, Ms. Harvey made sure that the program participants received breakfast and lunch even after it was no longer profitable for Aramark to do so. Ms. Harvey was presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked her for her efforts and dedication to the children in the community.

Fire & Police Memorial Committee

Ms. Herakovich reported that Fire and Police Memorial Committee members were instrumental in fundraising efforts for the new Police and Fire memorial in West Side Park. The memorial is a fitting one honoring firefighters and police officers who have died within the line of duty and it is an added attraction to West Side Park. Committee members: Connie Finney, Angela DeVaney, Mary Su Forsman, Nancy Whitehouse, Peg Yonka, Dena Schumacher and Brad Diel were presented with a Program Excellence Award. Tammy Ashby was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Herakovich thanked the members for the efforts.

Public Art League

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Public Art League Board members were instrumental in implementing a sculpture program in Champaign, including West Side Park. Board members: Casey Loving, James Barham, Lawrence Hamlin, Eric Robenson, David Raila, and David Wilcoxon were presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked the Board members for their efforts.

Daughters of the American Revolution

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Subcommittee of the Local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated a very large plaque with The American's Creed, written by William Tyler Page, for West Side Park. It serves as a reminder for park users who read it of their duty as Americans to love their country, support our constitution, obey its laws and respect our flag. Members: Sandra Santos, Joyce Schmale, Barbara Viera, and Carol Castellon were presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked them for their efforts.

Marble Slab Creamery

Ms. Herakovich reported that Scott Henderson of Marble Slab Creamery has been very supportive of all Park District special events. He has donated over 1,000 scoops of ice cream for various Park District events. Mr. Henderson was presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked him for his efforts.

Sullivan-Parkhill

Ms. Herakovich reported that David Parkhill of Sullivan-Parkhill Motors and the dealership have worked with staff during the past year and donated equipment for workshops. They also held a raffle to benefit youth scholarship funding. He was presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked him for his help and indicated that she looked forward to a long working relationship.

University of Illinois LIS 451 Class

Ms. Herakovich reported that Martin Wolske, Senior Research Scientist and Adjunct Faculty member of the U of I Library and Information Service Graduate School, led a class which put together computers and installed computer labs for Park District users at the Hays and Douglass Annex Center. He was presented with a Program Excellence Award. Ms. Herakovich thanked him and the students for their efforts.

Illinois Parks Top Journalist

Ms. Herakovich reported that Jennifer Ketchmark, evening Meteorologist for WCIA-TV, goes above and beyond as an advocate, spokesperson and friend for the Champaign Park District. In 2009, Ms. Ketchmark volunteered her time to help with several different projects at the Champaign Park District. She donated her time and talents to work with the Park District to develop a new promotional video. Ms. Ketchmark also approached the Park District about showcasing several of its parks in a bi-monthly summer feature on WCFN-TV, an affiliate station where she has recently become an evening anchor. The segment gave great exposure to Champaign Park District parks. Ms. Herakovich reported that Ms. Ketchmark's award is from

the Illinois Association of Park District which chose her as the second runner-up for the Illinois Parks Top Journalist in the State of Illinois.

Impact Awards

Ms. Herakovich reported that this is the second year of the Impact Awards which are given to employees who go above and beyond their typical duties. She stated that all Park District employees contribute to having a successful Park District and successful programs. Ms. Herakovich reported that three employees were recently recognized, but not at the Board level, for their work with the KaBoom! playground build. She stated that Laura Auteberry, Joe DeLuce and Andrew Weiss stepped up with a can do attitude and worked throughout the several month process. Ms. Herakovich stated that this kind of dedication and positive attitude allows the Park District to move forward in new and different ways. She thanked Ms. Auteberry, Mr. DeLuce and Mr. Weiss for making this project happen.

Illinois Special Events Network Award

Ms. Herakovich reported that the Park District entered three different media pieces at the Illinois Special Events Conference which were created by Katy Denight, Graphic Designer. She reported that the Park District received three first place Illinois Special Events Network Skyscraper Awards for: 2-4 Color Advertising – Parade of Lights; Posters – Symphony at Sunset; and Newspaper Insert – Downtown Festival of the Arts.

Volunteer of the Year

Mr. DeLuce announced that Ms. Tracy Jones was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year. He reported that Ms. Jones was chosen for her volunteering efforts with the Sholem Sharks. She was chosen as a Volunteer of the Month in 2009 and 2010. Ms. Jones was presented with a plaque and a Park District goodie bag.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Solon called for comments from the public. There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Solon circulated the communications.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Herakovich presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2010. She 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 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney's Report

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 10, 2010
2. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting, November 10, 2010
3. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, November 17, 2010
4. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, November 29, 2010

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

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Approval of List of Bills for December, 2010

President Solon presented the list of bills for December, 2010 for consideration. Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the list of bills for December, 2010 for payment. The motion was seconded by Vice President Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of Approval of Meeting Dates for 2011

President Solon reported that staff recommended approval of meeting dates for 2011 as presented.

Commissioner Dodds made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petry. The motion passed 5-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Volunteer Report

Mr. Oligney-Estill reported that in 2010 there were a total of 2,779 individuals who volunteered a total of 24,189 hours. He stated that the breakdown was as follows: 1,518 volunteers volunteered 6,500 hours for special events programs; 92 volunteers volunteered 276 hours at the Virginia Theatre; 562 volunteers volunteered 3,500 hours at the Springer Cultural Center; 75 volunteers volunteered 700 hours at the Douglass Community Center; 270 volunteers volunteered almost 10,000 hours for sports programs; 163 volunteers volunteered 700 hours for aquatics and fitness programs; and 6 volunteers volunteered 700 hours at Prairie Farm.

Champaign Parks Foundation Year End Report

Art Thoma, Chairman of Champaign Parks Foundation, presented the Foundation's year-end report. He thanked the Board for giving the Foundation the opportunity to raise funds for the benefit of parks. Mr. Thoma stated that the Foundation is a good organization. He acknowledged Foundation Board members Penn Nelson and Newt Dodds, and thanked them for the time they have invested in the Foundation. Mr. Thoma reported that President Solon, Commissioner Petry and he competed against Urbana Park District Commissioners in the Rock Paper Scissors event held by the Illini Summer Opportunity Organization this past year. He stated that the Foundation received \$291,663 in donations for various projects including \$89,500 for Virginia Theatre restoration; \$88,000 for the West Side Park sculpture program; \$51,946 from AMDOCS for Mattis Park shelters; \$21,000 in interest from investments; \$7,700 for West Side Park; \$6,900 for memorial trees; and \$3,400 for scholarships. Mr. Thoma reported that approximately \$30,000 each year is awarded in youth scholarships. He stated that the Taste of Champaign, the largest fundraiser for youth scholarships, was rained out this year. Mr. Thoma reported on the history of the Rock Paper Scissor tournament, which was started by a group of students who wanted to continue a legacy in youth scholarships. Last year the Foundation received \$15,000 for youth scholarships from the tournament. He stated that the Foundation's goal is to raise funds to complete the Virginia Theatre renovations. Mr. Thoma reported that the Foundation is working on two events that will be held in 2011 at the Virginia Theatre. The events will include a dedication and thank you for the donation to restore the organ and for the Michael Carragher gift to restore the Virginia Theatre lobby as well as renovations downstairs and upstairs.

Building Champaign Parks Award

President Solon reported that Jeff Wandell of Prairie Gardens was instrumental in helping Build Champaign parks by donating 33 trees for Champaign parks. The trees were planted throughout the parks. He was presented with a plaque. President Solon thanked him for his generosity.

Mr. Wandell thanked the Board and stated that he would be happy to donate more trees. He also offered to donate \$10,000 to the Park District if it decides to redo the entrance to Kaufman Lake on Springfield Avenue.

Prosperous 2010 Presentation

Ms. Herakovich presented a PowerPoint presentation "Prosperous 2010." The presentation included slide shows of current 2010 projects for the Champaign Park District.

Ms. Herakovich gave a very special thanks to the dedicated and hard working Park District staff. She stated that she appreciates their skills and commitment to the Park District and to the community.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

President Solon invited everyone in the audience to join the Board and staff in the lobby for refreshments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Dodds made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petry to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Approved:

Jane L. Solon, President

Bobbie Herakovich, Secretary