

**Vernon Hills Park District**  
**Minutes of the Special Board Meeting**  
**March 10, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order.** The Special Meeting of the Vernon Hills Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Doerhoefer at 6:12 pm at the Laschen Community Center, 294 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills.

**2. Roll Call.** Present: Commissioners Sente, Meline, Ballowe, Peterson & Doerhoefer. Staff: Larry DeGraaf, Marla Pineiro, Tom Ritter, Orin Main, Cheryl Baron, Marty Walsh, and Ruth Horndasch.

**3. New Business**

**a) Corporate Sponsorship** – Executive Director DeGraaf summarized for the Board what the District is currently doing to promote corporate sponsorships. Marketing Manager Baron added that the marketing department is in the process of relationship building with area businesses. The Board and staff thoroughly discussed current initiatives relating to corporate sponsorship. Communication Manager Baron will continue to update the Board concerning corporate sponsorships in her monthly report.

**b) NRPA Conference Commissioner Interest Items**

1. Permanent Trash/Recycling Stations: Trash/Recycling Stations have been purchased and will be placed in designated park areas this spring.
2. Sandlock Sandbox Sand for preschool classroom/camps: Moon sand has been purchased and is currently being tested in the preschool rooms.
3. Triple Level Access Drinking Fountains: Cost, installation and maintenance is cost prohibitive.
4. Evaluate additional shade structures: Additional shade structures will be considered a future project to the capital improvement plan.
5. Rocky Mountain Sunscreen: The Family Aquatic Center concessionaire has been asked to add this item to its product line for trial this season.
6. Pool/Park Movie Night: Will partner with the Village and co-promote the event on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and hold the movie night in Century Park. President Doerhoefer suggested having two events; one at Century Park and another at Grosse Pointe Park. Executive Director will add this item of business to the Village Liaison Committee Meeting Agenda.
7. Trikke Vehicles for rent from the District: Limited seasonal use, inadequate storage, safety issues on park paths and training would make the purchase of Trikke Vehicles for District use impracticable.
8. NEOS 360 Play System for the Family Aquatic Center: Cost and limited seasonal usage is cost prohibitive but could consider this play system in the future if needs are identified and facilities are available.
9. Outdoor Fitness/Exercise Stations: Executive Director DeGraaf summarized for the Board available outdoor fitness station options. Outdoor Fitness Stations will be considered a future project to the capital improvement plan.
10. Mini-Tennis Programming: The District does not teach tennis in-house but tennis is offered through Libertyville Tennis Club. It is not recommended at this time to implement an in-house tennis program.
11. Investigate the interest of a dog park in our community survey: This item has been included to the community survey. Additional research will be conducted after results are tabulated from the community survey.

12. Consider Partnering with the Village to provide enhanced senior programs: Supt. Pineiro and Kelly Cushion met with the senior club members who currently meet in the basement of the Village Hall to discuss ways the Park District could better serve the senior group. Supt. Pineiro summarized what programming needs the seniors have that are unmet and requested direction from the Board to determine a pricing policy for senior programming.

13. Adding unusual playground pieces for new playgrounds or when renovating older park equipment: Supt. Pineiro provided the Board with an abundant amount of new and inventive playground equipment information and examples. Executive Director DeGraaf further explained that our current playground equipment is in good condition and that there are no current plans for a new playground. Additional playground equipment could be implemented into the north end Century Park improvement plan.

**c) Assisting the Village in Snow Removal Efforts** – Executive Director DeGraaf informed the Board the he had met with Village Manager Mike Allison to review how the District could assist the Village with snow removal. It was determined at this meeting that the Village is well equipped to handle snow removal in the Village. Village Manager Allison furthered that the only benefit derived from the District would be if the District was assigned to a particular area of responsibility. The Board will consider pros and cons that would affect the District on a whole and what affects Park Maintenance staff, vehicles, time, repairs and unplowed park paths would incur.

**d) Discussion of Additional Partnering with the Village** – The list of partnership items between the District and the Village was accidentally omitted from the Board packet. Executive Director DeGraaf will supply the Board with the partnering list via email and add this item to the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting Agenda.

**e) IPARKS Board of Directors Appointment** – Executive Director DeGraaf informed the Park Board that he would be required to leave the IPARKS Board of Directors unless he was appointed by the Board. Executive Director DeGraaf requested to remain on the IPARKS Board of Directors after his retirement and respectfully asked the Park Board to appoint him to the IPARKS Board. Motion by Commissioner Ballowe to appoint Executive Director DeGraaf to the IPARKS Board of Directors. Second by Commissioner Peterson.

Ayes: Commissioners Peterson, Ballowe, Sente, Meline and Doerhoefer.

Nays: None                      Motion carries.

**f) 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Program** – Executive Director DeGraaf outlined the memo and spreadsheets with the proposed capital improvement program for the next fiscal year.

#### **Anticipated income – Spreadsheet attached**

Projected Cash-on-Hand in the Construction Fund 6/1/09 - TIF impact fees were recently received in the amount of \$1,300,000 from the Village.

Developer Income Fees - The amounts shown represent an estimate of the impact fees remaining on the Route 45/Route 21 projects. The economy will decide how quickly the funds come in. The Village may give the Park District the impact fees it took from the Aspen Pointe project, but that is not certain. The Village has stated that the Park District will get the impact fees from the Affordable Senior Housing project, an amount not yet certain.

SRA Levy – There is an ability to levy for up to \$350,000 every year. However, the funds must be used for accessibility improvements in our parks and buildings. The \$350,000 you see for 09/10 is for the Century Park North End Improvements Project (about 25% of the total project). For the remaining years shown, I suggest the maximum amount be levied each year and be put in a reserve account (Marla is

setting one up beginning June 1, 2009). This accumulation of funds could be then used to go toward a fieldhouse when it is built. That would be nearly \$3,000,000 by 2018; the year current bonds are paid off. Grant Reimbursement – This \$400,000 is the expected OSLAD grant reimbursement at the completion of the Century Park Improvement Project.

Village (Summer Celebration Reimbursement) – The Village is holding on to \$150,000 pending receipt of final (after construction) site elevations. Gewalt-Hamilton is doing the engineering work. Dan Dalziel is coordinating. I've received a bill from Gewalt Hamilton, so reimbursement is expected subject to Village approval of the finished elevations.

### **Proposed Projects**

1. CP Shoreline Stabilization Continuation. 3 D Design Studio has a plan for the completion of both lakes, subject to Board approval and allocation of funds. The Board can choose to do as many lineal feet each year as it wants to afford.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to continuing the shoreline stabilization project holding the budget amount to \$300,000.

2. Athletic Field Improvements. Nearly all of the projects identified by the Board four years ago for athletic field improvements have been completed. The dugout enclosures for the four Century Park ballfields remain on the list. These improvements include concrete floors, fenced enclosures and shade.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project.

3. Century Park - North End Improvements. This is the OSLAD Grant project (about \$1.2M originally). As you know, Dan Dalziel of 3D Design Studio has been assigned the task of beefing up the grant re-application, so the original estimate may become larger. The breakdown of how this project was going to be paid was: Grant \$400,000, SRA Funds (up to 25% - \$300,000-\$350,000), remainder (about \$500,000 - Park District Construction Fund, with \$150 coming the first in FY10 and the remainder in FY11.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project.

4. Century Park (west). Renovate multi-court, located adjacent to the tennis courts. The current multi-court is an eyesore. It contains water much of the year, prohibiting basketball and it has been a failure as an ice rink in the winter. The asphalt curbing makes it questionable from a safety standpoint. The proposal is to overlay the current structure with new asphalt, thereby eliminating the curb and add new basketball goals.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project and requested that the multi-court be renovated with 1 full-court and 1 ½-court.

5. Sullivan Community Center HVAC. This is the third year in a four year plan to replace all ten of the aging rooftop units. Four units have been recommended by our HVAC vendor. That will leave the two large units for next year to complete the replacement plan.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project.

6. Drinking fountains (memo attached to NRPA Commissioner Interest Items).

Discussion: The Board discussed the merits to enhance the District with more drinking fountains but agreed that this item is cost prohibitive and would be taken off the Capital Improvement Plan.

7. Additional Shade Structures (memo attached to NRPA Commissioner Interest Items).

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project but moved it to FY 2011.

8. SCC Wetland Mitigation. You know the story. I included it in the list in the event other details can be resolved with the Village.

Discussion: The Board agreed to delete this project from the Capital Improvement Plan.

9. NEOS 360 (memo attached to NRPA Commissioner Interest Items).

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project but moved it to FY 2011.

10. Flow Rider - FY 2012. By making the Flowrider the only capital improvement for that fiscal year, it can be done.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project for FY 2012.

11. Garvanian Park - landscape improvements - FY 2013. These improvements to Garvanian Park have been planned long before Marimac Park was re-named. Improvements include 1) a shelter adjacent to the existing playground, 2) a path connecting the existing Deerpath Drive entry path diagonally to the Seavey Bridge that leads to the Metra Station, and 3) a gazebo along that path with heavy landscaping and flower beds. 3 D Design Studio has the preliminary (conceptual) plans for this project.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project and moved it up to FY 2010 using the recently received funds from the TIF impact fees.

12. Family Aquatic Center Maintenance. This item was added for needed repairs for the pump and heater.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to this project utilizing the recently received funds from the TIF impact fees.

13. Fieldhouse - FY 2019 at the latest. All current bonds will be paid off. An earlier date is possible if bonds payments are accelerated. Use of SRA levy for accessibility improvements is permitted.

Discussion: The Board was agreeable to keeping this on the Capital Improvement Plan keeping this in the future year column.

Executive Director DeGraaf proposed that Dan Dalziel from 3D Design begin preparing proposals for the shoreline stabilization, Garvanian Park improvements, and the dugouts for athletic improvements for the March 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting. The Board consensus was to move forward with this suggestion.

**4. Closed Session** – President Doerhoefer stated that there would be no closed session for the Purpose of Discussing the Appointment of an Employee Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

## **5. Adjournment**

Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:15 pm.

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Mike Meline, Board Secretary