

COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 3, 2012

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by President Andrew Carruthers at 6:03 PM, July 3, 2012 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Following the Pledge of Allegiance the role was called with the following commissioners answering present: Joan Burke, Andrew Carruthers, David Tanzyus and Spike Bryant. Commissioner Mary Ann Bitzer was absent.

Staff present included Interim Executive Director Rick Robbins, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, Director of Business Rosemary Barczewski, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Burke that the Commissioners go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees.

The board adjourned to CLOSED SESSION at 6:03 PM.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order in OPEN SESSION by President Andrew Carruthers at 6:17 PM, July 3, 2012 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Upon role being called the following commissioners answered present: Joan Burke, Andrew Carruthers, Spike Bryant, and David Tanzyus. Commissioner Mary Ann Bitzer was absent.

ACTION

A motion was made by Joan Burke, seconded by David Tanzyus that Terry Wilson be appointed Executive Director of the Collinsville Area Recreation District. Upon roll being called; those voting AYE were Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, and Bryant. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Tanzyus, seconded by Spike Bryant that Resolution 12-4, A Resolution Approving the Agreement For Employment of Terry Wilson By The Collinsville Area Recreation District, Madison And St. Clair Counties, Illinois be adopted. Upon roll being called; those voting AYE were Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, and Bryant. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

- Terry Wilson spoke and stated on behalf of himself and his wife he thanked the Commissioners. He stated it had been a pleasure, that he had a long career at a different place, and was looking for a challenge. He stated he hoped he could do what the people wanted done, the residents', focus on the Commissioners; and hoped the District would get bigger and better.
- Andrew Carruthers stated Terry Wilson was the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department at Fairview Heights the last 20 years, and would start with the District on July 16, 2012.

A motion was made by Spike Bryant, seconded by Joan Burke to approve the Preservation Covenant with Illinois Historic Preservation Agency on Arlington Wetlands Property.

- Andrew Carruthers stated the agency asked the District to enter into an agreement not to spend money or transfer property. He stated archeological sites were discovered on the Arlington Wetlands area, which is the site for the new project and where there was a ground breaking during the previous month. He stated the agreement did not effect the project, that Madison County had approved the agreement, and they were waiting on CARD to sign the agreement before moving forward with the project.

Upon roll being called; those voting AYE were Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, and Bryant. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Sparks addressed the Board regarding changes within the District and the property on Vivian and Tara Lane. He referenced District meeting minutes and stated in January 2008 was the first time the property on Vivian was mentioned, and it was 2012 and the District was still talking about it. He stated in January 2008 a motion was made, which passed, that the purchase agreement be approved at a purchase price of \$185,000. He referenced the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting and stated it did not appear at that time the Board did not know why the property was purchased, and it still did not seem it was known why it was purchased. He stated something needed to be done, and he suggested having a public auction and the person with the most money could buy the property that day.

Mark Achenbach congratulated Terry Wilson on his appointment and thanked Rick Robbins for the job he did as Interim Executive Director. He stated he thought the Board needed to mend some fences with the Village of Maryville residents within CARD. He stated there was a lot of resentment with the Maryville residents, because they felt like they were getting a bad shake out of CARD. He stated the reason was because of the 16 closest parks to his house in Maryville, the 5th closest park, a CARD park, was the Pleasant Ridge Park that just opened. He stated after that the next closest park was Woodland Park in Collinsville, and his property taxes that go to CARD are used to maintain Woodland Park, which was not owned by CARD and was owned by the City of Collinsville. He stated people in Maryville wonder why their tax dollars that go to CARD are used to run Collinsville parks. He stated people living in Maryville pay twice, because they pay CARD to run Collinsville parks and pay Maryville to run Maryville parks. He stated he knew that some people on the Board would say that was a problem with Maryville. He stated he did not understand why the CARD Board never gave Maryville the same opportunity that was given to Collinsville. When the Board let Collinsville lease the parks to CARD for \$1.00, and the Board was paying all the operating and maintenance costs that Collinsville still owned, why was that not offered to Maryville. He asked what the return on investment was for the Maryville residents who have been paying taxes to CARD for 20 years. He asked the Board if they could start treating the people that lived in Maryville that were residents of CARD, and give the same fair shake that has been given to people that lived in Collinsville.

DISCUSSION

The first topic discussed was the Interim Executive Director's report:

- Rick Robbins referenced a report provided to the Board regarding the Sport Complex Concession and stated more than \$11,000 in revenue had been generated. David Tanzyus asked if equipment was tied into supplies or where it was at. Rick stated most of the equipment was already at the concession stand. David referenced the computer or Point of Sale equipment. Rosemary stated the Point of Sale was already owned by the District and the only real purchase was a computer, which was approximately \$500. Rick stated a more detailed report would be provided to the Board at the end of the season.
- Rick stated the Tara Lane property roof repairs and inside work was scheduled to begin in a couple weeks.
- He referenced an approximate \$140,000 in revenue made at Arlington Greens and Splash City Admission revenue of \$181,000. He stated a more detailed Splash City report would be provided at the next board meeting.

The second topic discussed was CARD debt management:

- Andrew Carruthers referenced a couple options the Board had been presented with, one of which was presented by Mary Kane of Stifel Nicolaus, and underwriter for bond sales, who he stated he would like to have meet with the full board. The second individual, who met with the board, was Joy Howard, who was an individual consultant that worked on retainer.
- He stated both individuals stated the District was somewhat restricted with what it could do with all the three outstanding long term bonds, and explained one of the options presented by Mary Kane regarding what the District could do with one of the bonds, the first (2004) bond where a potential of \$500,000 could be saved.
- David Tanzyus asked if those were the only two who had been met with, and Andrew stated they were the only two thus far, but he wanted to provide the Board with a recap and stated if the Board wanted to meet with Mary Kane he was sure she would be happy to do so. Andrew stated the Board could meet with more individuals, but thought after awhile the Board would start to hear the same thing, and then be put to the decision of whether to hire someone on an hourly basis to advise the District long term or do something else when it was needed. He stated he would ask Mary Kane if she could come to the next meeting in two weeks.

The third topic discussed was regarding a forensic audit:

- Andrew Carruthers stated the idea was to bring in an accounting firm to perform an audit that would go beyond the scope of the required regular audit. He stated the regular audit was limited in scope because it ensured CARD adhered to sound accounting practices, but did not review to make sure everything was going okay. He stated he wanted to ask Rick Robbins, and then Terry Wilson when he came in, to get some bids. Joan Burke stated she thought that was a good idea.

The last topic discussed was regarding the Miner's Institute:

- Andrew Carruthers stated a letter was sent by the end of the week following the last Board meeting, that the Foundation would meet on July 11th and he suspected a vote might be taken at that time, and he had a conversation with the Vice President after the last meeting. He stated the Board would have to wait till the vote was taken, but the Board may be in a position to do something at the next meeting.

Joan Burke stated as the District/Board was striving to become more transparent, the Vivian property was purchased, because it was decided to open a new avenue to Willoughby Farm. She stated the avenue and house were to be used for future environmental programs, offices, and provide a connection to Willoughby. She stated the decision to sell it was made a couple years ago when it was decided the plan would not work out, and the process to sell it had taken a long time because of the steps involved with being a government entity.

In regard to the City of Collinsville agreement with CARD, Joan asked Spike Bryant to explain what he knew. Spike stated \$1.00 was paid each year to the City to lease the parks. Joan asked if CARD ever approached Maryville about managing their parks for them, and if Maryville made a decision of yes or no. Spike stated he thought Maryville was approached and Maryville chose not to have CARD manage the parks. Andrew Carruthers stated in a discussion with the Mayor of the Village of Maryville, Mayor Gullede stated he was approached by Mark Badasch in the past, and at the time the Mayor indicated that was not something the Village wanted to do at the time. Spike Bryant stated he didn't know why it stopped, but for a number of years Maryville parks information was included in the CARD program guide. Andrew Carruthers stated he knew the Board wanted to work to improve the relationship with Maryville, and he suggested to start putting Maryville parks information in the program guide.

A member of the public, Pete Palumbo, was allowed to speak and provide a suggestion. In regard to transparency, he suggested factoring in the cost of capital for anything for which bond issues had been issued. He stated it was important for the Board to understand the true cost of operating the various facilities.

No further business coming before the Commissioners, a motion was made by Burke, seconded by Spike Bryant that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Burke, Carruthers, Bryant, Tanzyus. None voted Nay. Motion passed.

The meeting stood adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

8/7/12

Date

Susan Zaber
Susan Zaber, Recording Secretary