

COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by Vice President Spike Bryant at 7:00 P.M., November 15, 2011 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Following the Pledge of Allegiance the role was called with the following commissioners answering present: Andrew Carruthers, Joan Burke, and Spike Bryant. David Tanzyus and Mary Ann Bitzer were absent.

Staff present included Executive Director Mark Badasch, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Superintendent of Recreation Rick Robbins, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, Golf Course Superintendent Bob Lovatto, Aquatics Supervisor Stephanie Whittington, Outdoor Coordinator Kelsey Rundle, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mark Achenbach addressed the board regarding revisions made to the Special Meeting minutes from November 1, 2011. Specifically, that the motion made to accept a bid for approximately \$49K to replace a broken boiler and restore heat at Miner's failed. Mr. Achenbach also referenced the August regular board meeting where it was agreed by the board to discontinue any additional work on Miner's till a written funding plan is created and approved by the board. Mr. Achenbach asked for a confirmation that there are currently no contracts for work on Miner's at this time. Attorney David Gerber and Mark Badasch confirmed there are no outstanding contracts and no work being done at Miner's.

Dominic Baima thanked CARD for what has been provided to the young people of Collinsville and Maryville. He referenced opportunities provided to young people by CARD to gain work experience, as well as things provided to kids that are good things to do versus bad things, like drugs. He stated CARD has helped provide work experiences that assist individuals with the ability to get scholarships, to help people be better citizens, and make individuals better business professionals in the future.

Larry Gulledge distributed and read from Resolution No. 2011-13, a resolution to have Maryville de-annex from CARD, to the board and to attorney David Gerber. The resolution was passed at a Maryville board meeting on November 2nd by the Village board trustees. Mayor Gulledge stated he would appreciate the board's consideration and looks forward to hearing from the board in the future.

Joe Semanisin addressed the board regarding his support of the resolution referenced by Larry Gulledge for Maryville to de-annex from CARD. He stated CARD was good in

the beginning, but Maryville has grown and has its own excellent park system. He also stated it makes sense to have taxes paid by the Village residents go into the Village coffer for parks and recreation facilities in Maryville. He urged the board to stand with the Village of Maryville to come to an amicable solution for both parties, and to support the resolution.

Phil Astrauskas stated that this started out as a good thing, but the burden that is on tax payers of both communities has gone too far. Mr. Astrauskas stated he did not think the recent motion to put heat in Miner's was an emergency and questioned the bid referenced at the last meeting to restore the heat at Miner's. He stated it looked like CARD is skirting around the 20K bid process. He questioned what part of the bid was Viviano's, what part was for materials, etc. Regarding the rollover bond he asked why CARD couldn't pay it off and asked where it is stated it is earmarked for other projects.

Tami Springer stated this was her first CARD meeting. She stated it was good for people to get involved in their communities, and good that people were interested in what is happening with CARD, but intrigued that people really didn't get interested until this fall. She stated she hasn't been to Arlington Greens for years and isn't necessarily for CARD buying land, but at least the land could be sold for something. She stated she doesn't use the senior citizen shuttle, hasn't needed the fire department for the last twenty year, doesn't have a child in the school district, but there are some things that as tax payers we pay for, but do not necessarily use. She stated she remembered not too long ago that Maryville "squawked" about being ignored, so now Pleasant Ridge Park has started and Maryville is stating they don't want the park. She stated she was embarrassed that no one has really stood up to talk about Miner's theater and she was disgusted when she read in the newspaper that there was chanting of letting Miner's burn. She stated she realized this was not Maryville, but Miner's has been long neglected and needs assistance. She referenced statements made in the past that the theater is not recreation, and stated it would be recreation if it were opened and utilized. She again stated she was glad people are trying to be involved, that there is a lot of negativity, and encouraged people to try and say something positive on occasion.

Bob DesPain addressed the board regarding a letter he wrote on October 15th to the Office of the Attorney General that CARD appears to have denied records he requested for W-2 forms of CARD employees. He then read from the response he received from CARD, from state statutes, and from a letter he received from the Attorney General. Mr. DesPain also stated he believes the commission will incur unnecessary legal fees due to the FOIA Officers bad job and that the majority members advocated their responsibility in overreaching what the district does, and has insufficient regard for how the what is done. Mr. DesPain also refuted a quotation documented in the minutes for the September regular board meeting and asked the commission to amend the minutes. In the September minutes Mr. DesPain was quoted as saying the word protocol.

Harold Siems addressed the board with questions about how things work with the board. Harold asked who generates the agenda. It was answered by attorney David Gerber that Mark generates the agenda at the direction of the President of the board.

Harold asked who approves it. David Gerber answered there is no requirement for an approval process, and if other commissioners want to add items it is discussed with the President of the board. Harold asked who can change the agenda after it is published. David Gerber stated the President can amend the agenda, however once CARD is within 48 hours notice of a meeting, according to the Open Meetings Act you can't change the agenda to add action items. Discussion items can be added but not action items. Mr. Siems referenced the last regular meeting where it was asked by a commissioner to have additional bids on some work at Miner's, bids for draining the sprinkler system. Mark Badasch stated additional bids finally came in this week. Mr. Siems stated if there is a cheaper way to complete a project, we need to go that way. He stated he remembered Andy was upset because Mark Badasch was supposed to have the bids, but did not, and that he wished Mark would have stated at the time that we were waiting on the bids. Mr. Siems also stated we need to work together.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the Minutes of the Regular meetings held October 18, 2011 be approved, with submitted amendments, and placed on file. Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held November 1, 2011 be approved, with submitted amendments, and placed on file. Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the Treasurers Report for October 2011 be approved as printed and placed on file for audit.

- Carruthers asked a question about what appeared to be a transfer from the Bank of Edwardsville account, listed on the Investment Report, to the Capital Improvements account listed on the Treasurers Report. There was additional discussion, which prompted David Gerber to clarify the difference between the Treasurers Report and the Claims and Accounts Report. He clarified that the Treasurers Report was for month ending October 31, 2011 and bills already paid the previous month, whereas the Claims and Accounts report was an outline of bills not yet paid.

Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the list of claims and accounts totaling \$2,293,893.69 be approved for payment.

- Carruthers asked a question about an expenditure for dues paid for Illinois Park and Recreation membership. Carruthers asked what we get for the approximate \$1000 paid to the organization. Mark Badasch stated CARD gets information for statewide programs, for staff training, for grant opportunities, etc.
- Carruthers asked about a \$3500 expense to repair a Ford Pick-up truck. Kevin Brown responded and stated the truck needed a new catalytic converter, three coils, and plug wires. Carruthers asked how many vehicles we have. Kevin

Brown responded there are 8 vehicles in the Parks department. Carruthers asked who else uses it, other than the rangers. Mark Badasch stated the truck is not driven by the rangers, and that it is driven by the maintenance staff. This statement was also confirmed by Kevin Brown.

- Carruthers referenced the water bill expense paid last month for Tara Lane, and additional expenditures for Tara Lane incurred this month. He stated he thinks we should take a step back and take note of the fact that \$2400 was spent this month alone to own a house. Carruthers stated he hopes when the time comes we can see about doing to the Tara Lane property what we are doing with the Vivian property.

Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

Following completion of staff reports, a motion was made by Burke, seconded by Carruthers, that staff reports be accepted. Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Draft 2011 Tax Levy

Mark Badasch stated last month the board received his memo and packet of information regarding the recommendation for the draft 2011 Tax Levy. He pointed out there is no increase in the recommended levy. Based on a reduction in the EAV and depending on action taken on the bond ordinance, there could be an approximate 20% reduction in the tax rate. He stated this was a projection, as the EAV could change. Mr. Badasch also stated that one of the areas we are stuck on is liability insurance, as these costs increase, but he expects CARD to hold steady or decrease expenses in all other areas. Carruthers stated he looked at the information and prepped for the last meeting, but didn't for this, and didn't have anything else to say right now. Carruthers noted it is lower than last year. No other comments or questions were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Authorization to Intervene in Property Tax Appeal Hearings

Resolution No. 11-3 was presented and explained by Attorney David Gerber.

- Attorney David Gerber explained this was a resolution for CARD to intervene when property owners file tax appeals when there is a reduction of more than \$100K in assessed evaluation. Madison County sends out notice on such actions, and CARD received a notification on two properties. One was for a sand quarry and one for a hotel.
- Carruthers asked David Gerber if he anticipated us contesting the appeal or just asking for approval to intervene if necessary. David Gerber stated once the resolution is filed with the board, CARD receives copies of the paperwork, CARD will review the information, and then decide if it is necessary to appear at the hearing. David stated he will talk to the council and assessor and get a feeling for what they are going to do or if they are going to protest the claim.

- Carruthers asked/clarified if we would also be authorizing the District to get their own evidence in contesting someone's attempt to lower their taxes. Carruthers stated he did not think this was the case, but wanted to clarify. David Gerber affirmed that was not what we are authorizing, and normally if we needed our own appraisal it would come under the \$20K requirement, and that would be up to the discretion of the board.

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Burke, that Resolution No. 11-3 Resolution Authorizing The CARD To Intervene In 2011 Property Tax Appeal Proceedings be adopted. Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Carruthers, that the commissioners go into CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing the Sale or Purchase of Real Estate. Upon roll being called, those voting aye were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant. None voted nay. Motion passed.

The board adjourned to CLOSED SESSION at 8:00 pm.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order in OPEN SESSION by Vice President Spike Bryant at 8:20 P.M., November 15, 2011 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Upon roll being called the following commissioners answered present: Andrew Carruthers, Joan Burke, and Spike Bryant. David Tanzyus and Mary Ann Bitzer were absent.

Staff present included executive director Mark Badasch and administrative assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

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

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Badasch, Secretary

Date