



COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by Vice President David Tanzyus at 6:30 PM, March 19, 2013 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the roll was called with the following commissioners answering present: David Tanzyus, Patrick Collins, Spike Bryant and Mary Ann Bitzer. Commissioner Andrew Carruthers was absent.

Staff present included Executive Director Terry Wilson, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Golf Course Manager Mark Marcuzzo, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, Special Events Coordinator Shelly Crehan, Assistant Golf Course Manager, Chad Robbins, Accounting Assistant Iva Briggs, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ron Jedda addressed the Board about the League of Women Voters Guide and a response written by Terry Wilson concerning the three CARD referendums on the April 9, 2003 ballot. He stated everyone had the right to the first amendment freedom of speech and that Terry Wilson had the right to express his opinion as a citizen, but under state law he did not have the right to advocate for CARD in the League of Women Voters Guide concerning the referendums. He referred to Public Act 93-615 that was effective 11/19/2003 and stated he felt Terry should have used better judgement when asked by the League of Women Voters to write a statement for the guide. He asked if Terry discussed the statement with any of the Park Commissioners, and stated hoped no CARD member gave Terry the go ahead without the approval of the other Board members. He outlined what he thought should have happened, questioned how the statement was listed in the voters guide, and whether CARD passed a resolution in 2004 as required by Public Act 93-615.

PRESENTATION:

Shelly Crehan presented a PowerPoint slide show and information about the Daddy Daughter Date Night that was held on March 1, 2013, which had more than 300 participants.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Spike Bryant, seconded by Patrick Collins to approve the consent agenda to include February 2013 Regular and Closed Session minutes, February Special Meeting Minutes, the Treasurer's report for February 2013, and the Claims and Accounts list in the

amount of \$268,881.56. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Tanzyus, Collins, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS:

Mark Marcuzzo shared information regarding an event facilitated by the Arlington Greens Golf Course on Wednesday, March 20, 2013. He stated Arlington Greens was chosen by the National PGA of America, the Veteran's Association, and the Veteran's with Disabilities to facilitate an all day clinic for veterans with disabilities. He stated Arlington Greens was also chosen to host an event called "Boots on the Green" on May 10, 2013 and there would be 144 disabled veterans participating in the tournament.

Executive Director Terry Wilson stated as Executive Director he was hired 8 months ago, and what he understood when he got started was the Board wanted him to fix a lot of problems and still carry on as best as possible. He stated he felt he had been doing what he was hired to do. He stated he made a list of 20 things he had accomplished since he started and read the list to the Board. When he finished reading the items he stated he wanted some direction from the Board, because a year ago the District had a 20% reduction in the tax levy, a 2% reduction in this year's levy, and with the referendums there was a possibility of a 9% decrease. He stated property taxes were lower for what the District was getting, the debt payments continued to go up, and he asked where the Board saw the District going and what he was to concentrate on. He stated he was trying to create revenues to sustain what he could without using tax dollars, because all the tax dollars he could save he wanted to put toward the debt service. He stated where he thought the District was at that point in time, because of the past administration, a lot of monies spent in the past were for 16 acres at a golf course tract that the District didn't use. He stated Miner's was a great project, but there were no plans that he saw that was going to pay for anything. He stated those things happened in the past and he was trying to go forward and make things better. He outlined some equipment the District needed, which he stated would cost approximately \$216,000 for just the equipment. He stated the District needed approximately \$200,000 to finish the tennis courts and approximately \$100,000 for another pavilion at Pleasant Ridge Park because the pavilion there was booked every weekend through the summer and it appeared there was a need for another one. He stated in order to produce more revenue the fields at the Sport Complex needed to be addressed, and there was approximately \$50,000 in improvements that needed to be made at Woodland Park. He stated there was approximately \$1.4 million available in a capital improvements fund and he thought the focus of the District should be to get the things needed and give the District a face lift and make changes based on what people have told him they would like to see, which the previous administration never addressed. He stated that what he pointed out was what he found in the 8 months he was there, along with the other things he had been doing, and now he wanted some direction from the Board about where the District should be headed.

- Patrick Collins stated he reviewed all of the unaudited revenue versus expense reports and one of the things that amazed him was how many times the revenue was below the budget and where the District was related to last year. He stated he thought Terry and the staff did a phenomenal job of cutting expenses and finding waste. He stated he thought that was why Terry was hired and that the Board wanted him to continue doing that. He referenced a discussion he had with Terry and stated one of the things he thought they should be doing was to advertise how much the District had saved over the past year and how much continued to be saved, and how the District was helping the tax payers to

reduce their burden. He stated he thought the District should drive more toward self sustainability and mentioned Splash City, Arlington Greens, and Willoughby Farm. He stated his eyes were opened regarding the amount of money the District lost with TIF, and if money would continue to be taken from the District because of TIF, maybe the District should pursue more TIF funds without strings attached or pursue reducing the amount of TIF being taken.

- David Tanzyus stated he agreed with Patrick Collins on many of his comments, and that what he thought what would be valued was prioritizing the priorities, creating time tables, and how things interrelate. He stated in regard to the debt he thought it would be good to outline the principal payments and how the increased payments were going to effect the District, some options down the road, actions already taken to remedy the issue and how that plays into the timetables. He stated he thought the District was going in the right direction and needed to put together a plan outlining what it will take to get to the next level.
- Mary Ann Bitzer stated she felt she did not think the agency could sustain further tax cuts and thought the people needed to know what they were going to give up with the cuts. She stated the people needed to know what they would have to give up because of the proposed tax cuts and how the District was funded.
- Spike Bryant stated the public would vote to cut taxes, because why would they not. He stated at the same time the public did not want to give up anything.
- There was additional discussion about the more immediate equipment needs and priorities.

Mary Ann Bitzer made a motion, seconded by Spike Bryant to accept staff reports. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Tanzyus, Collins, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Regarding the house on property CARD owns on Vivian, Terry Wilson stated the house should be gone, weather permitting, by the end of the next week. He stated the only thing that should remain was the driveway.

- David Tanzyus asked about the final cost to demolish the structures on Vivian. Terry stated it was \$6700.

Regarding the property owned by CARD on Tara Lane, Terry Wilson stated the District was waiting on the Village of Maryville to give the District a variance for not having it as a subdivision plot. He stated the property was previously split and the house sat on 7.98 acres, but that took a referendum to sell and because there were already three referendums on the ballot it could no longer be done that way. He stated the District was trying to get rid of the house and so he was in the process of decreasing the 7.98 acres to three acres so it could be sold.

- Patrick Collins stated he assumed the acreage not sold would be kept by the District as a part of Pleasant Ridge. Terry stated that was correct.

Regarding the Arlington property exchange David Gerber stated the agreement was not yet signed and were waiting on some language changes related to drainage easements. He stated the agreement should be signed within another week.

Regarding the Miner's Institute transfer Terry Wilson stated the District was in agreement with MIF and the Foundation voted unanimously to take it back with the stipulation the District would not have to pay back TIF funds. He stated the City Manager stated he thought the Council vote would be 5-0 and the District would not have to pay it.

- David Tanzyus asked David Gerber how long it would take to get the paperwork completed. David Gerber stated it would be done before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regarding the approval of tax abatement of bond levy 04-5 Mary Ann Bitzer made a motion the tax levy for Ordinance Number 04-5 be abated and that appropriate Abatement Certificates be filed with the respective County Clerks. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Tanzyus, Collins, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT:

David Tanzyus stated Andrew Carruthers had a baby girl.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Regarding a closed session it was determined there was not a need for it and a motion was not made to go into closed session.

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

The meeting stood adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zaber, Recording Secretary

Date