

COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by President Mary Ann Bitzer at 7:02 PM, January 17, 2012 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Following the Pledge of Allegiance the roll was called with the following commissioners answering present: Andrew Carruthers, David Tanzyus, Joan Burke, Spike Bryant and Mary Ann Bitzer. No Commissioners were absent.

Staff present included Interim Executive Director Rick Robbins, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, Golf Course Manager Mark Marcuzzo, Golf Course Superintendent Bob Lovatto, Aquatics Supervisor Stephanie Whittington, Director of Business Rosemary Barczewski, Assistant PGA Professional Chad Robbins, Assistant Superintendent of Parks Greg Reising, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bret Swip addressed the board regarding the agenda and the fact that there was no mention of a search for the new Executive Director on the agenda. He stated he thought the next hire for the position should be top priority and for the community's sake it must have a different feel than for hires past. He stated he hoped the organizations he is involved in, who are partners with CARD, would be able to work with a Director that had the qualities he outlined and described. The qualities outlined were:

1. Purple passion/local ties
2. Facilitate an area improvement group
3. Executive leadership qualities
4. Facilitate user committees
5. Tax paying resident and proud CARD user
6. Two way worker. Command a board room and get out in field and take a go and see approach.

He stated this was a brief overview, and that he enclosed an additional meeting request, which was included in the packet distributed to the commissioners.

Dominic Baima thanked CARD for what they do. He stated the last few times he was at a meeting most people only looked at the negative things they did not like. He then outlined a list of experiences/activities offered by CARD. He stated he was amazed at how much CARD did offer, that he had started to go to more of the activities, and that he was proud to live in the Collinsville Area Recreation District. He stated people he had seen coming to the meetings he had never seen at a CARD function, and that he

had seen very few of the board members at CARD activities. He addressed the board and stated they should not be on the board for their own political gains. He stated CARD was started as an idea over 20 years ago, and then outlined facilities that have been added during that time, and that CARD has done a lot of good for the area. He stated he hoped the commissioners would remember the young people when making decisions, and stated the budget passed would cause CARD to be unable to meet recreational needs. He stated the young people may not be voted in the next Madison County election, but they still matter. He stated the board should pick on someone their own size and stop picking on the young people and people with disabilities. He stated that cutting the special recreation budget showed how little the board cared about the people and only about money. He stated he hoped everyone there would take a break from complaining so much and join the youth in enjoying the benefits.

Mark Achenbach addressed the board regarding his concerns about Rick Robbins serving on the Miner's Institute Foundation, due to a concern about a conflict in interest. Mark addressed the board regarding the agenda item about setting the rates for Arlington Greens. He referenced a previous request made by David Tanzyus regarding a financial plan for the golf course. He stated he thought the request for the plan was a reasonable request, and as far as he knew there still wasn't a plan for the golf course. He then questioned the board about considering setting the rates for the next year if there wasn't a plan. He stated ideally the rates and the income generated would cover the operations and the cost to pay for the course. He stated at least as a minimum the greens fees should be high enough so that the golf course would not have to be supplemented at the end of the year. He then referenced audits from 2009, 2010, and 2011. He stated his assessment is that CARD is losing half million per year on the golf course. He questioned why there isn't a difference in resident and non-resident rates for things like the Jr. Golf pass, leagues, and tournament fees. Mary Ann Bitzer stated a draft plan had been created, and was dated October 2011, and agreed to have the plan posted on the CARD web site.

Phil Astrauskas addressed the board regarding his agreement with Mr. Swip's statement about Collinsville jobs for Collinsville residents. He referenced a couple months a statement that the attorney was going to attend tax hearings where people wanted to have their taxes lowered. He stated where we missed the boat was the use of TIF funds and then referenced that everything below the hill that the taxes paid do not go to CARD, the community, or the school district. He then mentioned the amount of taxes paid by some of the businesses in Eastport Plaza. He stated if people want to get involved, they should say something about TIF. Attorney David Gerber addressed one of the comments made by Mr. Astrauskas. He stated the TIF's are all set-up by the City of Collinsville, and that the only thing that could be done was to challenge the city legally as a taxing district as to whether CARD is blighted.

Mike Macek addressed the board regarding information he obtained through some FOIA requests. He stated one of the things he found out was that CARD made at least four payments of \$10,000 to the Collinsville Historical Museum. He stated it burned him that CARD gave his tax dollars to the historical museum. He stated another issue was

the number of people with credit cards taking people out to lunch on CARD's tab. He stated he agreed some people need cell phones, like the Executive Director, but others did not. He asked why people, like Rosemary Barczewski, received \$30 per month for their cell phone when they are office employees. He also stated Rosemary's credit card usage was out of line on lunches. He requested the board to look into it, pull the credit cards, and stop the usage. He stated he pulled the deed for Miner's and could not believe the restrictions the board agreed to. He stated Miner's needed to be given back to the Institute and asked that no more money be spent on Miner's. He stated he investigated what it would take to dissolve CARD. He stated he had faith in Rick Robbins, but the problem was the board made him Interim Executive Director and the board needed to make him Executive Director for at least a year. He stated if any money was spent on the Miner's or the historical museum he would follow through to collect the names for a petition to dissolve CARD.

Larry Gullede addressed the board regarding Maryville's request, made a couple months ago, to de-annex from CARD. He stated he had not heard anything about the request, and if they did not hear anything they would take other measures to de-annex from CARD. Mary Ann Bitzer stated the board had not had the opportunity to discuss the request amongst the board.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 20, 2011 be approved and placed on file. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Burke, that the Minutes of the Closed Session held December 20, 2011 be approved and placed on file. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Carruthers, that the Treasurers Report for December 2011 be approved as printed and placed on file for audit. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant, that the list of claims and accounts totaling \$227,829.37 be approved for payment.

- David Tanzyus stated at some point a credit card policy needed to be developed. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Tanzyus, to accept the staff reports as printed.

- Andrew Carruthers suggested either Rick Robbins or some of the staff announce some of the big upcoming activities/events for CARD during the meeting. Rick

Robbins responded and outlined some of the upcoming events, to include Daddy Daughter Date Night and an upcoming ski trip for teens. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Regarding the discussion item to amend Ordinance of 11-5, the tax levy ordinance for May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013:

- Rick Robbins clarified that CARD is not allowed to change the tax levy in regard to the dollar amount levied. He stated the amendment moves money from a couple funds within the levy to a couple other funds to give staff more flexibility to make the tax levy worked. Rosemary Barczewski stated some adjustments needed to be made from like Social Security and IMRF, because some staff salaries had been readjusted, and moved to the general account.
- Mary Ann Bitzer asked Rosemary Barczewski if she could educate the board when accounts like Special Rec are reduced to an amount of zero. Rosemary stated anything that would be decided to be programming that was in Special Rec before, and decided to continue, would need to find another place in the budget to place them. Mary Ann Bitzer asked if that was possible to do. Rosemary Barczewski responded it was possible, but something else would need to be reduced to make it happen. Attorney David Gerber stated money from Corporate or Recreation funds could be used for almost any purpose, but if monies were levied specifically for Special Rec programs, then those funds could only be used for that line item. He stated the amendments don't change the dollar amount to the levy, it just moved dollars levied between different funds than what was initially approved. Andrew Carruthers stated that was why when he readjusted the figures, it wasn't to eliminate paving and lighting, Willoughby Farm through the museum or special recreation. He stated it was with the knowledge that those levied items can only be used for those reasons. Whereas General Corp and Recreation levies can be used for almost anything. He stated it was not accurate to suggest those specific things would go away just because the board was not levying specifically for them.
- Andrew Carruthers asked if moving funds between the levies could be done. Attorney David Gerber responded and stated it could be done, that he talked to Mark Von Nida, Madison County Clerk, and the state and both said there was no problem moving funds between the levies. He then explained the response provided and referenced the process of setting the levies.
- David Tanyus asked why there was so much changed between the draft ordinance provided in the board packet and the final document distributed to the commissioners at the meeting. David Gerber explained the staff revised Ordinance 11-5 to create the proposed amendment to the levy (Ordinance 12-1), and he changed it to make it more legalese and make it clear the levy had been set and that the levy was not being changed, just the funds.

An outline of proposed changes to Arlington Greens course fees was included in the board packet and information regarding the proposed changes was presented by Mark Marcuzzo.

- Mark Marcuzzo stated he talked to at least 12 other courses regarding their rates/plans. He started by addressing some of the questions and statement posed during the public comment. He stated he would love to be able to raise the rates from \$36 to \$45 or \$50, but these rates were above other courses listed in the packet. He stated he was trying to keep rates under other courses in the region. He stated with the proposed date, and without including the debt inherited from purchasing the course, he thought the budget could be balanced. With the proposed changes, Mark Marcuzzo stated he anticipated a profit for the course the next season.
- The proposed changes increased fees by \$1-\$2. Mark Marcuzzo stated the changes should generate an approximate \$10,000 in additional revenue, and at the same time keep the residents happy and the non-residents coming. Non-residents represent approximately 80% of those who play the course.
- Regarding the Jr. Golf pass, Mark Marcuzzo stated \$150 was a great rate, but it was awesome to see young kids come out to play golf. Mark Achenbach stated it was not the resident's paying \$150 that was a problem, but he didn't understand why he as a tax payer paid the same amount as someone out of district. Mark Marcuzzo stated the rate was established prior to him coming and he thought it was because CARD wanted to cater to all the youth. He and Rick Robbins stated an adjustment could be made to the Jr. Golf pass rate.
- Rick Robbins stated striving for at least a balanced budget for the golf course was probably the number one priority.
- Joan Burke asked about the rates charges by other groups/courses for Jr. Golf passes. Mark Marcuzzo stated most other courses don't have the passes. Rick Robbins asked how many Jr. Golf passes were sold. Mark Marcuzzo stated 15 were sold last year and of that 15, 8 were residents.
- A member of the public asked how many free passes were given out. Mark Marcuzzo responded and explained the free pass approval process, and that his 4 golf rangers receive free golf in lieu of wages. He stated with 26-28K rounds, the number of free passes is limited.

Proposed changes to the park pavilion fees were presented by Rick Robbins.

- He referenced a handout provided to the commissioners in the board packet listing fees of surrounding communities and the proposed fees for CARD rate changes.
- David Tanzyus asked how many residents versus non-residents rent the pavilions. Rick Robbins responded he was not sure, but he expected most were residents, because someone who wants to hold an event generally know someone who is a resident who can rent the pavilion for the event.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Burke, that Ordinance Number 12-1, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 11-5 FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2012 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2013, be adopted. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Tanzyus, seconded by Bryant, that the fees for the 2012 season of Arlington Greens Golf Course be approved as printed.

- David Tanzyus asked if a non-resident Jr. Golf pass be reviewed at some point in the future, and stated as long as they weren't locked into anything he had no problem with the proposed fees.

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

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Tanzyus, that the fees for the 2012 CARD park pavilion rentals be approved as printed. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Tanzyus that Resolution Number 12-1, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF TRUST OF THE ILLINOIS INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS TRUST AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION THEREOF, AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICIALS TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT, be adopted.

- David Gerber explained the concept of the investment pool was approved at the last meeting, but the resolution was available at the time. He stated a specific resolution was needed, that nothing changed from the previous adoption, it was to adopt the actual resolution.

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

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the tax levy for Ordinance Numbers 04-5 be abated and that appropriate Abatement Certificates be filed with the respective County Clerks.

- Andrew Carruthers noted that in years past the board abated several bond levies, but because of action taken in respect to the operations of CARD, the board was now in the position to only abate one, and allow the others to be directly levied. He also stated if things go as planned, hopefully next year the board would not need to abate any.

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

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Carruthers, that the commissioners go into CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)) Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, and Bitzer. None voted nay. Motion passed.

The board adjourned to CLOSED SESSION at 8:08 PM.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order in OPEN SESSION by President Mary Ann Bitzer at 8:34 PM, January 17, 2012 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Upon roll being called the following commissioners answered present: Andrew Carruthers, David Tanzyus, Joan Burke, Spike Bryant, and Mary Ann Bitzer. No Commissioners were absent. Staff present included Interim Executive Director Rick Robbins, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Aquatics Supervisor Stephanie Whittington, Director of Business Rosemary Barczewski, Assistant PGA Professional Chad Robbins, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney David Gerber was also present.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Carruthers, that Rick Robbins be appointed Board Secretary. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Tanzyus, Burke, Bryant, and Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

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

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zaber, Recording Secretary

Date