

# **COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT**

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 15, 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, May 15, 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: Andrew Carruthers, Joan Burke, Spike Bryant, and Mary Ann Bitzer. Commissioner David Tanzyus was absent.

Staff present included Interim Executive Director Rick Robbins, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Willoughby Farm Coordinator Carol Frerker, Special Events Coordinator Shelly Crehan, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, Director of Business Rosemary Barczewski, Arlington Golf Course Manager Mark Marcuzzo, Outdoor Program Coordinator Kelsey Rundle, Splash City First Aid Supervisor Dominic Baima, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Achenbach stated that while he appreciated the Committee-of-the-Whole meetings, he found the last meeting to be extremely frustrating. He stated one of the first items discussed was Miner's Institute, and during the discussion there was talk about lack of fund raising and that there was no one there to raise funds, etc. He stated he thought everyone realized the Miner's Institute Foundation couldn't raise funds before and they weren't going to raise any money. He referred to questions presented regarding the number of years the building had been owned by CARD and fund raising efforts made by CARD, and a comment made by Ms. Bitzer that no one had pursued any donors. He stated from a public stand point he couldn't believe it. He stated in October 2007 the CARD Board approved receiving all theater assets and agreed to pay off the theaters outstanding tax debt of \$5500. He stated the deal was finalized in early 2008, and since that time CARD had raised zero dollars in donations and grants. At the same time the cost estimate of the project increased from \$5 million to \$14 million, and CARD spent more than \$1.5 million. He stated doing nothing with the building cost the tax payers roughly \$20,000 per year, and because of this there was an urgent need to divest the District of the building. He stated he hoped at the next meeting that somebody would put it on the agenda, that somebody would make and second a motion, and that the Board would vote to get rid of it. He stated the second item that made him frustrated was the discussion of the Skate Park. He stated the question was asked whether the Board wanted to keep it on the radar or let it go. He stated the cost was stated as being somewhere between \$50-100K, and that when he went back to look at it the original estimate it was \$70K. He stated \$50K was to be paid by CARD and \$20K from donations. He stated he did not know if the project should go forward and then presented a comparison of the Skate Park to other projects. He stated CARD had spent approximately \$8 million on the golf course, which included the purchase price and money lost, and that based on the approximate 1000 residents estimated to use the golf course the District had spent about \$8000 per resident on the course. He stated approximately 2% of the

population used skate parks, which were approximately 700 CARD residents. Taking the approximate \$70K estimated to originally build the skate park divided by 700 resident users equated to \$100 per resident. He asked the Board in the future to please make decisions based on cost method analysis and spend money that most of the residents would benefit from. The last topic he mentioned was the tennis courts. He stated he went home in disbelief that the Park District spent millions of dollars on Miner's, Arlington, etc., and let the tennis courts deteriorate to such a condition that would bring the Interim Executive Director to close the courts for safety reasons. He asked the Board to stop expanding the empire, to take care of what they had, cut the losses of bad decisions, and get back to the basics. Lastly, he stated he was still waiting for an answer on the illegal use of the Paving & Lighting Fund, and stated if the Board did not take action he was going to take the District to court.

James Sparks signed up to speak, but when his name was called he stated he chose not to speak at that time.

Yvonne Bright addressed the Board regarding her concerns about the property CARD owns on Vivian. She stated she was a resident on Vivian Street and for years since CARD had owned the property residents had been waiting to see what would be developed there. She stated if the Board had not been out to the property, they needed to. She stated it was their tax dollars that were paying for the eye sore in their neighborhood, and stated she guaranteed no one would want that sitting next to their house. She stated if something was going to be done with it, that was fine, but right now it was in such disrepair it cost more tax dollars to fix something that was paid for in the first place and was bringing down her property value. Mary Ann Bitzer stated the issue of the property on Vivian would be discussed as a part of a later report that evening.

Dominic Baima stated he wanted to thank CARD for all that they did. He stated he was graduating and was receiving a presidential scholarship to Eastern Illinois University. He stated his experiences with CARD helped him write his essays and interviews required to be considered for the scholarship.

Shelly Steuart, Vice President of Miner's Institute Foundation, addressed the Board regarding Miner's Institute and the issue as to whether the Miner's Institute project warrants support from the community moving forward. She stated the Miner's Facebook site/group had 216 members. She stated the majority of the people were not activists were not going to show up and were not going to speak, but they did take the effort and time to join the group. She stated she expected to see motion from that movement in the coming days/weeks with a petition drive and other support related events. Secondly she stated she wanted to address something that had bothered her for awhile and that was it seemed a lot of people did not listen or pay attention or were clouded by misinformation or other things. She stated the intent of the Miner's Foundation was not to use tax payer dollars to fund the Miner's project, but to fund it with federal, state, and private sector grants. She stated there was also currently research under way to assist CARD with those goals. Thirdly she stated she wanted to address the issue of usage of the Institute. She stated Main Street Theater Company, Adams School of Dance, Legends of Country Music, Kelly O'Sullivan's Irish Dancers, and others once called Miner's Institute Theater home. She stated as the former booking and operations manager she was contacted at least 2-3 times per week to inquire

about the status of the project. She stated the groups were out there and urged the Commissioners to do what was necessary to move the project forward.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 17, 2012 be approved and placed on file.

- Andrew Carruthers stated there was a typo in the minutes regarding the Miner's discussion. The typo was on the second page, third bullet. The word "debt" was listed and it should have been the word "dent".

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

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Carruthers, that the Minutes of the Closed Session held April 17, 2012 be approved as printed. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carruthers, seconded by Burke, that the Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting held May 1, 2012 be approved and placed on file. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant that the Minutes of the Closed Session held May 1, 2012 be approved as printed. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant that the Treasurers Report for April 2012 be approved as printed and placed on file for audit. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bryant, seconded by Burke, that the list of claims and accounts totaling \$946,238.17 be approved for payment. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

#### Staff reports

- Rick Robbins initiated the discussion by introducing Willoughby Farm Coordinator Carol Freker and Intern Hannah Wallbaum.
  - Regarding his report he stated a date of June 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM had been selected for the opening/ribbon cutting of Pleasant Ridge Park.
  - He stated the Arlington Wetlands site was scheduled to open June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM, and the completion of the park was scheduled for September 2012.
  - He provided an update on events that were completed and presented information about upcoming programs and events.
  - He provided updates on the property on Tara Lane and Vivian, and outlined repairs that were to be performed on both properties.
  - He stated Splash City will open May 26, and provided an update of current activities taking place to get the park ready to open.
- Kevin Brown stated:
  - The new bobcat, approved through the PEP grant, had been received. He stated the new riding lawn mower and field rake had also been received, and the Parks Dept. was still waiting on a truck.

- He stated he had met with a lot of individuals that last thirty days trying to get things ready to open Pleasant Ridge Park.
- He stated he and his employees had spent a lot of time around the Sport Complex trying to improve the condition of the fields.
- Spike Bryant asked that since the Lakeview Pavilion was going to be rented, should the District take down the Service Road sign. Kevin stated it was on the list to take it down.
- Kevin provided an update about the submittal of the OSLAD grant to receive approximately \$400,000 in grant funds.
- Elizabeth David stated:
  - The summer was upon CARD and she was busy promoting programs scheduled. She stated she was on KMOV that morning promoting Splash City, she would be at the City of Collinsville Health Fair the next day, and was trying to get FOX 2 to come out to do a promotion for Splash City one day before the pool opened.
  - She referred to comments made by Rick Robbins regarding upcoming programs and highlighted additional upcoming activities not previously mentioned.
- Mark Marcuzzo stated:
  - The course was busy and provided an update of upcoming tournaments and programs scheduled at the golf course. He talked about the program “Hook-A-Kid-On-Golf” and stated for a low fee 20 kids received a set of golf clubs, a shirt and hat, and golf instruction and the costs were all paid by a grant program. He mentioned a 3 day clinic he was conducting with the Granite City golf coaches, and time spent that morning with 136 seniors.
  - Joan Burke asked about the number of residents that participated in the Senior Scramble. Mark stated the seniors all paid the same fee, and he would conduct a survey and find out the number of residents versus non-residents. Joan Burke suggested it would be good to have that information for any programs, etc. Mark stated all the participants of the Couples Scramble were local, and Hook-A-Kid consisted primarily of Collinsville/Maryville residents.
  - Joan Burke asked about weekly and weekend rounds for this year versus last year. He stated he thought the weekend rounds would be more this year, because he was cutting down on weekend tournaments. Rick Robbins stated the District was close to getting the reports completed and would try to have them at the next months meeting.

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Carruthers that the staff reports be accepted. Upon roll being called, those voting AYE were: Carruthers, Burke, Bryant, Bitzer. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The first item discussed was the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance:

- Rick Robbins reiterated the changes made to the ordinance, which included an additional appropriation for extra expenditures in the Auditing Fund. Other than that everything else was the same, as presented in March.

- Joan Burke stated she thought it looked good and Andrew Carruthers stated he did not have any questions.

The next topic discussed was Miner's Institute:

- Andrew Carruthers stated it was discussed a month ago and his take on it had not changed in 30 days. He stated he understood there were people who would use it as a recreational opportunity if it were to be completed. He stated the difficulties that were there a month ago/year ago were there now, as far as getting finances together to finish the project and the priorities of the District to use what little monies the District had in reserve for new/existing projects.
- Mary Ann Bitzer asked if the District was still waiting to receive information from White and Borgognoni regarding a scaled down project. Rick Robbins stated he was in contact with White and Borgognoni to get a little more input as to what the feasibility was for a scaled down project, which was not something he was looking to spend money on. Andrew Carruthers asked if the opinion was something that was going to cost money. Rick stated no and that was not something he would spend money on without the Board's approval. Andrew stated the project could be scaled down all the District wanted, but if it was anything that was going to cost the tax payers a considerable amount of money to finish it, he didn't think it was anything that financially speaking given the limitations of the District's sources of revenue that a Park District entity was best suited to handle it. Rick referenced information outlined on his report and an energy symposium he attended the previous week, and stated he thought there would be considerable credits that could be available to the District if the District were to pursue the heating issue before next winter.
- Joan Burke referenced minutes from the last regular meeting and a statement made by Andrew where he stated he thought the next step was for Rick to approach the Foundation before the next meeting to find out if they would take Miner's back, and asked Rick if he had done that. Rick stated the Foundation had a meeting two weeks prior where there was a candid discussion about where the Foundation needed to go, etc. and that if the Foundation was interested in seeing the project one day to come to fruition that they needed to take the lead on doing the research. He stated the group was not in the position to take over the building. He stated they had it for quite awhile, and that was how CARD got it involved, because the Foundation needed the assistance.
- Andrew Carruthers asked that aside from giving the Institute back what the options were. Spike Bryant stated the District would have to pay the City \$300,000. Andrew stated pursuant to the current TIF agreement that is what it said, but he did not think the City would hold the District to the agreement. Rick Robbins stated he did not have an inclination on that. Andrew stated that would be something for David Gerber to work out. Rick stated he knew the City was interested in seeing the project happen. Andrew asked the Board about the direction they were moving in.
- Joan Burke asked Rick to do what was asked by Andrew to go to the City of Collinsville and talk to them about their stand was on it. She stated she thought the Board needed to pursue both avenues at the same time and talk to White and Borgognoni and talk to the City. Andrew stated he did not want to slow down on the Board's options by waiting for something from the architects.
- Joan Burke asked if there had been any grant research, and if it was possible to have a staff member research grant options. Rick Robbins that had been going on

the last couple years and he knew Mark Badasch had been working on that, and that the MIF had joined a philanthropic association to do some research, but it was determined that was not the best avenue. He stated he knew the District could not afford to take it on by itself. Andrew suggested keeping it on the agenda and wait till the next month to find out where the District was with the City and with the architects.

The next topic discussed was regarding amendment of the public comment ordinance:

- Rick Robbins referenced a draft of new guidelines/rules for public comment, and stated the number one change is that every public meeting would have public comment.
- Andrew Carruthers stated he made some notes and would work with David Gerber directly about his concerns, etc.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Bryant that Ordinance 12-3, A RESOLUTION Ordinance Number 12-3, The Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Collinsville Area Recreation District, Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and ending on April 30, 2013, be adopted.

- Andrew Carruthers stated a year ago was his and David Tanzyus' first meeting and after he and David were sworn in they were asked to approve last year's budget. He stated they both abstained because they did not play a role in the budget. He stated he asked for an additional appropriation be made in the audit portion of the budget, that it was added, and he appreciated it being added. He recognized the hard work put into the budget process and noted that the budget was 15% lower than last year.

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

A motion was made by Carruthers, 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 and to discuss the Sale or Purchase of Real Property.

The board adjourned to CLOSED SESSION at 7:57 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 8:21 PM, May 15, 2012 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Upon roll being called the following commissioners answered present: Andrew Carruthers, Joan Burke, Spike Bryant, and Mary Ann Bitzer. Commissioner Tanzyus was absent. Staff present included Interim Executive Director Rick Robbins and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber.

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, Burke, Bryant, and Bitzer. None voted Nay. Motion passed.

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Zaber, Recording Secretary

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Date