



COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

www.CollinsvilleRec.com

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## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2014**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by President David Tanzyus at 6:00 PM, March 3, 2014 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the roll was called with the following commissioners answering present: Mark Achenbach, Mary Ann Bitzer, Patrick Collins, Jeanne Lomax, and David Tanzyus. No commissioners were absent.

Staff present included Executive Director Terry Wilson, Finance Coordinator Iva Briggs, Aquatic Supervisor Karl Schmidt, Golf Manager/Pro Mark Marcuzzo, Assistant Golf Pro Chad Robbins, Golf Superintendent Kyle Smith, Assistant Golf Superintendent Kelsey Smith, Superintendent of Parks Kevin Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Parks Greg Reising, Park Foreman Keith Grotefendt, Park Specialist Charlie Johnson, Park Specialist Brian Althardt, Park Specialist Jacob Jalinsky, Park Specialist Pete Peterson, Farm Coordinator Carol Frerker, Special Event & Program Coordinator Shelly Crehan, Front Desk Receptionist Sue Schueler, and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney Paul Evans was also present.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Regarding submittal of a second PARC grant application Mark Achenbach stated applications to the PARC grant program could be submitted for as many issues as the District chose, that there was no limit. He stated there was a limit on the total dollar value in the program that was funded by the state. He stated he was not in favor of the PARC grant for the golf course and thought there were greater needs in the District. He stated one of those needs was Pleasant Ridge Park, and explained his reasoning for using such grant funds to further develop the park. Specifically, to build a bridge to connect to the Southeast side of the park, as was outlined in the master plan for the park. There was discussion about the proposed project costs, availability of funds to cover the costs of proposed/submitted projects on the front end, and the funding provisions of the grant. There was discussion regarding the required timelines to spend monies in the capital fund, as suggested by the District's bond counsel, and there was discussion regarding details of the PARC grant. Mark Achenbach referred to a detailed outline of the proposed project for Pleasant Ridge Park and verbally outlined the items included in the cost estimate for the project. A motion was made by Jeanne Lomax, seconded by Mark Achenbach to submit a PARC grant application for up to \$900,000 for Pleasant Ridge Park. Upon roll being called those voting AYE were Mark Achenbach, Mary Ann Bitzer, Patrick Collins, Jeanne Lomax, and David Tanzyus. None voted NAY, motion passed.

Regarding Parks operations Terry Wilson distributed a document to the Board with a statement regarding District finances, which he read out loud. Terry introduced Kevin Brown, Superintendent of the Parks Department. Kevin distributed an outline of functions performed by

the Parks Department to the Board. He read from the listing and provided additional explanation about some of the functions listed on the sheet. Terry explained there was a short fall in some of the funds for the current fiscal year and explained some of the reasons for the shortages. Iva Briggs also provided some explanation. Terry asked for direction from the Board about how to address the shortages, etc. It was suggested the finance working group meet to discuss and address the information and issues presented in more detail. Paul Evans asked about revenue generating opportunities. Terry highlighted the Sport Complex, Splash City, and the golf course. Mary Ann Bitzer mentioned an idea from the past to open rooms in the Activity Center to the outside to make them more accessible to Splash City for party rentals, etc. It was agreed the finance working group would meet within the next week. Keith Grotendfent, Parks Foreman, stated people needed to know that if something didn't change the District would have to start shutting things down, because it was impossible to maintain what the District had with only 6 Parks Department staff.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jim Grobmeier addressed the Board regarding the District and the changes he saw in the last seven years. He referred to improvements he observed, especially at the golf course. He stated the District had one of the best golf courses in the area, as compared to others and specifically cited a course in Maryville which he stated was not a good course. He stated he thought the management of the golf course was doing a good job with the people they had. He stated the parks looked good, but if cuts were made in the Parks department he was concerned to have his grand kids, etc. play and get hurt in the parks due to broken equipment, etc. He stated there was debt incurred by previous management that had to be paid, but it would take time and the Board shouldn't try to get rid of it overnight. He stated they needed something to generate money to help with the daily operations, and they needed to be there for everybody.

Rick Rehg addressed the Board regarding an individual that came to his house who told him if he wanted to reduce his taxes to sign the petition. He stated when he asked what the referendum was for he was told it was to reduce his taxes to CARD. He told the individual he was not in favor of it. He stated he thought a lot of things were misstated by the group that led the petition effort and that was why the District had the problem they had. He stated he was told it would save him about \$30 per year. He stated he would be glad to give \$30 for the last year and the next ten years, because he believed in the Park District. He stated the District was diversified. He stated he came from an investment background and the mentality they approached investments was being diversified. He stated everything offered by the District was an asset to all, whether they used it or not. He stated it improved the value of their community and their homes. He stated people didn't mind taxing themselves for things that benefited their community. He stated the group that led the effort to reduce the taxes should come back and educate the public about what they really needed and see if they could get people to vote for an increase in taxes. He referred to a poem titled Wreckers or Builders and then read it out loud.

Joe Ashmann addressed the Board regarding a recording he heard of the last Board meeting. He stated at the last meeting they were talking about \$2 million dollars, a million dollars for the golf course and a million dollars for solar heating. He stated the last meeting was the most inept meeting because half the Board didn't know what they were going to talk about at that meeting. He stated the Board didn't have a clue what they were talking about, but they voted on it. He stated anyone from CARD Watch would have said they owed it to the public to have another meeting to lay out exactly what was going to be done, but it was voted on. He stated he wouldn't

have a problem spending 4 million on the golf course if people wanted it. He asked if they could imagine any banker listening to what the Board proposed that night would go along with funding that park for a bridge to nowhere. He referred to the maintenance shed that was built at Pleasant Ridge and the proposed expenditures versus the actual cost to build the shed. He stated Pleasant Ridge Park was crumbs to Maryville. He stated he would work with the Maryville mayor to turn the park over for a dollar before investing more tax dollars into it. He referred to the discussion at the last meeting about capital improvement fund and the statement made that the Board had to spend the money by the end of the year. He stated he wanted to see every disbursement made from the capital improvement fund from the time the golf course was built. He stated he wanted a definition of the things that could appear in the capital improvement fund.

Jim Sparks addressed the Board regarding questions he had and asked what a disaster it would be if the District didn't apply for the grants. He stated the tax payers were giving the District a considerable amount of money on an annual basis, and that was not enough to run the Park District. He stated both of the entities the Board was talking about for the grant were not revenue generating entities. He referenced the District's debt, and then asked the Board to back off and not to take the grant where they would have to come up with a quarter of a million dollars to put in a bridge to get from one part of an unfinished park to the other part of an unfinished park, and put in millions more before it could be completed.

Maggie Grotefendt stated there were some very hard working people that worked for the Park District, and many of them worked for the previous Director, who she stated was not a good Director. She stated the best thing the Board did was to get rid of him. She stated Terry was working his tail off to make it better for the people, and she wanted the tax payers to realize the Park District was needed. She stated they didn't want to be the next East St. Louis, where the parks were closed, and they needed Collinsville to be sustainable. She stated she agreed with the gentleman that stated they did not need a bridge to nowhere, and stated they needed something that would generate revenue. She stated she realized they had a park to finish, and that was great, but they needed revenue.

Iva Briggs stated the people at the office had taken on two to three jobs to cut expenses. She stated if the Board kept taking money away there was no way they could make ends meet. She reference changes made at the District and stated they did everything they could to cut back, but still things were taken away, making it harder for people to do their job. She stated she was with the old Director and other people that worked there and stated she didn't know why she stayed. She stated Terry made it worth coming to work. She stated they had to have people to help bring money into the District, in order for it to keep running. She stated she didn't have little kids, but she wanted the parks to stay nice for the kids that did live and play there.

Joe Ashmann stated the Board was going to have to make a decision to shut something down, terminate some more employees or increase taxes. He stated he thought they would make a decision to increase taxes.

Karl Schmidt, Aquatic Supervisor, stated he wanted to clarify information about the solar grant. He stated the solar project was not just for Splash City and was estimated to off set \$30,000 in expenses. He stated it wouldn't generate money, but it would save the Park District money.

Jeanne Lomax asked if they could go to the City for TIF money to help make the District's bond payment for the bond that paid for Splash City. Mark Achenbach stated the City had not

invested any TIF money into Splash City/CARD office building, but had invested millions in the Gateway Center. He stated in the long run it would be helpful if they could get the City to agree to pay a portion or the bond payment for Splash City/CARD office building.

In reference to the solar panel project mentioned, Terry stated he was trying to go to the City of Collinsville about the idea of the CARD office building becoming a warming/cooling station during disasters, which is something they could do if they put in the solar panels.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mary Ann Bitzer, seconded by Patrick Collins to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the employment, compensation, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c) 1). Those voting AYE were: Achenbach, Bitzer, Collins, Lomax, Tanzyus. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

The Board adjourned to CLOSED SESSION at 7:35 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 David Tanzyus, March 3, 2014 at 8:51 PM at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Upon role being called the following commissioners answered present: Mark Achenbach, Mary Ann Bitzer, Patrick Collins, Jeanne Lomax, and David Tanzyus. Staff present included Executive Director Terry Wilson and Administrative Assistant Susan Zaber. Attorney Paul Evans was also present.

No further business coming before the commissioners, a motion was made by Jeanne Lomax seconded by Patrick Collins that the meeting be adjourned. Those voting AYE were: Achenbach, Bitzer, Collins, Lomax, Tanzyus. None voted Nay. Motion passed.

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Zaber, Recording Secretary

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Date