



COLLINSVILLE AREA RECREATION DISTRICT
www.CollinsvilleRec.com

10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois 62234 • (618) 346-PLAY (7529) • (618) 346-7530 (fax)

CLOSED SESSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

The CLOSED SESSION of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Collinsville Area Recreation District was called to order by President Ronald Jedda at 7:58 PM, November 20, 2017 at the district office, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, Illinois. Roll was called with the following commissioners answering present: Mark Achenbach, Jeanne Lomax, Brad Sewell, Aaron Wright and Ronald Jedda. Others present included Doug Erhart and District Attorney James Craney.

Craney asked to discuss the ongoing litigation regarding the slides at Splash City Waterpark. CARD was offered \$10,000 buy one defendant. He hopes to get a combined offer of \$25,000 from the three defendants.

Jedda started a discussion regarding the transfer of Pleasant Ridge Park to Maryville. He stated the first time the board heard about this was on October 26. The letter was actually sent by Maryville on October 26, he did not receive a copy of it until November 3. Jedda said it is estimated that CARD would save approximately \$250,000 annually to the taxpayers. He said there are ongoing utility costs, water costs, insurance, etc and three parks people to get rid of. With the cost savings, he thinks it would be justifiable to get rid of it. This would include the transfer of certain equipment.

Sewell would like an itemization of that estimate. Wright noted the concern about the \$3.3 million and added that CARD is not sitting on something they can liquidate. Achenbach stated that if CARD were to liquidate it, we would first have to pay back the OSLAD Grant. Then it would have to be put on the ballot and ask the citizens if we could sell it. Then CARD would have to advertise it as a piece of property. He added that CARD paid \$1.59 million for the property from the Osbourne Group and they planned to put a subdivision there. There are no sewers there. A pump station would have to be put in. He stated CARD would not be able to get what they paid for it. The developer sold it to CARD as a park because it is not a very good profit making area for a subdivision.

Sewell went on to discuss Mayor Craig Short's discussion regarding the amount Maryville has paid millions into CARD over the years and there was nothing from CARD in their area. Pleasant Ridge Park will be the first thing Maryville gets out of CARD. It needs to be presented to the public.

Achenbach added that Pleasant Ridge will never support a large number of people until it gets sewers, unless CARD decides to put septic in. He added that Erhart should be most against it because he will have to start paying taxes for the park since he is a resident of Maryville. He also noted that he himself will not only have to pay the CARD taxes, but the additional Maryville taxes. Yet, Achenbach supports it because, in general, it's the right thing to do. We should not be sub optimizing taxes; we should look at all the taxing bodies and decide if it works overall. He added that when Collinsville took their parks back, he got a benefit because he is no longer paying for them.

Jedda went on to answer Sewell's question by adding that when you look at the annual cost for reoccurring maintenance expenses, it is about \$17,000. When you add in the cost for utilities, liability insurance, etc, it is about \$29,000. He added that the elimination of three employees would be \$64,000 for Keith Grotendorf, \$38,000 for Zach Mason and \$86,000 the seasonal employees. Erhart added that cannot all be contributed to Pleasant Ridge. They cannot really give numbers on that for Pleasant Ridge because the City of Collinsville takes back their parks starting January 1, 2018. Jedda added that CARD would give Maryville

approximately \$100,000 worth of equipment. Altogether, he estimates a total saving of \$250,000 annually. Achenbach asked if everyone agreed. Erhart said he does not agree with that number. Achenbach then asked if they were to keep Pleasant Ridge, which of the staff would be kept and how many seasonal employees would be needed in the summer. Erhart stated no seasonal employees would be needed and the two full time would be kept. Achenbach said that would be \$110,000 in employee costs. There would be about \$12,000 annually for utilities. There would be \$17,000 for reoccurring maintenance. Erhart said it would be about \$170,000 annually for Pleasant Ridge.

Jedda said you cannot have a park district with one park. He added that he feels confident getting rid of it and feels the park will be maintained as well and if not better than what the Maryville parks are. Plus it is a good deal for the tax payers. He added that the staff understands the impact it will have on them, but we have to look at what is best for all of the taxpayers in the district and if we can save \$170,000 annually on an ongoing basis, I think that is a good deal.

Wright added that is a good deal as well. He added that the \$3.3 million that people are focusing on is not money that is available in anyway. He said the people think they made an investment and that CARD is just giving it away.

Lomax added that you can't get money back on a feasibility study or survey or radio tower.

Jedda added that paying \$1.6 million for that property was just stupid. Lomax said it was the same thing as the golf course.

Achenbach went on to ask about what would happen to the two employees. Erhart said one might be used out here, or Splash City. The other would be terminated. Achenbach said that we are now terminating full time people and he does not feel like it is his responsibility to make sure they get a job, but on the other hand it is something we should actually consider. He asked what we are going to do for the employees. Jedda noted that Craney said CARD has to pass an ordinance in order for Maryville to be able to vote on their ordinance in December. It was noted we don't have to worry about the seasonal employees. Erhart added that there is still a lot of stuff to be done at the CARD activity center and Splash City. Eventually one of the two positions will be eliminated.

The board noticed a device in the room and do not know who it belonged to. Sewell can't tell if the recording device was on or not and it requires a pass code to operate it. Jedda asked for him to bring it to him.

Jedda stated that regarding the parks, we will come out of closed and have a motion to transfer the Pleasant Ridge Park to the Village of Maryville. He asked if everyone is ok with that.

Jedda then opened discussion regarding to discuss additional items regarding personnel. Erhart stated he doesn't know what is going to happen after January because he does not know what it is going to be like. The "what if" of it is if certain aspects go away and we just have Splash City and Willoughby it would have no impact on Willoughby. He added we could get rid of one of the two full-time in Recreation. The seasonal workers will go away, that is \$86,000. We will have to discuss if we will still have programs. If we are, they will not be sufficient for a full time job for one person. One person is going to have to pick up additional responsibilities if we are down to no more than two facilities. We have Jessica and we have Kim. One of those jobs would probably be eliminated and one will probably take over both responsibilities. That would eliminate a salary. IT is a tough one. Achenbach said it would be ideal if we could go back to the old days where he was IT and the janitor. Erhart said that was one of his suggestions. Achenbach added he is good and he would hate to lose him. Erhart added he knows all the stuff for maintenance in the water park. Wright added he could be contracted. Erhart added that you can't sit here today and say certain people need to go. It is premature to say this is what we are going to do. Achenbach added the timing pretty much sucks.

Jedda passed around some what is being proposed for the levy that is coming up. Erhart stated this is a proposed levy from before the possible deeding Pleasant Ridge Park. He added that liability would go down. Achenbach

added that social security and workman compensation would go down as well. Erhart said his levy for the audit might be a little high. Said it might be around \$12,000. Erhart suggested having another finance group meeting within a few weeks and crunch numbers.

Sewell suggested using whatever is saved from the deeding of Pleasant Ridge Park toward the debt retirement. Achenbach said he never really thought about that. Sewell said not to cut the levy, just pay something off. Erhart said it would have to be levied in another fund and then transferred.

Jedda said they will work the numbers again and go from there.

Lomax said there might be complaints because they have downsized so much in the levy.

Jedda moved on to discuss negotiations with the YMCA regarding Splash City. There is a meeting coming up. They still seem to have some interest and they hope to have a decision by the next board meeting.

The last topic of discussion was about misconceptions and information that was put out. He said you can see the press release the City of Collinsville put out and there is a lot of misinformation. He received a letter dated November 16 regarding CARD from the City stating CARD shouldn't deed Pleasant Ridge over and the City would sue CARD if they did. Obviously the City doesn't like the fact that CARD is giving Pleasant Ridge Park to Maryville even though the City of Collinsville residents will be saving tax dollars.

Sewell stated that in a conversation with Donna Green, she stated the City understands the part about giving the park away. They are angry that it happened so fast and that the meeting regarding the issue is being held on a night they cannot be present to participate in the discussion. Jedda said he had a similar conversation with Green when she went to his office and demanded that the Special Meeting date be changed. He stated he doesn't think our crowd would have been any bigger if the date was changed. He noticed several people left the board meeting to go the Town Hall meeting. [REDACTED]

Jedda asked Craney to shed some light on the concerns. Craney spoke with Giacoletto after receiving the letter from the City. Craney told him the deeding is legal. Giacoletto stated the way Collinsville sees it, the City feels they have put a lot of value into Pleasant Ridge Park over the years. [REDACTED]

Sewell asked that if we are not going to reduce the levy because we have less expenses, what about not voting on this tonight, and allow the public to say what they want. Allow Maryville to come back and present the numbers so that it all doesn't fall on CARD.

Jedda stated that no matter what CARD does, the City is going to bad mouth us. Sewell understands that. Jedda stated the issue he has is that delaying the decision has an impact, not only on CARD's levy, but on Maryville and their levy. It is about more than just Collinsville. It's about Maryville and other communities and voting on this tonight, and then we can take a look at other options. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He added that as long as you agree to everything the City wants, they are your buddies. The minute you say you want something else; they are not your buddy. He wants to get it done tonight so they do not leave Maryville hanging because they have to take a look at their levy and what they are going to do. They have to gear up their parks department. Right now many parks services are outsourced.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jedda said we will come out of the meeting, have a motion to approve the transfer of Pleasant Ridge Park to Maryville. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lomax said the decision should hinge on what happens with Splash City. Jedda said he thinks they will have a better idea of that in a week or so.

A motion was made by Wright, seconded by Achenbach, to end closed session.

Roll was called with the following commissioners voting AYE: Achenbach, Lomax, Sewell, Wright and Jedda. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

No further business coming before the Commissioners, a motion was made by Achenbach, seconded by Wright, that the CLOSED SESSION be adjourned to OPEN SESSION. Roll was called with the following voting AYE: Achenbach, Jedda, Lomax and Wright. None voted NAY. Motion passed.

The Closed Session Meeting stood adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberli DeRossett, Recording Secretary

Date