

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2006**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on November 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Callahan, Andersen, Vorderer, Wallace and McCauley

PUBLIC HEARING:

McCauley asked for public comment regarding the intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to sell, not to exceed, \$1,700,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. No comments received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of October 2, 2006

Callahan moved, Vorderer seconded, to approve.

Voting: Aye: Callahan, Vorderer, Wallace and McCauley

Abstain: Andersen

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteer of the Month, Rebecca Egan, honored

McCauley recognized Rebecca Egan for her work as a Volunteer Counselor-In-Training during eight weeks of Summer Day Camp. Rebecca coordinated craft projects and activities and helped supervise campers. She also successfully completed written projects for the CIT program.

FINANCE REPORT:

Callahan moved, Andersen seconded to approve payables of \$384,809.19.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Todd Stanton, Landscape Architect, re Dog Park Presentation

Stanton presented three concepts for the design of a dog park in Burbank, at 79th Street and Newcastle, anticipated as a cooperative venture with Oak Lawn Park District. The park is approximately 3.5 acres, with room for future expansion, if desired, across the street to the north. This open area is leased from Commonwealth Edison, under tension wires and currently underutilized. The park will be built a sufficient distance from electric towers and an existing playground.

Dog parks can be either designed as an open concept or broken into several areas for different sized dogs. "Cool off" kennels can provide a dog that is misbehaving with some "time out" rather than having to leave the park.

Construction costs are in excess of \$100,000 and depend on ground materials, landscaping and amenities. Stanton noted that state grant monies may be available to offset costs, but would delay construction until 2008. On a shorter timeframe without a grant application, plans could be finalized this winter and construction could begin in spring 2007.

Commissioners discussed these points:

- Their preference was for Plan B, a multi-use, open concept park that includes a walking/jogging trail within the park's parameter. While walkers or joggers might use the trail during off hours, it is anticipated that mainly dog owners would use this path to exercise with their dogs off leash.

- Commissioners recommend building the park with better materials that withstand high use and require less maintenance in the long term. It is important to research and select the most suitable ground coverings for high-traffic areas. Temporary fencing would need to be erected when natural areas need regeneration.
- Additional parking spaces appear to be needed.
- The plan lacks sufficient shade, and Commonwealth Edison would be contacted for approval to plant trees or erect shade structures.
- Stanton indicated that health studies on high-tension wires have indicated no definitive health risks, and a dog park is an effective way to utilize this open space.
- Commissioners noted that the costs to build this park are high, but it is also a much larger park than 1.5 acres proposed for Oak Lawn. Wallace expressed willingness to be involved with a fundraising subcommittee, perhaps to pay for future amenities. Dog amusements can be added later based on attendance; most dog parks generally just provide an open area to run. Pet stores, Animal Welfare League and other groups have expressed interest in fundraising. Andersen noted that additional revenue would come from the fees set by Burbank to use this park. Once fees are determined, fundraising efforts could include selling park passes.

McCauley anticipates that many surrounding suburbs will utilize this park and encourages fundraising efforts to begin so that all communities will be well served by a high-caliber facility. If our Park District is in a financial position to fund additional amenities, it may be possible after other debt is retired in a few years.

- Callahan provided information from a recent seminar on dog parks for distribution to fellow commissioners and Burbank Park District.
- The Plan B multi-use concept has not been built at any other location; and if Burbank selects this design, it will be a test to see how a walking/jogging path works within a dog park. Stanton said there have been very few incidents of attacks or dog biting in other parks. Kelly confirmed that there have been relatively few insurance claims against dog parks.
- Alsip Park District is also looking to create a dog park and may seek our interest, so Oak Lawn residents perhaps could be conveniently served by dog parks north and south of town.

Director Kelly asked Commissioners for approval to notify Burbank Park District of our interest. Commissioners concurred that the preference is for a Plan B joint facility that our residents can use at whatever fee Burbank sets; and we will consider this development in the upcoming capital budget, with an expected \$30,000 contribution toward initial construction, noting our total capital budget is \$300,000 for the year.

B. Don Jessen of PFM, re Fund and Procurement Card

Jessen discussed the benefits of the Illinois Park District Fund and using the Procurement "P" card for Park District purchases.

The fund is 20 years old and offers the highest possible yield while maintaining liquidity and preserving capital. Its Board is made up of members from IAPD/IPRA. Different investment options are available and can be accessed around the clock.

The P card is currently being used by about 25-30 members. Benefits include:

- obtaining goods at lower costs, such as playground equipment;
- receiving a detailed audit trail of expenses, including those normally expensed by petty cash;

- setting spending limits by user, and overriding buying limits in emergency situations;

Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 13, 2006

Page 3

- reducing check writing, and seeing as much as a 35-day float compared to current payment procedures; and
- receiving a rebate percentage based on total purchases made with this card.

The program is administered by Harris Bank and offers fraud protection if the card were ever misused. Vorderer noted the benefits of modern banking, e.g., having the Park's checking account debited monthly for one amount rather than issuing checks to multiple vendors. Callahan suggested that a suitable test would be to have maintenance staff use the card for a few months. The Park District can cancel the program at any time if it enrolls and sees no benefit.

Jessen will arrange a demonstration of the detailed reporting system with Jim Schmaedeke and Jim Ribikawskis. McCauley asked Schmaedeke to contact a few park districts using the P Card to discuss how it has benefited them.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of 2006 Tax Levy

Vorderer moved, Wallace seconded to approve a 2006 tax levy of \$2,837,500, or 104.56% change for operating funds; and \$2,694,500, or 104.29% change, for capital funds.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

B. Disposal of Surplus Property

Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to dispose of obsolete gym mats.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

LEGAL:

Attorney Farrell announced that one seat on the Oak Lawn Park District Board is up for election on April 7, 2007. Anyone interested in running for the seat can obtain an election packet at the Administration Building or his office.

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$10,000:

A. Ice Arena Flooring

Vorderer moved, Callahan seconded to approve Becker's bid for \$139,915 for ice arena flooring.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

B. Color Printer

Vorderer proposed a four-year lease with no option to buy the equipment. His experience has been that equipment is costly to maintain thereafter and technology will have improved in the meantime, thus the equipment will likely have no value after four years.

Vorderer proposed, Callahan seconded an amended motion to approve a four-year lease with Konica Minolta at \$674/month.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- McCauley attended Spookview and acknowledged all the work by staff to put on this popular event attended by hundreds of residents.
- She is sad to see so many trees gone from the recent storm and thanked Joel Craig and staff for their clean-up efforts.
- She recommended attending the tremendous theatre production of Oliver and noted that it covers all age groups, from the star at age nine to senior citizens involved in the production.
- She congratulated Connie and Jim Schmaedeke on the birth of their first granddaughter.

- As a teacher at Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC), McCauley invites professional staff to speak to her students. Tom Hartwig explained his role as Pavilion Manager, and from his presentation McCauley learned even more about his responsibilities and was impressed with his enthusiasm and dedication.
- MVCC also recently hosted a special motor activity program for those with severe special needs who do not have an opportunity to participate in Special Olympics. She thanked Todd Mallo, Special Recreation Supervisor, who volunteered his time at this event; and noted the dedication of our Park District staff.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Kelly stated that a new Recreational Advisory Board started tonight and has seven or eight members. They provided many positive comments, but Kelly is also looking for constructive feedback to improve services. Ideally, she would like a board of 12-15 members and also wants to recreate a teen advisory board. Kelly asked members to reach out to the community, encourage others to join, and find ways to improve the Park District. This non-voting group will meet every three months.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Wallace thanked Kelly and Craig for carrying through the dog park project. She is enthusiastic and noted this is something new for the south side, and a bigger park than she imagined. As this project is coordinated with Burbank Park District, she will begin fundraising efforts.

Andersen attended an IAPD Joint Legislative Committee meeting about a survey that was sent to all park districts. A report indicated that Oak Lawn had not responded to the survey, when in fact we did. This served as a reminder that our Park District is on top of projects.

Andersen stated that former director Marty Larson's grandson has terminal cancer and to keep their family in our prayers. Marty's son Dale is a New Lenox Park District commissioner, and this is his ill son.

Callahan thanked Wallace for her commitment to a dog park project and noted that the board was likewise interested, and having more information, has moved forward on this project.

He acknowledged the extra work to clean up after the storm and hopes that new trees are planted.

Noting the significance of Veteran's Day, Callahan would like the Park District to plan and budget for a small garden or park benches at the new park to honor veterans and the freedoms we enjoy because of their service.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL, REAL ESTATE AND LITIGATION:
None.

ADJOURN:

Vorderer moved, Callahan seconded to adjourn.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McCauley, President

Cindy Pender, Recording Secretary