

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 10, 2010**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on May 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. with President McCauley presiding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL, REAL ESTATE, AND LITIGATION:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present. The Board adjourned Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

McCauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Andersen, Callahan, Murphy, Wallace and McCauley

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of April 12, 2010

Callahan moved, Murphy seconded, to approve.

Voting: Aye: All

Nay: None

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteer of the Month, Jennifer Miller

McCauley recognized Jennifer Miller for her volunteer work with Special Recreation. Jennifer volunteers at events and social clubs. As a high school special education teacher, Jennifer has experience working with individuals with disabilities. The Park District appreciates her hard work and dedication.

Patrick Bridgeman, Lake Shore Park

Mr. Bridgeman of 5410 W. 96th Street in Oak Lawn said he is a 14-year resident whose house is next to Lake Shore Park. It is a 100 year old, small home. As the house is starting to deteriorate and his family has grown with four children, he asked if the Park District would sell some property along his house, 10' from his foundation and back 125'. He has maintained the Park's lawn and bushes in that area, roughly 15' x 150'. Mr. Bridgeman talked with a contractor to expand the house and make it suitable for his larger family because they love Oak Lawn and the location.

Andersen told Mr. Bridgeman that we appreciate his maintaining Park property; however, it is not simple to sell public land and asked Attorney Farrell to explain the process. Farrell said it sounds easy when you consider it is only 10', but it is a major legal process requiring court approval. Petitions have to be filed, and the Board has to look at the precedent it sets. It is just as big a legal process as if it were an entire lot.

Andersen said he has sat on Village Commissions and Boards in the past, and whenever someone inquires about buying public property, he recalls that it has to be offered to every taxing body first. Then it has to go out for bid, and a threshold is set, and then sold to the highest bidder. Andersen understands and sympathizes with Mr. Bridgeman's plight. Mr. Bridgeman presented a petition he had signed by neighbors.

Mr. Bridgeman said his lot is 25' x 125', and he is presenting to the Village next week his plans to build on the existing foundation and show the huge open space on each side. Callahan asked Mr. Bridgeman about the lot between his house and the Keyhole House. If he could buy 10' of that property, it would be the easier route. Mr. Bridgeman said that is a possibility, but he wanted to ask the Park first and planned to go in that direction and keep the open lot between the two houses.

Andersen told Mr. Bridgeman that we cannot take action on it unless he chooses to proceed, and that is his right. However, he has been involved in the Park District for 33 years and cannot recall ever selling a Park parcel to anyone. Mr. Bridgeman says there is an easement that runs through the Park, which used to be a road, and two neighbors purchased property. Andersen said that was Village property. Farrell told Mr. Bridgeman that his neighbor would merely have to sign a simple deed giving him the property. The Park process will take months and require court approval.

Callahan thanked Mr. Bridgeman for his help maintaining the Park property and for being a good neighbor. Mr. Bridgeman's well maintained house is an asset to our Park.

FINANCE REPORT:

Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to approve payables of \$209,586.94 for the period of April 12, 2010 to May 10, 2010.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

John Vann, Memorial Park

Mr. Vann presented a design program of suggested improvements for Memorial Park. Ideas include:

- Create a rocket ship playground and sand play area;
- Improve the pond and fishing;
- Design more green space, contour the ground to create activity spaces, create a trail system, add landscaping;
- Evaluate and improve bathrooms, pump building, storage building, family shelter; and
- Improve tennis and basketball courts, fencing and lighting.

Vann provided a list of construction costs that will help in planning for an OSLAD grant and possible phased improvements. Vann said it also may be possible to apply for a PARC grant, but he is uncertain if we can win both grants. While the OSLAD grant is for new improvements, the PARC grant is designed more for renovations and buildings. Vann and Park staff will be meeting with the public to get input. Callahan asked to stress at the neighborhood meeting that the dollars have to meet the project in order to make it work.

Andersen has concerns about the proposed walkway on the east side of the pond and said that the fence, while it may not look nice, provides safety. Vann reviewed fencing options. Andersen also said the pier was donated by the Foundation and has been modified over the years. He suggested not making it any smaller because it is used and is packed for the annual fishing derby. Andersen also asked if the pump house would be adequate for a zero-depth water play area. Vann will have aquatic engineers evaluate it.

Vann asked staff to put the tentative Park plan on the website to solicit more comments, and he will be back in June with a plan for the Board's review and approval. McCauley thanked Vann, Craig, Kelly and other staff for looking at the big picture and giving the residents something exciting. They have addressed the needs of people of all ages with so many ideas.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval to Place Proposed Budget on Display

Andersen motioned to table until later in the meeting, after the budget session. Callahan seconded.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Approval of Surplus Property

Andersen motioned to approve; Murphy seconded.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

LEGAL: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$10,000: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

McCauley said this is her last President's Report for now. She had the distinct privilege to nominate the Oak Lawn Park District for Moraine Valley Community College's 4th Annual Intern and Employer Award and see the Park District win. She knows of no employer that surrounds the 23-member districts of the community college that serves the college better.

As a Board member, McCauley is spoiled to see the behind-the-scenes work that staff does. The Business Manager, Superintendent of Maintenance, Superintendent of Recreation, Aquatics Supervisor, Special Rec Supervisors, the Director and the Technology Support Manager always do "above and beyond" to train our young students and mentor them. They give professional presentations, supervise intern students and provide volunteer opportunities. It was a beautiful ceremony, and most of the staff were there. This award was given for what they do beyond their job descriptions to help the profession get to another level. McCauley said that is why she believes Oak Lawn Park District is not only one of the best park districts in the State but also in the Nation.

McCauley displayed the new Summer Program Guide and said staff is glad to have Nikki Walsh back at work. She congratulated the entire staff for again offering an amazing amount of programs for every resident. It will be an exciting summer in Oak Lawn.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Kelly said we are going to three program guides a year. She said the annual strategic planning meeting was held today, and staff is so creative in ways to cut costs. In spite of a brochure, they will advertise on Facebook and the Internet, where people can find out about our programs instead of a printed book.

Kelly said she started that meeting with a list of hundreds of accomplishments staff has achieved and many major accomplishments with a limited budget. Staff has maintained service excellence and still managed to cut \$250,000 compared to last year at this time. She is very proud of the staff and excited about the goals and objectives for the coming year.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

The Commissioners congratulated the Park District for the Moraine Valley award and thanked McCauley for nominating them.

Murphy is amazed at the number of volunteers every month and the number of nice people in the Village of Oak Lawn who want to help the Park District. She thanked the volunteers.

Murphy lives near Sullivan Park and said it is great to see the productivity there. She walked the new path, and it is wide for a few people to walk together. It is exciting for residents there to see what is being built.

Murphy was honored to be in Springfield last week, for the first time, with other Board Members and staff. They talked with some of the Legislators about the importance of parks to the people and thanked them for advocating for us.

Andersen was also in Springfield and had very productive two-day meetings. They were privileged to be addressed by Governor Pat Quinn and by his opponent, Senator Bill Brady, on the matter of Parks and Recreation. Andersen suggested that the man here earlier has been doing volunteer work on his own in maintaining 10' of Park property, and we should consider nominating him in the upcoming months.

Andersen is Vice Chairman of the IAPD Board of Trustees, and he was honored to be elected to the Friends of the Illinois Parks Foundation. It is the State level of our local Oak Lawn Parks Foundation. One of the matters for the Board is the Eagle Eye program. It started here, and now the State Foundation will be involved in overseeing it, and Oak Lawn Park District has representation there.

Andersen congratulated McCauley for a fine job this year as President. It will be a very tight year, but he knows that the Board and staff will pull through and a year from now will be very happy.

Wallace is pleased to hear that the Park District is doing more online on Facebook, etc. In her business, she has seen the difference in changing from print mailings to online, and it is so affordable. Wallace recalled that for the past five years, we talked about the Park District moving to some partial type of online program registration. She would like to have an online application designed and thinks it might be more affordable to do now. Other park districts offer it; and for all the programs we have, residents and non-residents would benefit from it.

Wallace said the parks look great and the flowers are coming up everywhere. Enjoy Spring!

Callahan said Craig and staff have worked a tremendous, long period to get the parks looking great again after a rough winter. He thanked McCauley for doing a phenomenal job representing the Board as President. He thanked her on behalf of the Moraine Valley award and for always promoting the field of recreation whether here or at work.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS:

Director

Callahan motioned, Andersen seconded, to re-appoint Maddie Kelly as Director.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Recording Secretary

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to re-appoint Cindy Pender as Recording Secretary.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Treasurer

Callahan motioned, Wallace seconded, to re-appoint Jim Ribikawskis as Treasurer.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Attorney

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to re-appoint Tom Farrell as Attorney.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to move to Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:

Andersen motioned, Murphy seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to appoint Commissioner Andersen as President.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Vice President

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to appoint Commissioner Wallace as Vice President.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Secretary

Callahan motioned, Andersen seconded, to appoint Commissioner Murphy as Secretary.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

President Andersen conducted the remainder of the meeting.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

President Andersen made the following Committee appointments:

- Public Relations & Marketing, including the Internet
and dog park efforts Commissioner Wallace
- Recreation Commissioner Callahan
- Building & Grounds Commissioner McCauley
- Finance Commissioner Murphy

ANNUAL MEETING:

Appointment of Auditors

Andersen said it is staff's recommendation to stay with the current auditors, Selden Fox, for another year.
Callahan motioned, McCauley seconded to approve.
Voting : Aye: All – Nay: None.

Designation of Depositories

Andersen said we have five depositories on the list. In the past, we had six. The sixth was a former Oak Lawn bank, which is now FirstMerit Bank, and he would like to add them as they have been involved with us in the past.

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to designate the following depositories:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Illinois Funds | 2. Harris Bank of Oak Lawn | 3. Private Bank |
| 4. IPDLAF | 5. First Midwest Bank | 6. FirstMerit Bank |

Under discussion, Callahan asked Farrell if the Board is allowed to add to the list. Farrell said yes.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Designation of Newspapers for Legal Notices

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to designate the following newspapers for legal notices:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. SouthtownStar | 2. Oak Lawn Independent | 3. Reporter |
| 4. Chicago Tribune | 5. Chicago Sun-Times | |

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR DISPLAY:

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to move to Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting at 8:58 p.m.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval to Place Proposed Budget on Display

Callahan motioned, Murphy seconded, to put the 2010-2011 budget on display Thursday, May 13, for 30 days.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

ADJOURN:

Callahan moved, Murphy seconded to adjourn.

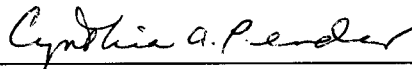
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald V. Andersen, President



Cynthia A. Pender, Recording Secretary