

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 8, 2010**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on March 8, 2010 at 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LITIGATION:

Present: Andersen, Callahan, Murphy and Wallace
A quorum was present.

Callahan motioned, Andersen seconded, to begin Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.
McCauley arrived at 6:08 p.m.

The Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Andersen, Callahan, Murphy, Wallace and McCauley
A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of February 8, 2010

Callahan moved, Murphy seconded, to approve.
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteer of the Month, Oak Lawn Ice Arena Figure Skating Booster Club

McCauley honored the Booster Club, which supports the Rising Stars Figure Skating Program. In 2009, the club devoted 150 hours for the Marita Adams Reach for the Stars Competition and supplied goody bags for competitors. The club also purchases equipment, fundraises, hosts resale events and social gatherings, and purchases staff jackets. The Park District is very grateful for the Booster Club's assistance.

Andersen noted that Marita Adams was a former figure skating instructor in the late 1970's or early 1980's. Unfortunately, she was involved in a tragic auto accident and killed with two of her children. Andersen said she was a great lady, it is only fitting that her memory be honored, and he hopes the Park District keeps this competition forever.

Special Olympics Eagles Basketball Team

McCauley congratulated the 2009-2010 Eagles teams on their recent awards. On February 13, they competed in the Special Olympics basketball tournament and won the silver medal. At the ITRS tournament, they brought home the 3rd place award. McCauley presented two of the team members, Chris Taglioli and Mickey Hammad, with Certificates of Athletic Achievement.

PDRMA Presentation

Mr. Gerrit Prince is a risk management consultant with PDRMA, a self insurance risk pool with 155 members. PDRMA evaluates risk management programs. Last year the Park District scored above 95% for the first time, which is a Level A rating. The Park District continued to achieve the Level A rating, and he presented a recognition plaque for 2009. Last year's rating was the first step in becoming an Accredited Agency under their program, and Mr. Prince has every confidence that the Park District will continue its Level A rating in the next review.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Callahan moved, Murphy seconded to approve payables of \$191,987.04 for the period of February 8, 2010 to March 8, 2010.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

John Vann, LandTech Landscape Architecture

Vann discussed Sullivan and Memorial Parks:

Sullivan Park

Vann presented improvement bids for the park. The contract was divided into three bids by trade group, which kept prices lower, with Joel Craig acting somewhat as general contractor. Installation includes a playground, shelter, splash pad, concrete and playground surfacing, pathway, landscaping, etc. By realizing cost savings and using Special Recreation funds, Vann suggested putting in a few thousand square feet of rubber surface in the playground, making it fully accessible. It would be the first such playground surface in the Park District.

Vann recommended Contract A be awarded to George's Landscaping for \$45,472; Contract B and C to R. Carlson and Sons of Mokena for \$48,216 and \$56,009, respectively. He recommended Contract C Alternate 1, curbing and safety area around the Astro net, for \$2,400; and Alternate 2, rubber surface playground, for \$42,240, both be awarded to Carlson and Sons.

Callahan asked about the rubber surface costing almost \$50,000. Craig said the surface is smooth rubber and true ADA complaint. Vann said it is a red and black granulated rubber product mixed with glue and troweled. He believes it has a 10-15 year warranty. It has some traction, is easily repaired, difficult to damage, and requires no maintenance. Even though the initial cost is higher, it more than compensates for the labor and cost of adding fiber over the next 10-15 years. Half the playground area would be rubber and the other half would be wood fiber. It is used in park districts throughout Illinois. Water drains through it, and the surface is pitched. There are no chemical health issues.

McCauley asked where a lift van could park for a child to have access to the playground. Vann said there is parking on the street side, and they discussed painting a reserved stall or two on the road. Two paths come to the curb and are accessible from the street.

Andersen verified that Vann's recommendation totals approximately \$195,000. Andersen asked Craig to add the in-house costs for labor and materials to see the project's total cost. He suggested that perhaps the rubber surface is not affordable at this time, but it could be added a few years later. Ribikawskis concurred, summarizing that this is easily a \$350,000 project.

Andersen asked for the cost of the splash pad. Vann estimates \$15,000 to 20,000 for utilities and concrete, including two jets and a "mushroom tower."

Callahan wants to move ahead, but also would like additional financial information. He discussed the OSLAD grant and that we may have to adjust what gets done. Vann said the grant is not dependent on awarding the contract tonight; it would just set back construction. He offered to present the financials in a different format if the Board prefers. Callahan said we need to know how we are going to pay for it. Wallace is in favor of trimming the budget. Even though it is a great idea, we need to be financially responsible. We can cut now and plan for when times get better.

Vann said the base bids fulfill the grant responsibilities, and the alternates of \$63,640 are outside the scope of OSLAD and could be added later. Andersen suggested he contact bidders requesting them to hold their prices for an additional 30-60 days.

McCauley would like to move forward with the base bids and look at the budget with those figures. The alternates could be added if funding is available. Farrell suggested the Board give Treasurer Ribikawskis authority to approve the bids after examining the figures from Craig and with direction from the Board.

Callahan verified that the project without alternates would cost about \$295,000. Craig said he based the project on \$352,300 of available funds, and the project with alternates would cost \$351,000. Callahan asked Craig to include an estimate of our labor costs. Callahan said it is staff's responsibility to find the budget dollars to make this project work, and if we do not have it, we need to know. Kelly asked Craig to provide the financial information by Friday and asked if the Board could vote tonight.

Sullivan Park Bids

Wallace motioned to give Treasurer Ribikawskis authority to approve the Sullivan Park bids based on financial information provided by Craig and after approval by the Board. Andersen seconded.

Under discussion, Callahan said other areas of the district may have to do without to pay for this project. Kelly said this is a top priority. Craig said the figures are tight, and his intent is to provide the biggest impact for residents based on what they told us. Murphy asked about the cost of wood chips vs. the rubber surface. Craig estimated an additional \$6,000 not in the base bid vs. the \$42,000 alternate.

Vann said the agreement was for about \$320,000, of which the Park District pledged \$167,000; it pays for the entire project, then gets reimbursed. The base bids are close to \$300,000, without in-house labor. Some agencies credit that against the contract, others do not. Callahan said everyone is trying to make this project work, but we have to be consistent and account for staff time. Callahan acknowledged that Craig's staff has done tremendous work at the other parks at considerable savings.

Motion to approve:

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Memorial Park

Vann presented an introductory discussion of Memorial Park future upgrades, as part of the Park Master Plan. His firm and Park District staff have some creative ideas, but the issue always has been financing. The Park District may have funding available in 2011, with the majority in 2012, after bond retirement. A complete facelift of the park could cost \$1 million. The Park District could receive \$400,000 from the State if it were successful in obtaining another OSLAD grant. The 2010 grant deadline is July 1.

The plan introduces new elements and moves things on the entire site. It includes:

- Demolishing unnecessary amenities to provide more green space.
- Replacing the family picnic shelter.
- Improving pond access and adding a floating pier.
- Building a large community spray pad, zero depth, with 12-15 sprays, dumping buckets, deck chairs and sunning areas. It could be a revenue producing facility to offset maintenance costs and utilize existing mechanics.
- Redesigning the playground and bringing back some themed play and history with Rocket Park.
- Enclosing the park with a pathway that could tie into a proposed bike trail.
- Refurbishing tennis and basketball areas.
- Adding more landscaping.

Vann would like to begin public discussion, finalize the Master Plan, and submit an OSLAD application for July 1. If successful, the award would be received in 2011, with construction to begin later in 2011 to correspond with budget cycles. Vann also discussed a new Park and Recreation Capital Bill for facility renovation. Language is being drafted by the IDNR; it is a possible 75/25 grant that would provide more

funding than the OSLAD 50/50 grant. It is uncertain if the Park could apply for one grant or both, but it is another opportunity, and this project fits the bill. Vann asked the Board for direction.

McCauley recalled visiting the parks with Vann and discussing wonderful plans, and she wished we were able to implement all the plans now. McCauley noted that we do have plans for this park, as shown in our Master Plan. She thanked Vann and the staff for their efforts. The unfortunate part now is financial, but we can look at grant opportunities. If we get community resident input, they will see there is a plan and that we will never leave facilities empty. McCauley hopes the economy changes so things can be done.

Callahan asked about tennis and basketball. He supports the idea of doing a project of this magnitude, but asked if it hinders capital projects that were pushed back, like the smaller 52nd Avenue Park. Vann said when the Master Plan was completed three years ago, we had a five-year capital budget. A lot of things have changed because of the economy, and the Park District has had to make some accommodations. Perhaps you need to take some money for smaller parks. This large project can be delayed until the Park District builds more capital. Even though there are budget constraints, this is the first opportunity where we know it could work in the budget. Vann said resident input would tell them if three tennis courts and two basketball courts are needed, the style to be built, or whether to create a different use.

Wallace likes the idea of updating parks, but she would rather take it a step at a time and not rush to spend available funds, since we do not know what the next two years will bring. She or other Commissioners may not be on the Board when these things come in to play, so she does not want to make plans for two-three years from now. Wallace mentioned that residents in Oak Lawn like to walk, and we do not have a significant number of walking trails. We need to incorporate things that adults can use; and while splash pads are popular, it is only warm a few months a year and they are a significant expense. Vann said the plan would include a path for nice long walks and bike riding. Vann is trying to project and take into consideration the State budget process and OSLAD grant process, and there is a year lag plus a year for construction. He explained that if you wait for the money to be in the budget in 2012, the earliest you could build is 2014.

Kelly said we did not apply for the prairie matching grant, and she would hate to see another year that we do not apply for a grant. She asked the Board to consider this proposal and asked if the April agenda could include permission to apply for the grant.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Tax Abatement Ordinance

Andersen moved, Callahan seconded, to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

LEGAL: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$10,000:

Fireworks Bid

Callahan moved to approve the bid from Melrose Pyrotechnics for \$15,600, pending the Village agrees to pay for half the cost, as they have done in the past. Murphy seconded to approve.

Under discussion, Callahan asked if there is still an agreement with the Village for half the cost, as they have budgetary constraints. Kelly said we send a letter every year, and they pay for half the cost. Julie Ryan said she and Chad Weiler have a verbal agreement. Murphy asked if we are splitting the cost of concerts and movies on the Village Green again this year, and Kelly said yes. Andersen suggested Kelly talk with Village Manager Larry Deetjen to confirm that they will continue to pay for half of the fireworks.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

McCauley said The Wiz was phenomenal, there was a beautiful memorial to Megan Hurckes, and her sister was in the play. As we all know, programming for teens is a challenge throughout the State and country from a Park District venue. She is proud to represent the Park District knowing that we were able to provide this program for teens and younger children, and it was fun for them. She congratulated Erika and her staff and noted that almost every show was sold out. McCauley is impressed with the work in getting teens involved to create another incredible production.

McCauley congratulated the Pavilion staff on their recent membership drive and success in bringing in 500+ new members.

She looks forward to Spring and wished everyone Happy St. Patrick's Day.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Kelly said she had to keep reminding herself that kids were on stage in The Wiz, not adults, and the talent brought out in the kids was phenomenal.

Kelly encouraged everyone to visit Central Pool as it looks like a brand new pool! Joel Craig and Mike Boudreau picked beautiful new colors. Evergreen Park residents, who no longer have a pool, were invited to join our pool. Kelly has high hopes that, if we have good summer weather, we will see good financials.

Offer Resident Rates for Pools to Evergreen Park Residents

Andersen asked about Evergreen Park residents receiving our resident rates for the pools. Kelly said the offer was intended for Aqua members for one year, but they mistakenly included all Evergreen Park residents, and we will honor it. Kelly thinks that most residents who swim were Aqua members.

Andersen said this matter needs to be voted on by the Board. He asked if we have this arrangement currently for Chicago Ridge residents. Kelly said yes, and Chicago Ridge reimburses us for the difference.

Andersen motioned that we offer residents of Evergreen Park our pools at Oak Lawn resident rates. He asked Kelly to make the offer to Mayor Sexton and his Board, and if approved, to ask if they would do the same thing as Chicago Ridge for a year and see how it works. Callahan seconded.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioners wished everyone Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Wallace met with Lisa Durcan and staff to plan a Dogs Day Event, "Woofstock," in September at Wolfe Wildlife. Staff was well prepared with many ideas for activities, and it will be a nice community event. It will be advertised at the Chamber's Pet Parade.

Callahan thanked Craig and his staff for a phenomenal job on snow removal this year, as always. It is exciting that Spring is almost here.

Murphy also thanked Craig and staff for doing a wonderful job cleaning up parks and keeping everything nice. Murphy with some friends and relatives attended The Three Men in Kilts event at Stony Creek on Saturday. Mary Grana did a wonderful job getting people in and ensuring they had a good time. It was the second time they went to see a band there, and it was a packed house again.

Andersen gave Hayes a flyer from a public accounting firm, suggesting they be on our bid list next time. He also received a letter from IAPD about Friends of Illinois Parks and Illinois Conservation Foundation's raffle. The agency that sells the most tickets gets \$5,000; Alsip is now leading. The grand prize is \$100,000, and ticket #1 is owned by three Oak Lawn Park District Commissioners.

Andersen is glad that we are looking at doing something at Memorial Park's splash pad area. He referred to a previous May 2005 report from Richard Scott of Water Technology. His recommendations at that time included that, "If the pool was permanently closed, it might be possible to keep this pool as a spray run without fences if it is modified so that all the water drains down." He concluded, "The existing children's pool at Memorial Park should be converted to a spray ground."

Andersen said that was five years ago, and that is what he has been saying. If a new splash pad at Sullivan Park is less than \$25,000, we need to look at doing something at Memorial Park with the existing one. It is zero depth to one side with a sitting area on the other side. We do not have to put in new drains, just connect them to the parameter and fill in the center portion with concrete to make a splash pad. Andersen suggested that it be the start of the plans with Vann. He said that last month, Memorial Park Pool was voted on with a 4-1 vote to eliminate it, and he asked Commissioners to reconsider. It would not cost much to make it a splash pad with drainage already there. It could be modified per the consultant.

Callahan said he voted to do what the Board said, but he also asked to move forward to do something with OSLAD to follow up on Andersen's suggestion. It was a money decision. Callahan said we are looking at it. The \$23,000 Sullivan Park splash pad has two jets and a mushroom tricking water down. The splash pad Vann referred to for Memorial Park would be elaborate, and we may be able to charge for its use. It is a \$250,000 - \$300,000 project. If we built it into the OSLAD grant, the splash pad would cost possibly \$125,000.

Andersen asked for something that residents in the area can use this summer, similar to what will be done at Sullivan Park. We can always build the bigger one adjacent to it. It is a minimal investment for a lot of return. Andersen asked the Board to consider doing something now.

Farrell commented on the Special Recreation awards. He said the faces of the mothers were filled with pride and joy for their Special Rec children honored tonight, and the Park District does great work in that area.

FINANCE MEETING:

At 8:45 p.m., Andersen motioned to adjourn to a Finance Meeting, Callahan seconded.

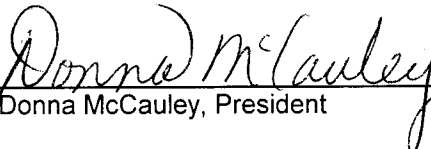
The Board began the Finance Meeting at 8:53 p.m. and adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Andersen motioned to adjourn, Callahan seconded.

Voting: Aye: All - Nay: None.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna McCauley, President



Cindy Pender, Recording Secretary