

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 8, 2009**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on June 8, 2009 with President McCauley presiding.

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present. The Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

McCauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Andersen, Callahan, Murphy, Wallace and McCauley

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of May 11, 2009

Callahan moved, Murphy seconded, to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteer of the Month, Elizabeth O'Laughlin

McCauley recognized Elizabeth O'Laughlin for volunteering for the past five years to pack boxes for soldiers. Elizabeth performs many different jobs: sorting, packing, taping boxes and completing customs forms. Elizabeth is flexible, works hard wherever needed, and brings a bright outlook to her work.

Michael Putman, Irish Dancing World Champion

McCauley noted the Marist High School marquis and other signs around town congratulating Michael for achieving World Champion Irish dancer. The Oak Lawn Park District was privileged to have Michael and his sister Maggie perform at Shamrock Suppers, and we join the entire community in applauding Michael's talent and accomplishment. McCauley wished him continued success.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Van re Chicago Ridge Prairie

Mr. Van of LandTech Landscape Architecture discussed the Chicago Ridge Prairie in terms of an OSLAD grant application. He said the prairie is probably the most undeveloped, unknown natural resource in the area. It is a very unique limestone prairie within the State, with 150 rare insects and plant species. The Illinois State Preservation Agency has made it a pet project site.

Mr. Van said the grant process requires bringing the prairie into interactive/passive mode. We want to introduce people into it while protecting fragile ecosystems. He worked with Lou Mule of Tallgrass Associates, the State, and Army Corp. of Engineers to develop a plan. A portion of the site had illegal dumping, which created a contaminated wetland. The seeds and land are intact, but buried under invasive wooden species that would need to be carefully removed at considerable expense. He recommended removing a portion of the growth without damaging the untouched native area. He suggested creating an educational trail, observation deck, and interpretive center with educational or interactive signs. Another path would lead to overlook decks of the pristine prairie area, and boardwalks could be added in wet areas. Prairie burns are currently being done in stages, and he hopes to bring back the entire prairie in five years.

An OSLAD grant would give the project a good starting basis to get visitors to the site to learn about it. He is looking into other funding from the Army Corp. of Engineers, Federal wetland protection funds, and the State.

Kelly said we have been very involved in the National Recreation and Park Association's ("NRPA") No Child Left Inside program the past few years. That initiative is part of all our programs and had a big impact in receiving the last grant. The prairie project is part of our park master plan, and this study was needed as part of that plan. Kelly recognizes that the capital projects budget is limited, and it is a tough year from a financial standpoint.

Van said that this project was considered in part because it has several multi-jurisdictional partners and public support. Kelly discussed the Illinois Nature Preserve partnership. Van noted that the agency is part of the DNR, and it analyzes different sites. Education is one of its priorities, and the members also like that the pristine part of the prairie will not be disturbed. The OLSAD grant program is offered through the DNR, which has funded several nature preserve projects in the past; and Van is optimistic about funding for Chicago Ridge Prairie.

McCauley and Kelly thanked Van for his presentation.

FINANCE REPORT:

Callahan moved, Wallace seconded to approve payables of \$609,430.07 for the period of May 11, 2009 to June 8, 2009.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Prevailing Wage Act, Inclusion Policy, No Smoking Policy, and Policy on Citizen Advisory Boards

Andersen motioned, Callahan seconded, to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Emergency Purchasing Procedure Policy

Callahan motioned to approve the policy, based on Attorney Farrell review; Andersen seconded.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

LEGAL: Farrell asked for Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$10,000: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

McCauley said summer is here, and we see it throughout the Village with children in the playgrounds, activity in the fields and day camps starting. Centennial Pool grand opening is on Friday, June 12; and she hopes families will join the festivities and dive into the pleasures of the new amenities.

McCauley attended the 20th Anniversary Revue; and the scenery, costumes, lighting, and orchestra were spectacular. She congratulated each of the actors and individuals who have given their time and talent over the past 20 years to entertain the residents of Oak Lawn, and asked Kelly to send a congratulatory letter as well. Our Park District should be very proud!

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Kelly anticipates an awesome opening event for our "mini water park" at Centennial Pool.

Kelly noted that the Park District has a nice partnership with the Village for movies and concerts on the Village Green. The Park District pays for half the cost. The collaboration between the two entities provides these events for residents. The first movie of the season is on Friday, June 12; and we will be hosting our second concert on Sunday, June 14. These events make for a great summer!

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Murphy said it was a busy first month as a Board member, and she is very proud to be part of the Park District. She attended the first concert on the Green, and it was very nice. Although a chilly night, lots of people attended and had a good time. She agreed that it is a good partnership between the Village and Park District.

Murphy and her family viewed Centennial Pool, and her 14-year old son was impressed with the new slides.

Murphy attended the dinner for Park District volunteers that Chris Tiesch hosts. It is impressive to see the many volunteers who help in any way they can so that others have opportunities to enjoy the Park District.

Murphy attended a meeting with key employees, and noted they are a very professional staff that works hard, and it is a privilege to know them. Andersen agreed that staff is what makes the Park District great.

Andersen attended an Illinois Association of Park District's ("IAPD") function recently and said Oak Lawn is probably the most well known park district in the state. We are the only district recognized statewide and nationally with Accreditation. We are now in the re-accreditation process, which is why the Director is bringing various policies before the Board for approval.

While in Washington, D.C., Andersen and fellow Commissioners met with both Senators, and he followed up with a letter to Assistant Majority Leader Richard Durbin and other elected officials regarding the stimulus package. A Senator from Oklahoma had offered an amendment that would exclude park districts from receiving these funds. Andersen received a response from Senator Durbin saying he voted against the amendment, but it was approved by the Senate. The provision was then altered during a House/Senate conference, and the final version of the economic recovery package did not eliminate park districts from receiving funds. Andersen said this was a great achievement by the NRPA and IAPD.

Andersen said it will be an exciting week with the new, improved Centennial Pool opening. He welcomed Commissioner Murphy and looks forward to working with her.

Wallace said she has been visiting different parks and neighborhoods; and from a real estate perspective, there are many people moving to Oak Lawn. She visited Lewandowski Park and was impressed with how nice it looked. Wolfe Wildlife and Centennial Park also looked nice and were packed with people when she visited. New businesses are opening in Oak Lawn. Our concerts with the Village, plus other Village planned events, are keeping Oak Lawn on the map. People want to live in Oak Lawn, and the Park District is a big factor because of the many different programs and well-maintained parks we offer.

Callahan thanked Kelly for her hard work on agency re-accreditation and noted some of the projects are tedious and painstaking. He thanked Kelly for doing a wonderful job. Kelly acknowledged it is a team effort. Callahan thanked Joel Craig for keeping the parks well maintained. He wished everyone a great summer.

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

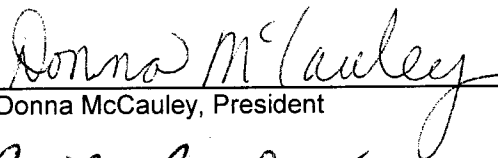
Callahan moved, Andersen seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

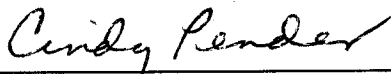
ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna McCauley, President



Cindy Pender, Recording Secretary