

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2006**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on August 14, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Callahan, Andersen, Vorderer, Wallace and McCauley

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting of July 10, 2006**

Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:**

**A. Crystals Adult Synchro Formation Team Honored**

McCauley congratulated the Crystals in capturing two gold medals at the 2006 ISI World Recreational Team Championships, where 1,850 competitors from six countries participated. The Crystals, having represented the OLPD Ice Arena since 1991, took first place in both Long and Short programs at this event.

**B. Superfri Band Honored**

McCauley congratulated Superfri for winning the 2006 Battle of the Bands and the South Suburban Parks Teen Regional Band competitions, and she wished them success as they head to the IPRA State competition.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to approve payables in the amount of \$351,153.12.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. Job Descriptions, Board Secretary/Signatory and Recording Secretary**

Andersen verified that these job descriptions were approved by Attorney Farrell. Andersen moved, Vorderer seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**B. Reallocation of Infrastructure Project Funds, Phase II**

Callahan confirmed that the estimates are “ballpark” to conservative figures. Jim Ribikawskis advised that these projects need to move forward--be installed, paid for and reimbursed--by April 2007. Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**C. Telephone System Upgrade Phase II** Vorderer moved, Andersen seconded to approve the Telephone System Upgrade Phase II and the change of carriers to GlobalCom.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**LEGAL:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$10,000:**

**A. Approval of ¾ Ton Pick-up Truck**

Callahan confirmed with Joel Craig that the sale of Hawkinson Ford, the lowest bidder, will not affect this transaction with the Park District. Andersen moved, Callahan seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**B. Approval of Mini Cargo Van**

Callahan moved, Andersen seconded to approve the purchase of a Mini Cargo Van from the lowest bidder, Hawkinson Ford.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

McCauley discussed Lawn Manor Park—residents are using the equipment and it looks beautiful! She thanked Joel Craig and staff for their efforts. McCauley is pleased to see work begin on the Pavilion parking lot.

The Southland Senior Games are in their 11<sup>th</sup> year, having been initiated by the OLPD. The event received great coverage by area newspapers. Seniors truly appreciate these programs, and McCauley thanked the staff for their efforts.

She noted that the fall program guide is available and filled with quality programs and services. She thanked the staff for their enormous amount of work to offer these programs.

**MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:**

Director Kelly explained the University of Illinois Community Recreation Needs Assessment Survey. This program involves citizens in the basic needs of the community and determines how Parks and Recreation can contribute toward human development. Kelly met with Uol Champaign representatives to begin the program. One area Kelly hopes to focus on with this survey is aquatics and its future. The Uol panel will meet in September with OLPD professional staff, the Board of Commissioners and a Recreation Advisory Board now being formed.

The needs assessment is one component required to receive NRPA accreditation. There are 156 standards of efficiency and effectiveness to be met. The City of Little Rock, AK paid for Kelly's visit to review the accreditation process. Kelly expressed enthusiasm for this program, which will bring the OLPD to a higher level of excellence.

**MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:**

**A. Dog Park**

Wallace raised the matter of a dog park, which had been discussed at a prior meeting. This is a park for families with dogs. Wallace has been reviewing what is involved to create a dog park and looked at other communities that offer one. She noted that Cook County Animal Control and Animal Welfare League representatives are supportive of the idea.

Wallace proposed an ad hoc Citizens Dog Committee and provided an outline of its mission. The committee would brainstorm and research what is feasible in Oak Lawn and bring the information back to the Board. It would review whether there is land available or if funds can be raised to buy property, as well as animal control and socialization issues and community enrichment. The committee would be comprised of herself and any other interested Commissioners, Joel Craig, representatives from Cook County Animal Control and Animal Welfare, and a few interested community members. She asked Board Members to consider this plan.

Callahan commended Wallace for her dedication to pursuing this park. He suggested that because Oak Lawn is land locked, to expand on the idea and create a "regional" dog park. He suggested working with surrounding communities or other governmental agencies such as Cook County, that have both interest and available land.

Wallace agreed that a regional dog park is a great idea, but added that there may be an Oak Lawn park that is underutilized. Creating a dog park there would not take away a park, but provide better usage. Furthermore, she is enthusiastic about fundraising efforts that could help pay expenses, such as fencing.

Vorderer also supported the concept of a regional dog park. He reviewed that when it was proposed to "sandwich" a dog park within an existing three-acre Oak Lawn park used for baseball, there was resident opposition. Land needs to be located, and he cautioned against forming a committee if there is no place in Oak Lawn to put a dog park. He is in favor of a committee whose agenda is a partnership in a regional dog park.

Wallace said that a handful of people were opposed to the dog park, partly because they were concerned about dogs running loose. The committee could also educate the public about how a dog park operates and that the area is fenced. Wallace said a dog park is a very popular concept, and she previously provided over 500 signatures of people who wanted one. She asked the commissioners to keep an open mind regarding available space in Oak Lawn, and perhaps a diagram is needed to show a proposed park in relation to nearby homes.

Andersen also supported a regional dog park and believes this is a foundation-type project. He would like to determine a location for the park before he can support or oppose it and offered some ideas outside the village boundaries, but closeby.

Wallace asked for direction to proceed and wants to keep the process moving forward. Callahan reiterated that the commissioners are open to the concept of a regional dog park, but don't want to give committee members false hope of building a dog park within Oak Lawn. Vorderer suggested before a committee is considered, that Director Kelly contact surrounding park districts to see if they are interested in a dog park and bring that information back to next month's meeting. McCauley concurred that other community interest should be ascertained, then the committee should be formed to include representatives from that area. Kelly stated that while aquatics will be in the needs assessment program, it is also possible to include a dog park; and the Board can discuss that matter when it meets with Uol representatives next month.

Wallace expressed frustration in not getting a committee started now, and feels residents are owed the respect to look into it. Wallace stated there may be a lack of trust and that she wants to bring ideas to the board and not have one person take on responsibilities of the entire park district. McCauley stated that the issue is not one of trust, but that Kelly merely has personal contacts in the surrounding communities, and it is more accessible for her to contact them directly.

Vorderer motioned and Andersen seconded, that Director Kelly contact surrounding communities within a 5-10 mile radius to ascertain their interest and support of a regional dog park and their interest in forming a joint committee to build it. Kelly is to provide the Commissioners with the results of that inquiry in two weeks.  
Voting: Aye: Callahan, Andersen, Vorderer, McCauley – Abstain: Wallace.

#### **B. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Daytime Activities**

Kelly explained that for at least the last 16 years the 4<sup>th</sup> of July daytime festivities have been held at Memorial Park. She asked if the Board should consider moving the event to another park such as Centennial. A lot of patrons complained that there is not a pool at Memorial Park. She opened the matter for discussion.

Vorderer expressed hesitation to move this "tradition" from Memorial Park, noting that the event is successful although attendees miss the pool. The evening fireworks display would still be held at Richards High School, and Memorial Park is closeby.

Kelly mentioned other factors to consider: the Village parade was originally planned for 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, which would have led into Memorial Park, but it was moved to 95<sup>th</sup> Street. Chris Chenoweth added that Memorial Park hosts other events, such as the Labor Day celebration. Families would stay longer at the park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July if there was a pool--they tended to use the pool and then have a picnic. If it's a hot day, people leave Memorial Park to go to a pool. If the event is moved, it will need to be well publicized. Vorderer noted that the 95<sup>th</sup> Street parade will not be a natural draw to Centennial Park because the parade ends two miles from the park.

Lisa Durcan said another factor is that Centennial Park has a larger parking lot, but the main reason is the lack of a pool at Memorial Park. People liked the \$1 pool admission and would rotate between the pool and the park, but now the event is missing that element. Centennial pool is not widely known, and this event would bring attention to it. Kelly added that some indoor athletic events could be added and held at the Pavilion in the afternoon. She suggested trying the event at Centennial Park for a year.

Andersen noted that 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities have been held at Memorial Park since the 1970's, when fireworks were shot from the baseball field. But a southwest wind one year left firework debris throughout the neighborhood, so the fireworks display was moved to Richards High School. He agrees that parking and lack of

a pool are problems and is willing to try the event at Centennial Park. If the event is moved, the only thing missing would be fishing, but that's offered on Memorial Day. He noted that the people who attend the fireworks display are not coming directly from Memorial Park; they come from all over town.

McCauley summarized that there are several pros for trying it at Centennial Park: ample parking, a swimming pool and an opportunity to run athletic events inside. Callahan asked Kelly to consider adding some new activities because the park is bigger.

Andersen motioned, Callahan seconded to move 4<sup>th</sup> of July daytime activities to Centennial Park for one year.  
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**C. Other Matters of the Commissioners:**

Callahan echoed sentiments that Lawn Manor Park looks great and residents are pleased, and he commended Joel Craig and staff for not just improving that park but also a different park each year. He encouraged Wallace to keep working on the dog park idea and get everyone in agreement to accomplish the project.

Andersen updated the Board about a recent vote for land and water conservation funding. Over the years Board members have attended legislative conferences and lobbied our senators in this regard. The current administration has tried to eliminate this program, but lobbying efforts kept it funded. When we met with our senators in Washington, DC, this year, we had reason to believe they were in support of funding. Dr. Flickinger, IAPD Executive Director, followed up with Senators Obama and Durbin to request their continued support. Senator Obama replied in a July 18 letter that he supported full funding. Yet when the vote was taken, Senators Obama and Durbin voted against it. The land and water conservation funding passed, but our senators were 2 of 25 who voted against it.

On another matter, Andersen was asked by District 218 school officials whether the OLPD would be receptive to a co-op venture on a field and other recreational matters. The school district wants to improve its soccer program and have additional indoor facilities for the Richards High School tennis team. At tonight's District 218 Board Meeting, an ad hoc committee was appointed to discuss the possibilities of joint ventures with us. Andersen would be pleased to represent OLPD on that committee. Vorderer agreed with Andersen that any time the OLPD can partnership with others and spend taxpayer money wisely to get maximum services, it is a great idea.

Vorderer motioned, Callahan seconded that Andersen represent the OLPD on a District 218 ad hoc committee to partnership for use of their athletic fields and the park's facilities to provide recreational opportunities to students and residents.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

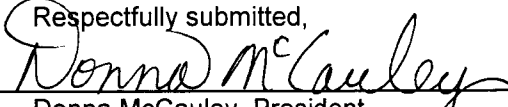
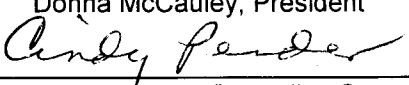
None.

**ADJOURN:**

Andersen moved, Vorderer seconded to adjourn.

Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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Donna McCauley, President  
  
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Cindy Pender, Recording Secretary