

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING August 13, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Director Suhs. The meeting was held at the Merrionette Park District, Merrionette Park, Illinois

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANETTE HUBER
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	AUSTIN SANDUSKY

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER
ERIN LYNCH	SUPERINTENDENT
LULA HERMOSILLO	OUTREACH SPECIALIST

ABSENT

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
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ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – Executive Director Chesna introduced Lula Hermosillo, our new Outreach Specialist, who will be transferring to the Summit office the first week in September. Lula has lived in Summit for 29 years and has 6 children.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2008

Motion made by Director Gleason to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on July 9, 2008. Motion was seconded by Director Huber. All Directors were in favor; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Leonard. Director Huber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$157,521.11 plus the three certificates of deposit. The motion was seconded by Director Dziallo. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 7—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna reported that the Hawaiian Luau, Concert in the Park, Old Fashioned BBQ and Friday Night Dance Fever all took place in July. Since the Concert in the Park was free, we had a lot of participants registered, but only six of them showed up. We had arranged for staff and snacks for a lot more. It was suggested that for free events, we could charge a fee, but then refund the money later.

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Executive Director Chesna announced that Shawna Young is the Employee of the Month. Shawna was the Site Director of the Get Up & Go Camp and was very enthusiastic and did a great job motivating the clients. Her camp raised \$166 from the car wash and then donated part of it to buy ice cream for the Family Days event. Director Dziallo said that Ronnie really enjoyed himself. She thought that Shawna as well as Mary and Stacey did a good job—everything went well.

C. DAY CAMP UPDATE

We celebrated the end of camp on August 1st with a Family Day celebration including a picnic and fun and games. The clients performed a talent show for parents and families. The counselors put together a DVD of camp memories. The board viewed this video at the meeting.

D. AUTISM CAMP CANCELLED

This camp was cancelled because we didn't receive the response we had hoped. We will get it in the brochure next year and really publicize it and get the word out. We were ready to hire the Elim staff, but with only three possible participants, we had to cancel.

E. WORTH PARK DISTRICT

Lori will be making a presentation to the Worth Park District board next Wednesday, August 20th. Lori will bring the board binders with all of our materials—brochure, Articles of Agreement, By-Laws, etc. Lori will also show them the ITRS video about joining an SRA. If they choose to levy for us in December, they would join us in May.

F. MARKETING POSITION (RE-OPENS)

The position is currently posted on the IPRA website. We have three candidates so far, and we plan to hire someone by mid-September. We already interviewed one person from Oak Forest Park District, and we have another interview next week.

G. OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Lula will be moving over to the Summit office on September 8th. Lula just enrolled in classes—English as a Second Language and a basic computer class. SWSRA is paying for these non-credit courses, but not paying for her time to attend the classes. Lula has put together various programs, such as one called Viva Mexico! Lula was in Mexico recently, and she brought back a lot of things for these programs that she purchased there..

H. SWSRA OPEN HOUSE IN SUMMIT

Lori invited the board to an open house that SWSRA will be hosting on Saturday, September 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., to introduce ourselves and Lula to the residents of Justice and Summit. We will have games and face painting, etc. We have ordered a banner that is a floor model that rolls up and you can take it with you. We purchased one for Alsip and one for Summit as well.

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I. ENGLISH/SPANISH FALL FLYER

The English/Spanish flyer that will be mailed to every household in Justice and Summit is almost finalized. We had a special brochure that was half English and half Spanish, but we had to pull some pages out of it because it was over the budget. The flyer that is to be mailed consists of one brief page “Who is SWSRA?” (and where can I get more information, etc.). The cost will be \$3,500, and the printer is taking care of the whole mailing. We are hoping that we will get a lot of response from this. If we do, we will go into Blue Island and Posen with the same type of mailing.

J. MARKETING UPDATES

Executive Director Chesna advised that we have ordered banners for Apollo and Summit; participated in the Alsip Street Fair with a booth, kid’s games and balloons; participated in National Night Out in Alsip where Alsip and SWSRA were the only two with a booth that you could come to and play a game. Some of the police officers and maintenance people didn’t even know SWSRA existed, so it is really good that we get out there which the marketing person will help us do.

Director Gleason said that Midlothian is having their health fair on October 18th at Bremmen and the Scarecrow Festival on October 26th. There is one hour of time to fill in the gym from 12 to 1 p.m. Director Gleason will send more information.

Director Leonard said that Palos Heights Community Expo & Health Fair is May 2nd and the marathon is May 3rd.

K. JOHN MCGOVERN

John McGovern arrived and gave a presentation about his new company to the board. The board discussed the possibility of a joint training program.

L. FALL BROCHURE HAS ARRIVED

The brochure has arrived from the printer and will be delivered this week

Executive Director Chesna advised the Board that the Parents’ Group will start in September. We are sending press releases and flyers out publicizing this group. We have the speakers lined up—one from Sertoma and one from Arc; and we’re going to do one from SWSRA (why we do what we do, for example, why we cancel at the last minute). It is good that we are having this parents’ group—it is good to have their input.

Director Suhs expressed his opinion that it really wasn’t necessary to make a motion anymore to approve the Executive Director’s Report. The Corresponding Secretary, Marge Cozzone, felt that this had always been done for the purpose of the board accepting all of the actions taken and reported on by the Executive Director, even if they didn’t involve expenditures. Marge will check Robert’s Rules.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT – None.

CORRESPONDENCE –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

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1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Huber to approve bills for the month of July, 2008 in the amount of \$24,010.36. Motion was seconded by Director Sandusky. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 7—0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS -

NEW BUSINESS –

Lori announced that SWSRA would be having a Sports Banquet on August 21st at Barraco's (???) on 127th & Kedzie. The Rec Dept. decided that rather than having a bowling banquet, etc., they would have one big sports banquet. Lori invited the Board to attend and said that SWSRA would take care of the fee—just let us know.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Leonard to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Austin Sandusky, Corporate Secretary