

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER  
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING December 10, 2008
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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Director Suhs. The meeting was held at the Alsip Park District, Alsip, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

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

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

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

ABSENT

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Motion made by Director Gleason to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2008. Motion was seconded by Director Leonard. All Directors were in favor; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Leonard. Director Sandusky made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$120,647.35 plus the two certificates of deposit. The motion was seconded by Director Dziallo. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 6—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna said that the Candlelight Bowl had been reviewed earlier. She reported that the Pilgrim Rock Dance and Gobble Gobble Fun both went and were successful

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Lori explained that no one was selected this month because this involves an employee doing something significant—more than just their normal job. Jennifer Belter is worthy and will be honored in January when the web site is finished. Lori is very impressed with Jenny and hopes she can continue to work for us after her internship is finished if anyone is interested in sharing her with SWSRA.

C. WORTH PARK DISTRICT

Lori advised that she did have the signed agreement with her from Worth. It was signed on November 19<sup>th</sup> by their board, and it was unanimous. Lori did send Worth Park District a plant to welcome them and we are planning an open house for them. Carlo will start attending SWSRA board meetings in January. Director Suhs signed the agreement. Lori said that Evergreen Park may also be interested in talking with us. One of the Hawaii trip participants is an Evergreen Park resident, and they paid the out of district fee for her

D. MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Lori went to the Southwest Coop “Destiny Program” on a very cold, snowy day. Only two parents showed up, and six speakers were invited to speak. They felt terrible.

We participated in the Midlothian Parade by decorating the minivan. It was very cold that day and Nancy DiGangi and her two children drove the van.

E. SWSRA SUPPORT GROUP

SWSRA is hosting a holiday party for the Parents Support Group. Everyone was asked to bring either an appetizer or a dessert. There is no speaker involved because it will be strictly a social and it should be a lot of fun. Director Gleason said that she has been advertising this on the cable show that she does and asked if we had a speaker lined up for January. Lori responded that we just secured Sertoma regarding hearing and speech. In February we will have Senator Maloney.

F. HAWAII TRIP

Executive Director Chesna stated that the trip was currently underway, but that she hadn’t spoken to them since the first day. Director Leonard said that he had spoken to them and they were having a good time.

G. OFFICE SPACE

Executive Director Chesna reported that Director Huber and Darren McLaughlin went to look at a piece of property (the old Armour Tile building) on 123<sup>rd</sup> Street. Alsip is looking to build a building on Kostner near the skate park, and their Board has been talking about this for several years. It has never come to fruition, so Lori told Director Huber that she was going to start looking at property and maybe this would be good as an existing building to convert over to what they want. The Fire Department wants a “Safety Town” and Alsip also wants extra space. The Alsip Board also wants to include SWSRA. This piece of property seemed like a big enough space to accommodate all of this. The building needs renovation and they are asking \$745,000 which is about \$30 per square foot which is reasonable. Joe Schmidt, an Alsip Board member, told Lori to call the building inspector to look at the building. He didn’t find anything wrong that was major. Some repairs had been made to the roof. Penny Lane Preschool has also been looking at this building for the last six months. Lori is planning to look at several other buildings right around here, and she plans to get a civil engineer out to estimate what it would cost to renovate. Lori will set up appointments for several buildings. Lori doesn’t want to buy—she wants Alsip Park District to buy and she wants to rent. The Alsip Board is very supportive,

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Director Leonard asked if Alsip has the money, and Director Gleason asked if they could do something like that without going to referendum. Lori responded that she didn't know these answers, but that Director Huber has been told to keep looking with Lori. Mike Biardo said that the purchase price would be one thing, but the renovation expense would be another. Director Huber has suggested that maybe we could lease it for a couple of years, but it will take a lot of brainstorming to finalize this and it is not going to happen overnight. Lori mentioned a building on Cicero that she had taken some Board members to several years ago that is still available, as well as another property on Cicero that looks beautiful that has been sitting empty also. Director Dziallo had also told Lori about a building and Lori plans to look at it. Director mentioned that she knows of another building on Ridgeway that she thinks would be good for SWSRA since it has a lot of office space as well as a warehouse section. She will check if it is still available

#### H. NRPA NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Lori advised that the NRPA Legislative Forum is coming up in March. Lori will be attending as the Great Lakes Regional Council Representative. Lori encourages others to attend; especially with the new administration, it is very important that delegates go there and meet their congressmen. Lori thinks that Director Huber and one of her board members are also going to go, and they can all share a room. Director Suhs inquired where it takes place, and Lori responded that it is always in Washington, DC.

#### I. AUDIT

Executive Director Chesna said that she is distributing the final copies that she needs to discuss. Lori apologized and said things have been rearranged since she had to move out of her office and all of the staff is gone, including Marge so Lori is a little discombobulated. Lori just received the audit yesterday. She read through the management report with the Board and was startled to read some of the comments. Lori requested that we table the approval of the audit until she could talk to Paul at Knutte & Associates to have him explain in detail. The Board agreed.

#### J. SWSRA EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY

Lori reminded the board about the upcoming party on January 9<sup>th</sup>, and asked them to please not forget about it. We are working to prepare a nice program. It will be a lot more casual setting, so please bring your spouses or significant others. It should be a nice party.

Director Sandusky announced that he will be doing a new brochure for Blue Island Park District with B-Allan Graphics and asked for any insert that SWSRA may have to include. The due date will be around the end of January, so we will have time to get our information to Blue Island.

Director Suhs said that they are still doing their brochure, but he noticed that our registration deadline was December 5<sup>th</sup> for SWSRA programs. He ended up taking that line out since it was already past. Lori said that was good that he did. Marge had told him that registration could be ongoing which is true in most cases. Lori did explain that we are trying to get tougher because people have to start adhering to the deadlines. What is happening is that we are cancelling programs because no one registers until the last minute. We need to line up the staff and the facility, etc. We just revamped our deadlines, and Marge is editing it. If our deadline is different than yours, then it is a good idea to take it out so that it is open and at least they will call. Director Suhs pointed out that SWSRA programs don't start until January. Lori said that we have our staff meeting set for the first week in January and at that time we assign staff based on enrollment and then programs start the second week in January.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT - None.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Gleason to approve bills for the month of November, 2008 in the amount of \$19,813.44. Motion was seconded by Director Dziallo. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 6—0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Lori advised that she and Lula Hermosillo went to the school again yesterday. We met at 7:30 a.m. and two teachers showed up. Lula goes all out—she had a nice spread of grapes and cookies and raffled off two SWSRA cookbooks. She puts a lot of effort into things. The teachers were impressed by the services we offer. They said that they get our brochure, but admitted that they don't actually read it. Now they want us to have a booth at the Christmas program. We are still trying to get the after-school program off the ground on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although the program is free, nobody signed up for it. Lula just got a call from a Blue Island resident who must have attended her church in Summit. They got her number out of the church bulletin where she had something printed in Spanish. Now Lula is thinking about seeking out the Spanish population in Blue Island. She is actually meeting with them right here in Alsip as we speak. She is really trying. Director Leonard said that he thinks it takes time to build a relationship that will grow. Lori said that Lula has a parents meeting tomorrow—she is talking to the parents at the school district. The Christmas program is on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and since Lula can't do that date, Lori is sending Denise to staff the booth. Lori said that at least the teachers are finding out about SWSRA one by one.

Director Dziallo announced that she has contacted a woman she knows named Marguerite who does ESL (English as a second language). She has said that she will be happy to help SWSRA on a volunteer basis with our Spanish translation

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Leonard to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Sandusky. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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