

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING January 14, 2009
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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 10:30 a.m. by Director Suhs. The meeting was held at the Summit Park District, Summit, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANETTE HUBER
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER

ABSENT

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	AUSTIN SANDUSKY
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2008

Motion made by Director Gleason to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on December 10, 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 Huber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$101,195.28 plus the two certificates of deposit. The motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 5—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. **DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**
Executive Director Chesna said that the Hawaii trip had been discussed last month. Other events in December included the Feed the Hungry Dance, Zoo Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo and Christmas at Georgio's. Director Huber added that next year we can plan earlier to do Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo.
- B. **EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**
Jennifer Belter, our marketing intern, was named Employee of the Month for January and honored at our Recognition Party. Jenny is a hard working young lady, and we are happy to have her. She was going to come to present the web site to the board today, but due to the weather, she will have to do it next month. By then, it will be completed.
- C. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DINNER**
Lori reported that the event was attended by approximately 30 people including three board members and their spouses—Evelyn Gleason, Mike Leonard and Brenda Dziallo. Since we had it in January rather than December, the attendance was a little better. Everyone had a good time. The event cost just over \$900 which was a lot cheaper than we have spent previously. Lori reiterated the many accomplishments that SWSRA had achieved during the year. Director Leonard said that Lori deserved credit for her leadership. Lori announced that Marge Cozzone was named employee of the year, Marty Lyons was volunteer of the year, Mike Leonard was awarded SWSRA "Award of Excellence" - Individual, and Summit Park District was awarded SWSRA "Award of Excellence" - Agency. Lori distributed gifts of personalized pens and sweatshirts to the board members present who had not attended the party.
- D. **IMRF & 501©3 VS. FOUNDATION**
Executive Director Chesna explained that she had received a call from IMRF back in June about this question, and our attorney told us to "do nothing" since in their opinion we are just an extension of the park districts. IMRF also said "do nothing." Lori still felt that she wanted to explore the possibility of creating a foundation and dissolve our 501©3 status in case this comes up in the future. Our attorney again said "no" and said this would not be necessary since we are an existing 501©3. Lori said that she could use the help of a foundation for fundraising. Director Leonard asked what would be the difference if we were set up as a foundation because we would still be a 501©3? Director Gleason noted that IPRA, PDRMA, etc. are all in IMRF and are also 501©3's. Director Gleason feels we should let the "big boys" fight it when and if it becomes a problem. Lori explained that SWSRA is one of the few SRA's that doesn't have a foundation. Lori said that she has something from IMRF in writing that she put in a file. Now Lori will ask Steve Bloomberg to put his response in writing.
- E. **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2009**
Lori reviewed several upcoming events that SWSRA is arranging for 2009.
- F. **MARKETING UPDATE**
Executive Director Chesna stated that the new SWSRA Parents Support Group in Summit was supposed to take place last night, but no one attended.

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Some new SWSRA 3-fold flyers were distributed to each board member for their district. Lori suggested that these flyers be used to distribute at special events, etc. rather than our large brochure.

Lori would like to install a bulletin board at each member district. It would have a glass cover to protect the material, and SWSRA staff would keep it current on a regular basis. Each district can submit a bill—up to \$250—for the purchase of this bulletin board. Director Leonard suggested that it may be beneficial to order these in bulk for all districts and get a better price. Jennifer Belter is looking into the cost and will let us know. Director Leonard will also talk to Tim Perrino.

G. IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE

Executive Director Chesna reported that there are three staff members attending the IPRA conference this year. Marge will be attending one session on Thursday and then looking at registration software.

H. BUDGET

Lori advised that she is currently working on the budget and plans to present it at the next board meeting.

I. SWSRA.COM

Executive Director Chesna said Jennifer Belter, our marketing intern, will be coming to the next meeting to present the new redesigned SWSRA web site

J. AUDIT

Lori addressed the management letter received from Knutte and Associates. The auditor had amended the original letter and admitted that he had inadvertently included the same management letter from the previous year again this year.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The Alsip Little League approached Lori regarding a Texas Hold 'em Tournament they were planning as a fundraiser. Since they are not a 501 (c) 3, they wanted to attach themselves to SWSRA and offered us 25% of their profits. According to the Charitable Games Act, the proceeds raised from the event must be exclusively for the organization permitted to conduct the game. The insurance would have been an issue also. Lori declined the offer.

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 December, 2008 in the amount of \$21,813.19. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 5—0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS

Director Leonard made a motion to accept the audit as presented for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2008. The motion was seconded by Director Gleason. All directors were in favor; none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Gleason questioned the \$5,959 member district payment amount made by Posen and why it didn't match the current amount projected in the budget. Marge Cozzone explained that although this was a recently received payment, it was actually for the second half of the last budget year; and, therefore, the previous year's amount was remitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Gleason to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Austin Sandusky, Corporate Secretary