

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

June 13, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANNETTE HUBER
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER

ABSENT

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	DOMINICK COGAN

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2007

Motion made by Director Leonard to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on May 9, 2007. 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 DeBella. Director Huber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$148,261.21 plus the three Certificates of Deposit. Director DeBella seconded the motion. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried, 5-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna told the Board about the successful events in May. The Spring Formal was a very nice event, although we had 80 to 100 less participants than normal because another SRA is now having their own spring formal. South Suburban SRAs rotate dances and we each host. We also had a Fishing & Picnic Lunch in May as well as the Oakbrook Mall Shopping Spree and Petland Pet Therapy.

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Executive Director Chesna reported that we had two individuals named as Employee of the Month in May. Maureen McGreal and Amanda Gallagher were both very helpful in gearing up for day camp.

C. A T & T GRANT UPDATE

Executive Director Chesna informed the board that all the items listed on the grant were actually purchased before May 1st. Lori and Director Huber already used the equipment when they did a presentation for the Alsip Chamber of Commerce based upon the Fish Philosophy. It was a big success, but we found out afterward when we called the company that we are infringing on them. We had borrowed the DVD from SSSRPA who had purchased it for \$800, but we were informed that they should not be passing it out. We notified SSSRPA and cancelled any further plans. We have also had one training by Dan O'Neil to upload items to our web site, and we are able to pay him now with the grant proceeds.

D. DECO GRANT UPDATE

Executive Director Chesna advised that we have now received the \$20,000 check, and it is in the bank. Lori was going to go to bid, but she did some research and found out that the Southern Bus Mobility has the state bid for School Bus Safety Certified vehicles. Since they have the vehicle that we need, we won't have to go through the bidding process. There was a problem with SWSRA not being defined as a governmental agency. DECO said that we don't define ourselves as this, but he was able to make it work.

Lori had emailed the board regarding this. This vehicle is a multi-function school activity bus (MFSAB) that meets our needs. We can transport school age children for programs. There have been after-school programs that we have cancelled because we didn't have a vehicle that meets these standards. We are in a position to buy what we need and Lori thinks we should do what is right. If you don't have one when transporting children during school related programs, you are not compliant. The board discussed whether PDRMA is right in encouraging this. Lori clarified that this is for school programs only. Director Dziallo asked if the vehicle had seat belts and seats for the smaller children. Response was "yes." Director Leonard asked if two wheelchair positions were enough. Response was "yes." Director Dziallo asked if the vehicle had a ramp. Response was "yes." Executive Director Chesna advised that a CDL license is not required in response to a question from Director Huber. The vehicle will hold 12 passengers and 2 wheelchairs. Lori requested the Executive Board to approve a purchase up to \$50,000 which would leave room for options and delivery. Director Leonard made a motion to approve the purchase of a vehicle up to \$50,000 through the state bid process, of which \$20,000 from the DECO Grant will be applied to the final purchase. The motion was seconded by Director Huber. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried, 6—0.

E. DAY CAMP

Lori presented the Board with an updated copy of current day campers and staff. We have 29 campers in Session I and we will have an additional 8 in Session II. We had 11 campers who received Title XX and 10 more receiving SWSRA Scholarships. Lori advised that we will be about \$6,000 over budget in salaries.

Director Leonard said he struggles with subsidies because of his background. He went on to say that Palos Heights' pool is losing \$80,000 a year, and we have to take some hard looks at things to cut that number in half. He says he doesn't see it as special needs versus non-special needs. Lori stated that other Sera's subsidize even more of their day camps. She went on to explain that the actual cost to run the camp would be approximately \$44 per day, per child. The majority of families SWSRA serves could never afford this price without assistance. Most of our campers are on some sort of scholarship. Lori explained that SWSRA is an extension of each district. Our money is pulled together via the handicapped fund—tax dollars to be able to serve children with disabilities. If each of you had to hire a staff to take care of their needs if they registered to their own day camp, they would be spending so much more money...affecting your own bottom line! Having SWSRA allows our agency to absorb the loss, not the member district. Director Leonard felt that we have a responsibility to tax dollars. Lori said that we are able to provide a service to individuals in these communities at a relative low overall tax rate. Director Suhs stated that you can't argue the point when SWSRA is carrying a balance of \$400,000. People get in the mindset about public agencies being profitable. If a pool were profitable, there would be private agencies running them. Director Gleason said that the difference is in the staff. At SWSRA you often have a 1:1 ratio, and we don't have that at a park district. Director Huber said that this is just a small portion of the people that we serve. The programs are not as expensive, so we could subsidize the individual fee a little bit more. Lori agreed that we could add more for the scholarship.

Lori told the Board that one Mom wants the age range (currently 3-21) to be extended. Her son will be 21 and next year, based on our current guidelines, won't be eligible to participate in SWSRA Camp. Lori said that this range was established before she was employed, so she doesn't know the reasoning/history behind the decision. Director Dziallo said it is probably because the State of Illinois educational system has that guideline. The Board discussed this and it was suggested that maybe we could add another camp to accommodate that age group. Lori will investigate this for next year.

Executive Director Chesna informed the board about an asbestos abatement scheduled at Hazlegreen School. When SWSRA met with the principal of the school for an orientation, she told them that this abatement project would start in July. Lori was not happy to hear this news, especially so late—just days before camp was to start.

Lori & Erin spoke with the Superintendent at school district 126 and he assured us that there wouldn't be any exposure or harm to the children or staff. Lori turned to the Board for advice since she had a family member exposed to asbestos many years ago. She was uneasy about hosting the camp during the abatement, despite the reassurance. She felt she was being too paranoid, but she had also spoken to the Alsip Deputy Fire Chief and he also felt if we could move the camp to another facility, it would be prudent; especially if another site is available. The Board felt that if it eased Lori's mind, then by all means, move the camp. Lori stated that moving the location would pose different problems. We may not have air conditioning and that, too, is important for children who are sensitive to heat. She said she may have to purchase free standing air conditioners. They run about \$400 each at SAM's club. Director Dziallo asked about Hamlin school and also St. Terrence which is right across the street from the pool to see if we could use that facility. Lori said she would follow through.

F. PDRMA FIELD VISIT

Executive Director Chesna told the Board that she had gone ahead with the field visit even though we had the option of taking a few years off. Lori didn't want to fall behind. Tim Lenac from PDRMA suggested that we add a new "Lifeguard and Supervision at Aquatic Program Policy" to our Safety Manual which Lori did.

G. SWSRA LPGO GOLF OUTING

This fundraiser will take place on Friday, July 13th, at Gleneagles Country Club at 3:00 p.m. We are looking for raffle prizes for this event. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

H. PR & MARKETING UPDATE

Lori informed the Board of the following events and activities that took place: SWSRA Sponsored Sertoma's BIG event, an ARC Booth, a presentation at the Alsip Chamber Meeting, Lori joined the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce and SWSRA took an ad in the Special Olympics Family Brochure.

Lori received a Kellogg School flyer and applied for a grant at the last minute. Lori had kept the business card of an individual from there and thought that maybe their school would do a project for SWSRA. They do have a pro-bono consulting club. This would work along with our five-year plan and would start in the fall. They would create a marketing plan for us, and let us know how to achieve our goals. Funding is not a major issue. Lori is hoping that we get it. They will let us know at the end of July.

Director Huber made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report; seconded by Director DeBella. All directors were in favor; none opposed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Lori consulted with our attorney verbally regarding the hours that we are required to pay part-time help for events and away trips. The attorney said we should pay them 16 hours per day if they sleep. Not all SRAs do this, but they are out of compliance. You have to pay them what they make, but it is still reasonable to deduct their sleeping time. If we had three staff going, we could have one "on call" at night and the other two could sleep and have time deducted. Lori will get another attorney's opinion on this. The Board members suggested that maybe we could put them on a salary, giving them comp time or asking them to volunteer the extra hours. Lori will look into it.

CORRESPONDENCE -

There was a discussion regarding Oak Lawn among the Board members and it was decided that SWSRA can move on with the Master Plan without incorporating the idea of Oak Lawn joining SWSRA. It was agreed by all to drop the issue and move on. Part of our new marketing plan would be to pursue communities other than Oak Lawn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills

Motion made by Director Huber to approve bills for the month of May, 2007 in the amount of \$15,054.77. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Question arose as to why there were two charges for carpet cleaning. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. Motion carried, 6—0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS –

Director Huber asked Lori if there was anything new with Posen or Blue Island. Lori said that she called Blue Island to introduce herself and was told that there was an interim director there named Dominick. The clerk didn't know his last name and said that they were pretty busy then and could I call back! Lori will find out more and also contact Posen.

Director Huber asked what was going on with the Master Plan. Lori said that she hadn't called Tod and thought that she would wait until the end of summer. Director Huber said that was fine and that she just didn't want to lose track of this.

Director Huber inquired about the outstanding balance due Design Perspectives. Marge Cozzone replied that her recollection was that it had all been paid. Director Huber asked Marge to check on this.

Lori mentioned that we received a letter from Obama's office rejecting our request for a scholarship donation.

NEW BUSINESS – None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

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 11:20 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Mike Leonard, Corporate Secretary