

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER  
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Director Gleason. The meeting was held at Merrionette Park District, Merrionette Park, Illinois

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	TJ WHITCOMB
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANNETTE HUBER
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	JANE KAWANNA

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER
ERIN LYNCH	SUPERINTENDENT
DENISE IWINSKI	MARKETING COORDINATOR

ABSENT:

WORTH PARK DISTRICT	CARLO CAPALBO
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	JOE VALLEZ

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA – Executive Director Chesna requested to add to her report:  
N – SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2010

Motion made by Director Leonard to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on April 21, 2010. Motion was seconded by Director Suhs. All Directors were in favor; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Huber. Director Whitcomb made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$275,348.52. 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. ANDROMEDA/WORTH

Executive Director Chesna explained that the connection problem seems to be resolved. We have had considerable technical issues, and we are one of their trouble cases. We did receive a manual that will

help us understand the phones. We will now have to order a phone for Will so that we can transfer calls to him directly.

**B. WALK, RUN OR ROLL RACE UPDATE**

Lori said that we ended up with 23 participants who registered, but only 16 actually showed up. Some actually came from Dyer, Indiana in the rain. We also had 10 buddies. We were very lucky that the rain cleared up before 6:00 a.m. We won't have the final numbers until all of the bills are received at which time we will distribute a share of the proceeds to all of the agencies who participated. Lori thanked all of the board members, staff and volunteers who helped that day. Everyone did a great job!

**C. PALOS BANK HALF MARATHON**

Lori advised that in addition to the \$5,000 check SWSRA will receive from the Marathon itself, we also had 4 charity runners who raised \$1,397.96 (thanks to the PR and marketing that Denise did) and we collected another \$25 from a donation jar we had at our booth. The registration web site brought us in another \$1,500, and we should receive that check soon. Lori expressed her appreciation to Director Leonard and all of the organizers who include SWSRA as a benefactor of this event. Director Leonard asked if there had been any pressure from Mel tying the amount of money to the number of runners. Director Leonard said that SWSRA and SWSRA members bring an awful lot to this event. Lori explained that the first year when Alsip was asked to work this event, she and Mike Biairdo worked together to get the volunteers. Then when SWSRA started their own ½ mile race the second year, Mike got the volunteers for the Marathon. It is a big job because they need 300 or 400 volunteers for this event. Director Leonard thanked Alsip.

**D. PACE RESOLUTION**

PACE requires us to adopt new drug and alcohol testing policies for the last vehicle we have with them. We already signed such an agreement in 2007 which Marge located in the file and faxed to them,

**E. SWSRA SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST LETTER APPEARS IN "LETTER TO THE EDITOR"**

Each year we send letters out to the businesses in some of the member district communities from lists that you supply us with. Somehow this letter ended up appearing in the "Letter to the Editor" of the Regional and Reporter newspapers. Lori said she was mortified because it wasn't intended to print. We received a nice letter from a Mrs. Vanek who thought the letter was well written and donated double the amount she had given last year. We earmark these funds specifically for our scholarship fund—this is how we replenish it. However, donations are very low this year.

**F. SRA SURVEY**

Director Huber had asked Lori to do a survey to find out what other districts do about extending benefits, such as the fitness center, to the staff of their SRAs. The Alsip Board has now extended the use of their fitness center to SWSRA's full-time staff. Thank you Alsip!

**G. COP ON ROOF TOP**

The Village of Alsip does this fundraiser every year to benefit Special Olympics of Illinois. SWSRA teamed up to enhance the event. We will have Judy Franks, our Special Olympics gold medalist, meeting and greeting and signing autographs from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dunkin' Donuts has an empty building next store to it, and the owner is giving us the keys to go inside if it rains that day. SWSRA is not benefitting from this, but we will get public exposure. Please come out and have a cup of coffee with us.

H. BINGO LICENSE APPLIED FOR!

Director Huber invited SWSRA to host a Bingo tent during their Fun Fest this year and benefit from the funds that we raise. We are excited about doing this, but also a little nervous because we never ran such an event. Thanks again Alsip!

I. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Village asked us to have a booth for this event on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lori asked again that if any other districts have any events or booths, to please let us know. We are excited about having a float in the Midlothian Parade. Director Leonard said that SWSRA is welcome to participate in the Palos Heights Parade on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

J. CROWNE PLAZA ERROR

Lori explained that she had reserved a room for an earlier date than she ended up needing. She thought that she had cancelled it, but never did, so she reimbursed SWSRA for her error. She also reimbursed the cost of some ham she bought that got mixed into the SWSRA items by mistake.

K. IPDLAF P-CARD PROGRAM

We are planning to apply for this card. We need to get a resolution passed. We had a couple of different disks regarding this and didn't know which one was the most current. Director Kawanna said that she had received all of the documentation in an email attachment which she will forward to Lori.

L. STOVE AT WORTH

Executive Director Chesna advised that in order to have a stove installed at Worth, we will have to upgrade the electric. We are currently getting bids on this, and have gotten prices from \$300 to \$1,200. We will have to do this the right way and use a company who has a certificate of insurance. We need this for the cooking program we want to run.

M. WILL HELLING PASSES CTRS EXAM!

We are very proud and excited that Will Helling has passed the CTRS exam. He is the first Recreation Specialist who has passed the test while working for SWSRA. We are planning to give Will a \$1,000 bonus as soon as he receives his paperwork. It was part of Will's agreement that if he passed the test, he would receive this bonus.

N. SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

Our Day Camp registration will end on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Lori advised that we received some extra spots for Title XX this year, and we have not used all of them. Title XX pays 100% for the client, and they would have to pay only for transportation if they use it. Director Gleason asked how much the match is that SWSRA has to pay. Lori said that Title XX pays 30% of the cost and SWSRA pays the balance. Lori went on to explain that there is a special needs child from Robbins who cannot afford to attend our camp. Lori asked the Board if we could offer him a Title XX scholarship. The mom would have to bring him to and from camp. Director Huber asked if the mom could afford to pay any portion. Director Gleason asked what the actual amount was that we would have to pay. Director Gleason has an issue with a non resident, but for \$350, the child is more important. She also agrees with Director Huber that she should pay something because that way they buy into the program. Director Whitcomb said that if we wait until the deadline and if none of our member agencies have participants who need assistance, he wouldn't have a problem with it. Lori also mentioned another child who lives in district who was abandoned by the mother; and although the father earns a little too much to qualify, Lori is considering a SWSRA scholarship for him.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT - None.

CORRESPONDENCE – The board received an invitation in their packets to attend the LPGO golf outing which will take place on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Gleneagles Country Club. SWSRA receives proceeds from this event of between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Please sign up to attend if you are interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION

Erin Lynch reported that Line Dancing which is a new program is a big hit. Pet Therapy has doubled in size this season. The owner is very good to us, and he even has let a couple of our higher functioning participants hang out in his store. Due to problems getting a lifeguard, we had to merge two of our swim programs. The Oak Lawn Children's Museum was a big hit. Twelve ladies took advantage of Pick a Prom Dress. Thank you to Director Huber who just brought in two bags of dresses for next year. Attendance at Mexican Fiesta was down due to the price getting too expensive. El Dia Del Nino was cancelled due to low enrollment. Erin said that the vehicles have all been cleaned and are ready for spring, and there really aren't any problems at this time. The new day camp coordinator has been coming in regularly, and all of the staff have been hired. Kayla McKinney has been named Employee of the Month. Kayla is fairly new, but has been doing a great job. Although she is only 17 years old, she is very mature. We presented her with this award at Prom.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Leonard to approve bills for the month of April, 2010 in the amount of \$18,117.16. Motion was seconded by Director Huber. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 7 —0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Denise Iwinski reported that she sent congratulatory letters to the Walk, Run or Roll athletes and our Charity Runners and is also working on a letter to send to the Charity Runner donors. Denise thanked everyone for getting up early and helping out. Denise is planning to add two year-round volunteers. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bourbon Street. Denise said that only 2 out of 5 volunteers attended, but she was glad to get to know them better and everyone had a good time. Denise said that she is trying to get out into the communities and had booths recently at Shepherd High School, an Oak Lawn school and one at the Palos Heights Expo which was held the day before the race.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS - None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Huber to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Leonard. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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Minutes of Meeting  
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