

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 14, 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 7:00 p.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 (alternate)
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	AUSTIN SANDUSKY

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER
ERIN LYNCH	SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

ABSENT

POSEN PARK DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: Executive Director Chesna said there were no additions, but an Executive Session may be necessary to discuss a scholarship situation..

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – Tim Lenac from PDRMA was introduced. Mr. Lenac proceeded to present SWSRA with an award for earning Excellent-Level A status in 2007. Lori Chesna accepted the plaque and photos were taken.

Rich Sehnert introduced himself. He was one of the individuals who requested an evening board meeting. His sister is a participant of SWSRA. Mrs. Franks was present and introduced herself. Her daughter, Judy, is also a participant. Director Suhs asked if there was anything either of them would like to bring up. They said that they were just there to observe. Executive Director Chesna informed them that the minutes of the SWSRA board meetings were on our web site. Lori said that everyone was always welcome to request that an item be put on the agenda if they had a concern that they wanted addressed by the Board.

Lori introduced Brian Nolan who has been working on a new logo for SWSRA. He presented the three final choices for the Board to view and make a choice. After reviewing all of the options, each Board member voted for the logo they liked best. The Board thanked Mr. Nolan for his presentation. Director Suhs asked if the Board was in favor of this resolution and everyone agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2008

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Suhs suggested that we really don't need to have the entire report read and that just the balance should be sufficient. No one had a problem with this suggestion. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Gleason. Director Suhs made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$176,713.15 plus the three Certificates of Deposit. Director Dziallo seconded the motion. Director Suhs inquired about the current interest rates and Lori said that they were down to 2.5% for six months. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried, 6—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna reported that SWSA had "Sleeping Beauty" which was cancelled, Pet Therapy, Pick-a-Prom Dress for which we had a lot of donations including some from Director Huber. The Mexican Fiesta also took place.

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Executive Director Chesna announced that we wanted to recognize a volunteer who has been with us for many years—Mike Marcordes. He does the basketball program for us; he is involved with our golf program and now softball just started yesterday. He is a great asset to SWSRA. Lori presented Mike with a plaque and told him that he is very much appreciated.

C. PDRMA AWARD PRESENTATION

Presented earlier.

D. LOGO PRESENTATION

Presented earlier.

E. SWSRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE

Lori reported that because we have so many fundraisers, we always ask the same people over and over again for donations. We decided years ago that we would do this scholarship drive and it has been pretty successful. We get mailing lists from various member districts and send out this mass appeal. We normally get between \$2000 and \$2500. The economy is not good this year, but they are still trickling in; and right now, we have received about \$1550. This money is restricted and goes right into the Jeffrey Hickman Scholarship Fund. If applicants meet the criteria, we award them \$300 for the year. The participant has to pay 50% of the cost and the scholarship fund pays half. Marge keeps a spreadsheet of all this.

F. HAWAII UPDATE

Erin Lynch advised the Board that we currently have seven participants enrolled to go on this trip. We are looking at different places to stay. We were going to use a travel agent, but that turned out to be too expensive and also we have a Hawaii expert with us (Ryan Cortez) who has been there several times. We are going to try and get everything booked by next week because the airfares are going to be going up. Lori said that Erin has done a good job on planning these trips. We always tend to break even on them. We might make any money, but we don't lose any either. When full-time staff goes, we don't have to add the salaries into the cost.

G. SSPRPA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

H. ADAPTED SPORTS INTER AGENCY AGREEMENT (see attached)

Lori already signed this agreement. She explained that the purpose of this is for different agencies to get together. If one agency doesn't have enough participants, they can join another and get enough to make a team. This is strictly for adaptive sports. So far SWSRA has not been involved, but Lori wanted to have the option for the future.

I. FYI—LETTER TO MR VASELOPULOS FROM ATTORNEY

Lori included this letter which is from an attorney for the Village of Brookfield who is of the opinion that a community has to go to referendum in order to levy for an SRA. Lori said that this is not the original interpretation by Peter Murphy, and she just wanted the Board to be aware that it is being questioned.

J. MARKETING

An article appeared regarding the Spring Formal. We had a reporter and a photographer out there for the entire evening. Rich Sehnert also had appeared in a photo in another newspaper. We had a booth at the Palos Heights Health Expo on May 3rd. Lori and Erin spoke at School District 218 last month and that was very successful. SWSRA had a booth at Dia del Nino in Summit on May 4th. We will also have a booth at the ARC Expo in Tinley Park on May 20th.

K. MARKETING POSITION

Marge did the first round of interviews, and we will now be doing the second round. We have one more to do and then we will be making a decision. We have several candidates that are very good.

L. SUMMIT/JUSTICE PROGRAM LEADER POSITION

Lori interviewed an applicant for this position named Lula. She is a community leader in Summit and would be perfect for the job. We wanted somebody to have a recreational therapy background, but that is not going to happen. None of the resumes that we got back were bi-lingual; and we need someone to be bi-lingual, so we will just have to train them. Lula would be a perfect liaison to the community, but she cannot write in English. Lori is rethinking the position and might split it into two different positions.

M. SWSRA SUPPORT GROUP

Lori asked Director Dziallo to talk about the Support Group. Director Dziallo said that she thinks that the Support Group has been good for the people. She said that we had a really large turn out when the speaker was discussing financial planning for children with special needs. Director Dziallo thinks that the people who attend are getting a sense of camaraderie—a feeling that they are not alone. There are a lot of people out there.

N. VIDEO SLIDE SHOW OF EVENTS

The video showing the Spring Formal and the Palos Heights Half Marathon was shown.

O. PALOS BANK HALF MARATHON

This is part of the slide show. Executive Director Chesna thanked Director Gleason for volunteering. Mike Biardo was a very big help with this event. SWSRA received a check in the amount of \$5,000 for the Scholarship Fund from this event.

Director Suhs made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report; seconded by Director Dziallo. All Directors were in favor; none opposed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director DeBella to approve bills for the month of April, 2008 in the amount of \$13,955.73. 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 -

NEW BUSINESS – Lori said that rather than going into Executive Session, she could just talk about the situation without mentioning names. The Board agreed that it didn't qualify for Executive Session. Lori proceeded to explain that this person is a part time staff member who has two children in our programs. She is having a difficult time financially, and Lori thinks she could qualify for a scholarship. She works really hard for us. Director Gleason asked if SWSRA has any program discounts for employees. Lori said that we don't, but we should look into it. Director Suhs asked if the Board had set policies for the scholarship. Lori said that it has. Director Suhs said that he feels that the Executive Director should have discretion to make decisions within these guidelines—there are always exception. Director Gleason said that a policy should be established for employees. Lori asked for any samples to be sent. The Board was in agreement.

Director Suhs suggested that we try emailing the board reports in the future. We will give it a try.

Rich Sehnert commented that SWSRA should raise its transportation charges with the cost of gas increasing. Lori said we did raise them slightly for programs, but day camp hasn't increased in years.

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 8:25 p.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Austin Sandusky, Corporate Secretary