

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 20, 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 10:00 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	JEANETTE HUBER
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)
POSEN PARK DISTRICT	T.J. WHITCOMB
WORTH PARK DISTRICT	CARLO CAPALBO

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER
ERIN LYNCH	SUPERINTENDENT
RYAN CORTEZ	RECREATION SPECIALIST
LULA HERMOSILLO	OUTREACH SPECIALIST
DENISE IWINSKI	MARKETING COORDINATOR

ABSENT

BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	AUSTIN SANDUSKY
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ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Changing of officers will take place under New Business.

A new board representative from Posen, T. J. Whitcomb, was present. The board members and staff introduced themselves and welcomed Director Whitcomb.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2009

Motion made by Director Leonard to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on April 8, 2009. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. All Directors were in favor; none opposed. Director Gleason inquired about receiving a copy of the April Executive Session Minutes. Marge Cozzone said she will edit and distribute those.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Leonard. Director Gleason made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$248,244.41 plus two certificates of deposit. The motion was seconded by Director Capalbo. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 8—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Erin Lynch, Superintendent, reported that the Spring Festival which was an in-house event in Summit. Pet Therapy was cancelled due to a death in the family of the pet provider. Parent's Date Night was cancelled due to low enrollment. Pick-a-Prom dress was very successful. We received a lot of dresses and every single person went home with a dress that fit. Primping Night was also successful, and the workers had as much fun as the participants. The Mexican Fiesta hosted by Lincolnway Special Recreation was also successful. Guys Night Out was cancelled due to low enrollment. In addition to these events, we have our regular weekly programs as well.

B. WALK/RUN/ROLL RACE

Lori has a video clip. The weather was beautiful that day. Lori showed the board the shirts that the athletes wore. First the Half Marathon runners went off and then our runners started their race. The first Half Marthon athletes came back from running 13 miles in one hour and one minute. There hasn't been anything in the newspapers so far so that is disappointing. I wanted to take the SRA portion to the SEASPAR board meeting which I was asked to attend, but since I didn't have the actual check yet, I presented them with an envelope minus the check. Their board was impressed with the race, and they vowed to have more come out next year. Tom Carstons from JBSRA came out with his team. It was nice to see involvement. Thanks again to Mike Leonard—we received a \$5,000 check from the Palos Bank, and approximately \$1,000 will be divided up among the SRAs that participated in the Walk, Run or Roll Race.

C. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Kathy Eagan is our Volunteer of the Month. Kathy has been with us for several years. She is a mammography tech at High Tech. She was instrumental in getting ladies prom dresses donated for the Spring Formal and also beauty products and make up for the Ladies Primping Night. She is wonderful.

D. SWSRA SUPPORT GROUP—MONDAY, MAY 18 (see flyer)

Lori said that she thought the Support Group meetings have been going quite well, and on Monday we had a pizza party to wrap up the year. Someone did express their disappointment that we were not having our evening board meeting. Lori explained that we would not have had the necessary number for a quorum. Lori added that only two people showed up last year for the evening Board meeting. The Parents Group will meet again in September. Lori said that she is glad that SWSRA offers this. The people who do come appreciate the fact that it is offered. We have had speakers each month, and Senator Maloney came out for one meeting. Director Dziallo said that she agrees that the Support Group is a good thing.

E. SD 130 INTERESTED IN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!

School District 130 is interested in starting an after school program with us. Lori was invited to speak at Nathan Hale School to a group of special education teachers. Lori told them about the program that we offer in Summit. They are looking to bring Alsip into this, and they also cover Crestwood, Blue Island and Robbins. This is a way of marketing our programs and getting our name out in the communities. We can get Crestwood's attention this way. Director Gleason said that Crestwood is not going to join us. This is a free program in the school. It could be a trial for one year and we could get the names of all the residents and the next year we could charge them the out of district rate. Director Leonard said that a program might not have enough kids to go without out of district kids. We can try a pilot program and get all the names and addresses and then go back to Crestwood with the results.

F. U.S. PARALYMPICS CHAIRS FOR CHAMPIONS!

SWSRA received three wheelchairs which are worth \$2,000 each from the Hartford's Paralympics "Chairs for Champions." There are all sorts of sports that these chairs can be used for, and SWSRA would like to train and compete in the 2016 Paralympics. Ryan has been doing some training as a coach. Lori is asking Paralympics to try and start a program where we would donate a chair to an athlete, and sponsor and train them. We could also make a financial commitment to help them. In turn, we could have them be a spokesperson at some of our major events like Walk, Run or Roll or the L.P.G.O. We could try to solicit an athlete and then we would interview whoever applies. Director Leonard said that we would have to put a cap on that financial award. Lori said that she would only plan \$1,000 per year. Director Gleason said we should be able to fit that in our budget.

G. MEDIA/PR (see attached)

Lori said that Denise has done a good job getting press releases out. We've been in all the local papers. We don't know why we can't get in the Southtown Economist.

H. PDRMA REVIEW TO START

PDRMA came out yesterday to start the review process. We currently have an Excellent Level A status, and we received an award of \$1,500 which we passed on to the staff. They were all very thankful for these checks. Some recent accomplishments: Ryan is now a lifeguard, and Erin is now a first aide instructor

I. AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION

Erin and Ryan are working with the American Camping Association. They are going through the accreditation process. ACA will have an observer out at our camp this year. By the end of the summer, we should be accredited. SWSRA will be the first SRA to be accredited!

J. ERIN IN PROCESS OF BECOMING AMERICAN HEART BASIC LIFE SUPPORT INSTRUCTOR

Erin has been going through training to become an American Heart Basic Life Support Instructor which covers CPR, First Aid and AED.

K. DAY CAMP UPDATE (Erin to Report)

Erin Lynch reported on the number of participants enrolled at this point in day camp, and said that we have hired 21 staff. We are still in desperate need of drivers. We would pay about \$10 an hour if anyone knows of anyone. They could do a morning route and/or an afternoon route. She also talked about the field trips that have been planned to Brookfield Zoo, etc., and the location of the camp is Prairie Jr. High again this year. Staff Orientation is June 9, 10 and 11. CPR classes are in addition to those dates. We have a few staff that can't make the scheduled CPR class so if anyone has one or two

openings at your agency that they could attend, please let Erin know. Parent's Orientation is planned for June 11th at 6:00 p.m. Director Dziallo asked Erin if she had been contacted by Worth about the pick up at the pool. Director Dziallo also mentioned that the bus pick up was a problem last year at Prairie because of all the congestion. Erin said that won't be an issue this year because that is where the construction is being done. Director Huber said that Erin should talk to her about this issue later.

Erin reported that there was no enrollment in the Elim Autism Camp. This was intended to take place during the break between summer school and the next school year. We may still get some people to sign up this week. Director Suhs asked where it was to be held. Erin replied that it would be held for two weeks in August. Director Suhs asked where it would be held, and Erin replied that it would be held here (in Alsip). Erin said that there was a possibility we would try piloting a program over there, but it was decided to have it here.

We have three enrolled in the Sportz Camp in Summit, but we need 6 to make it go. Lula has been talking to different parents who are showing interest. If they get the 50% scholarship from SWSRA, they will see if they can afford the rest. The deadline is this week, so we hope they will follow through. If it doesn't go, Lula will be working with our day camp for the summer.

L. SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE (Rae to report)

Lori reported that the amount we have collected to date for this scholarship fund drive is \$1,200 which is much lower this year than at this time last. We count on 100% of this money to supplement the scholarship funds that we give out.

M. RECREATION SOFTWARE UPDATE (Marge to report)

Marge Cozzone brought the board up to date on the status of the new registration software. We are considering investing in a server to facilitate the usage of this software, although it can be installed peer to peer which is how the current software is utilized. Marge has researched the cost and found that the server itself is not that costly; however, the necessary software for the server is quite expensive. She found that if we use our non-profit status to purchase the software, we can save almost \$1,000. The problem is that we won't be eligible to order anything additional until 2010, but Marge thinks it would be worth the wait. In the meantime, she is discussing the prerequisites for installation with the tech department at Rec Trac and setting up a date for the training later this summer.

N. SPECIAL OLYMPIC TRACK & FIELD (Ryan to report)

Ryan Cortez gave a report on the Area 7 Special District Games. Judy Franks won a gold medal for the softball throw and the 50 meter race and will go on to the finals the weekend before Father's Day. Her mom and her entire family are going to take her. Dennis Killelea took 4th place in the 50 meter and 6th place in the softball throw. We had 9 softball games this season and we were in two tournaments. Ryan said that we will have Special Olympic Volleyball in the fall, and basketball starts late in October and goes through February. We had two teams this past season, and they did very well. This summer we will start Special Olympic Bowling. Judy Franks will also be in that –she does every single sport that we offer. She is a great bowler. We are hosting the ITRS softball tournament this year which will be held in Worth in July. We will be playing against other SRAs. We will try floor hockey this year.

O. SUMMIT/JUSTICE UPDATE (see attached) (Lula to report)

Lula reported that we had 8 participants in the the Summit Afterschool program. In September we will start again for the next school year. We had about 17 participants for Cinco de Mayo. Lula is working with a family with 4 children who want to attend the Sportz Camp in Summit. Lula has also been

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working with parents who speak only Spanish in the Blue Island area to help them translate and register for our programs.

P. DVD PRESENTATION

This presentation about the programs and events offered by SWSRA in 2009 was given earlier. This video depicted what SWSRA has been doing since Christmas.

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, 2009 in the amount of \$22,995.36. Motion was seconded by Director Capalbo. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 8 —0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Chesna presented a plaque to Director Suhs for serving as President this past year and for being a team player.

The officers for 2009-2010 will be: President, Director Cali DeBella; Vice President, Director Mike Leonard; Treasurer, Director Gleason and Secretary, Director Huber.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Gleason to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Dziallo. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Jeanette Huber, Corporate Secretary