

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Director Gleason. The meeting was held at the Alsip Park District, Alsip, Illinois

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
POSEN PARK DISTRICT	AL CHMIELAK
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANNETTE HUBER
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	JANE KAWANNA

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER
ERIN LYNCH	SUPERINTENDENT
DENISE IWINSKI	MARKETING COORDINATOR
WILL HELLING	RECREATION SPECIALIST

ABSENT:

JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	LUIS FRANCO
WORTH PARK DISTRICT	CARLO CAPALBO
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO

ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

H. RECAP OF INSURANCE
I. GARAGE

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2010

Motion made by Director Huber to approve Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on October 20th.
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 Leonard. Director Suhs made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$100,265.86 plus the \$248,000 C/Ds. The motion was seconded by Director Kawanna. Director Gleason inquired if the insurance limits had reverted back to \$100,000 now, but Executive Director Chesna said that they had not. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 6—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

A. POSEN PARK DISTRICT KABOOM! UPDATE

Lori reported that it was a wonderful event for SWSRA, and we were happy to be involved. Danielle from KaBoom! was a great person to work with, and we tried to contribute on the various phone calls in which we participated. SWSRA's role was to supervise the children of the workers and provide recreational activities. We were all fenced in which was a good thing because we had a couple of kids with autism who tried to wander off. It poured for a couple of hours that day. We had about 12 kids and 6 staff plus a volunteer. We arrived at 6:30 a.m., and the ribbon cutting was at 2:45 p.m. Lori said it was an amazing day and very organized. Al Chmielak also spoke about the event. He didn't agree that it that well organized and said that they started stripping the side projects, so some of them didn't get completed. There were 130 people helping which was short of the 200 that they wanted. There were some material changes that we didn't know about—for instance, instead of pavers, we went with stakes. It was a lot of work, and we are continuing to finish things. We put in four more park benches—the park is full all the time. The wall mural is done now. Director Suhs said that he didn't see anything about it in the Southtown Star. Lori said that there were good comments on the website and suggested that the board check out the Posen website.

B. 2009-2010 AUDIT

Director Gleason suggested that this topic be moved to “Old Business.”

C. CANDLELIGHT BOWL THANK YOU

Lori reported that we only had 72 bowlers this year—our lowest turnout yet. Thanks to all of the generous donations, we were able to keep the event at a high quality, and everyone had a really good time. Marge will be depositing the proceeds and preparing a summary. We will not host this event in 2011 because we are adding our 30th Anniversary.

D. NRPA CONGRESS

We doubled up on rooms so that we could bring the recreation staff which we usually don't do. Staff is writing up a little synopsis of the sessions they attended. Erin Lynch told the board about a session she attended on the Latino population which was very informative.

E. ANNUAL HOLIDAY APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION

Last year we had a low response and had to cancel it. This year we will combine it with our staff meeting in January. We will have a quick meeting and then all of the full-time and office staff will host a dinner for them. This will help save costs for SWSRA.

F. DECEMBER MEETING CONFLICT

We have a conflict for our December board meeting—PDRMA has a Program Council meeting on the same day. Lori polled the board about changing the meeting to Thursday, December 16th. Everyone will check their schedules and get back to her.

G. CAPITOL GRANT

Lori applied for this grant for \$25,000 (not \$35,000 as previously mentioned) about a year and a half ago and just received a voice message about it from an aide at the Senate President's office. Lori won't be able to reach this gentleman until November 18th, so she is waiting to talk to him then. The grant was intended to cover the cost of a new electric sign at Apollo Recreation Center which would be a dual sign for Alsip and SWSRA. Originally the sign was going to cost \$35,000, but now we're going to scale that down to something in the \$25,000 range. Lori is getting all the letters of determination and

documentation she needs. Director Huber will have to go to her board as well since we will need approval to replace the old sign out there.

H. RECAP OF INSURANCE

At a meeting that was held by SSPRPA, Frank Smith (who happens to be our insurance broker) was the speaker. He was saying things that Lori questioned, so Lori called him because she was going to increase our employee contribution to 16%. Frank told Lori that we can only increase it in 5% increments if grandfathered. Right now if we lost the grandfathered status, the wellness benefits are better. However, if we stick with the grandfathered status, we still have our same coverage for most things, plus come renewal time next year, there is a cap of only 2% which is important for the agency. The employees thought it was going to be a cost of \$117, but now it will be \$77 per month. Director Huber pointed out that PDRMA made this same choice to grandfather, and they have a lot of attorneys checking on this. As the costs grew in the past, Lori started charging for the PPO option. Everyone can go to the HMO for free or pay for this option. It is a big benefit. Director Gleason asked for clarification of what the grandfathered status did for us. The 2% limit on increases is the major benefit, and Director Huber said that the other big change is the age of your dependent child. Director Leonard said that everything will be changing in the future. Director Huber asked if anything formally needed to be done. Director Leonard said that the intent is to be grandfathered, and what the employee pays will be less. Lori said that this is just an update, and we don't need another vote.

I. GARAGE

Executive Director Chesna distributed copies of a Summary of Garage Expenses prepared by SSSRA for a building they had constructed to house their vehicles.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT - None.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - - Report previously distributed to Board was presented by Erin Lynch.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Leonard to approve bills for the month of October, 2010 in the amount of \$17,535.80. Motion was seconded by Director Huber. A question was asked about the Palos Heights Chamber of Commerce annual dues and if SWSRA is being charged as a non-profit. Palos Heights doesn't offer discount pricing for that category to our knowledge—nor does the Alsip Chamber. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 6 —0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY

Lori is planning to look into changing our attorney. Kathy Elliott has not been returning Lori's calls. There are some personnel policies that we are behind on, and we need to be brought up to date. We can follow the PDRMA guidelines, but some of them seem to leave things so broad for interpretation. Lori asked the board members to let her know if they are happy with their attorney to email her the name so she can get some price quotes. The concern arose that this may be a conflict of interest to use the same attorney as a member district, although this may be unavoidable. Some board members just use PDRMA. Director Gleason said that they don't use their corporate attorney for policies, and she wrote their cell phone policy herself.

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS-- Report previously distributed to Board was presented by Denise Iwinski.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Suhs made a motion to approve the annual audit for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Director Huber. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion passed 6 —0.

NEW BUSINESS -

Lori mentioned that Jane Hodgkinson just announced her retirement. Larry Reiner has just retired, and Mike Selep was among the applicants.

Will Helling has been named Employee of the Month and is well deserving of this award. Will is going to be celebrating his one year anniversary with SWSRA soon. Will is the first and only graduate who has received his CTRS on the first try while working for SWSRA. Lori presented Will with the special award.

Director Huber talked about meeting with members from Southland Oars and also met with a gentleman from U.S. Rowing yesterday. They want to start rowing in the local park districts. Lori said that at some point someone from SWSRA has to start going to these meetings. There is an opportunity there.

The Joint Legislation platform results were sent out so that everyone can go through these results. You can go over them and pick your top ten. John Curran suggested that these are our top ten raw data. A letter was sent out to Peter, and we will be discussing this on December 6th. Lori told John that he will need to run it.

Lori informed the board about a meeting that will take place at IMRF tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. Because of the salary spiking situation in Highland Park, legislators are trying to tap in and try to control IMRF in some way. They want to put a 3% cap on salary increases. Lori encouraged all board members to attend and be in the audience.

Director Gleason said that IAPD has been working on an override of the governor's veto on personnel files. Our whole personnel file is open to FOIA, but if you are a teacher or a police officer, it is not. We say "What is good for the goose..." They did succeed in overriding the veto, but it is still not fixed.

Director Gleason said that it was news to her that Lori Chesna doesn't have a contract. She thinks it is something that we should look at. Director Leonard said that there are some directors who have contracts and some who don't. Lori will explore contracts that other SRA directors have.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Huber to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Kawanna. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

T.J. Whitcomb, Corporate Secretary