

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 8, 2006

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 Huber. The meeting was held at Posen Park District, Posen, IL.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANNETTE HUBER
POSEN PARK DISTRICT	JOY OCHOA
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	JACKIE DAZZO

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

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

ABSENT

PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
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ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2006

Motion made by Director Suhs to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on October 18, 2006. Motion was seconded by Director Dziallo. All Directors were in favor; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Director Ochoa. Director Ochoa made a motion to approve the combined ending balance of \$62,810.87. The motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried, 7—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna reported that the 80's Dance, Scarecrow Festival and Halloween Hip Hop took place in October.

The Candlelight Bowl which took place on November 4th and was held at the Orland Bowl was successful. We had a lot of prizes left over from the 25th Celebration which was good because it is difficult to ask for donations back to back. Lori went to on to say that Director Dziallo had attended and had an unpleasant situation with someone on the lane and the lane malfunctioning. The bowling alley said they were working on it and gave them the option of moving later in the evening, but it was too late. Director Dziallo explained what happened and said that Ron was very disappointed with the way things turned out. SWSRA will be looking into other potential bowling alleys. Lori advised that we had refunded all of Brenda's money for the event. Director Gleason suggested looking into Burr Oak. Director Dziallo said that we should consider moving if there are other factors, not just because their lane broke down. We have had some other problems with Orland Bowl in the past. It was suggested that it would be good if we could use a bowling alley within a member district. Lori said that she will call Burr Oak.

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Executive Director Chesna announced that Kathy Egan has been named volunteer of the month. Kathy has been with SWSRA for over a year, and she is very committed and dedicated. She is very consistent and volunteers because she wants to.

C. SWSRA HOSTS LUNCHEON WITH BLUE CAP

Executive Director Chesna said that this luncheon went quite well, and the Blue Cap staff was very receptive. We are going to work on a combined luncheon with Bethshan, Park Lawn and Bjorklund House. These staff work "hands on" with the people in the houses, and we want them to buy into SWSRA. We explained why we have regulations, rules, deadlines, etc. They felt empowered because we listened to what they had to say about scheduling problems, senior population issues that we are not addressing within the right time lines, etc. We will try a sample program out; and if it's successful, we will put it in the next brochure. Dee Turner sent us a letter thanking us for the luncheon.

D. MEXICAN RIVIERA JOURNEY NOVEMBER 12-19

Erin Lynch advised that there are seven participants and two staff going on this cruise. They will be leaving early Sunday morning. It worked out well because we coordinated this with Tri County SRA, and got upgraded seven floors. We will also get a private party for a couple of hours and a \$100 on board credit per room that we can use toward our excursions. The clients are all excited.

E. PROPOSALS

Executive Director Chesna advised that we received an email from the University of Illinois today. They had been given a deadline of Friday. On Monday they asked a few questions which was the first time Lori heard from them. They emailed this morning saying that they couldn't meet my timeline. Executive Service Corps refused based on the timeline. I gave them two weeks, and I received two proposals back—one from

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Design Perspectives and one from Western Illinois University. Lori wants to table the feasibility study until we go through the needs assessment.

Director Huber had called Lori prior to the meeting and asked some questions. Lori was able to go back to Todd at Design Perspectives and get the answers. A needs assessment has not been done with an SRA to Lori's knowledge. Western University was very intrigued with the fact that it is groundbreaking. Lori likes the fact that Todd seems to be more "hands on" and gives more personal attention. Part of this assessment will be developed as we go along. We don't know what direction to take. It would be set by getting objectives and surveying the board and staff. After those meetings he would set up focus/special interest meetings. Director Huber who did a needs assessment recently said that hers was very specific. Lori said that there would be up to three meetings—one would be with each member district's staff and boards to see how we serve you and how we could do better. The second would be a general public focus group and the third would be a mailing with our own clients or the community. He will take data and put together a master plan.

Director Suhs asked why SWSRA doesn't do this in house? Lori said she would want the outside opinions so that it would give it a non-partisan view. There are areas that need to be addressed where we need an outside opinion. Lori said she has been with SWSRA for 9 years and there are areas that we need to look at. Director Suhs said that he is not going to debate. He is not a big proponent of this. He feels that Lori and the staff know a lot more than these people could pick up. As far as what is in the community and what needs to be done, you know that as well as anybody. SWSRA could do their own survey. Director Suhs said that he doesn't have a high opinion of Design Perspectives. He doesn't feel Design Perspectives has the credentials.

Lori said that what initiated this is the fact that the Alsip board starting talking to us about a building. That is in the early stages. If we are going to do that, I want to look at all of our options. What are the other member districts going to say when we build a building with Alsip? Lori is looking at how we can increase participation. Director Suhs said that he is not debating the value of a survey. It is an incredible amount of money to find out what you already know. Director Huber said that some of her board members were saying the same thing, but they opened up more to someone who had more experience on the outside. Director Huber agreed that the staff is going to have a lot of input and said she understands where Director Suhs is coming from.

Director Gleason said that at her very first meeting on the SWSRA board, Executive Services was there, and they took a whole different spin. Some of the results were that we started moving around to the different agencies. We learned that we don't know anything about the other agencies because we never went there. Director Gleason said that they worked with the University of St. Francis and paid them about one-half of that. We worked with undergraduate students and their professor. We didn't get a huge response—10% is about the most you can hope for. They didn't do a lot of brainstorming with staff and board members.

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Executive Director Chesna said that she is recommending we go with Design Perspectives. He has dealt with some of the member districts. I have received letters of recommendation and made calls. Western University is good, but they came in much higher. Director Gleason made a motion to use Design Perspectives for a needs assessment study. The motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Roll was called with five members voting yes, Director Suhs voted no and Director Dazzo abstained. Lori said that she will let the board know the timeline when we would expect to meet.

F. IPDLAF UPDATED FACT INFORMATION 2006

The board had received an updated 2006 information statement. It gives information about the investment firm.

G. 2006 AUDIT & MANAGEMENT LETTER

Please review the audit prior to the December meeting. The auditor doesn't plan to be there unless there is a problem and then we can call them prior to the meeting and they will come out. Lori explained that they didn't have our report from Maximus until after the audit was complete. This needs to be reflected in the audit.

H. TRAINING ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & SWSRA DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Executive Director Chesna said that this training workshop on accessibility is on the same day as our December board meeting. John McGovern put together a possible agenda. It would be a less technical workshop for your staff. It will be held in the northern suburbs. Lori will let everyone know as soon as she gets the information. There will be only 60 spots. Director Dazzo and Director Gleason attended a workshop that covered playgrounds. Director Gleason passed out a booklet from the one she attended. Director Gleason asked if there is some way the timeframe can be broken down so that specific subjects can be covered from 9 to 11 am and then others from 1 to 3 pm. This would be a good idea. Lori said that Director Leonard had asked her to go around to the Palos Heights parks to see if his playgrounds were accessible. There are very few people who are experts. Lori said that she has a library of pamphlets that she will share with the board. She has given the board this information in the past.

Lori asked if we should change the December board meeting from December 13th to December 20th? She said that she didn't plan to attend the workshop unless he had extra spots. Director Huber said that if she can go in the pm she would do it and then we can still have the board meeting the morning. After checking with each board member if they planned to attend, it was agreed that the December board meeting would still be held on December 13th at Summit.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Executive Director Chesna said that Scott Triphahn, Chair Elect of the IAPD Board of Trustees, wanted her opinion of why SWSRA is not joining IAPD. Lori responded that our board feels that we are an extension of their districts and that would be “double dipping.” If they are trying to sell the program, they need to incorporate SRAs. Lori said that she didn’t sign up for the legal symposium because she would have to sign up as a non-member. Ted got involved and the next thing you know, Sue McGovern sent me an email saying that that there was a misunderstanding regarding the SRA and that regardless of what we called it, their intention is only to recoup. She also said that she is looking forward to working with all of us. The handout did not include what he expressed at a director’s meeting as to what SRAs would get. He needs to have us buy into it. Some joined and some didn’t. Jane Hodgkinson said he made a commitment years ago. Director Gleason said that when SRAs join PDRMA, the member districts get a discount. Director Huber thinks the scale on the fees is bad. The rest of us pay a percentage of our equalized assessed value. Orland Park pays less than any of us. The philosophy came up years ago when recreation departments didn’t have the power. He didn’t want to discuss restructuring the fees.

Lori said that it is ironic that we may be looking for IAPD to certify us. They may say that they will do this if we are a member. At the state conference, they never mentioned SRAs even though some are members. Lori is requesting that Director Huber write a letter to Ted Flickinger—incorporating SRAs should be done before we join. Director Gleason made the point that John McGovern is chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee (and was not a member until recently)!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Ochoa to approve bills for the month of October, 2006 in the amount of \$19,553.12. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Director Ochoa inquired as to why SWSRA has to pay for background checks. She thought we never did before. Response is that we don’t pay for driver’s abstracts, but there is a charge for background checks. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. Motion carried, 7—0.

Motion made by Director Ochoa to approve payroll for the month of October, 2006, in the net amount of \$15,896.90. Motion seconded by Director DeBella. Roll called with all Directors voting yes. Motion carried 7—0.

C. PLANNING & POLICY – No report

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Ochoa to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Gleason. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

Cali Debella, Corporate Secretary