

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER  
ALSIP, IL 60803

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 2009

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 Leonard in the absence of Director DeBella. The meeting was held at the Palos Heights Recreation Department, Palos Heights, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were:

MIDLOTHIAN PARK DISTRICT	EVELYN GLEASON
ALSIP PARK DISTRICT	JEANNETTE HUBER
SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT	TOM SUHS
POSEN PARK DISTRICT	TJ WHITCOMB
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD
WORTH PARK DISTRICT	CARLO CAPALBO
VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK	BRENDA DZIALLO
BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	JANE KAWANNA (& alternate ANNIE WEST)

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

LORI CHESNA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGE COZZONE	BUSINESS MANAGER

ABSENT:

JUSTICE PARK DISTRICT	CALI DEBELLA
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ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: Executive Director Chesna advised the board that Cali DeBella is no longer with the Justice Park District and has vacated her position as President of SWSRA. We do not know who will be replacing her at Justice. Jane Kawanna, Chief of Staff at the Blue Island Park District, introduced herself to the board.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Motion made by Director Gleason to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on September 16, 2009. 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 Gleason. Director Huber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a combined ending balance of \$96,810.17 plus two certificates of deposit in the amounts of \$247,000 and \$100,000. The motion was seconded by Director Whitcomb. Director Suhs advised that Summit Park District hasn't received any tax money yet, and he is concerned about when he will be able to make his member district payment to SWSRA. Lori said that we will move money out of our Certificates of Deposit accordingly. Director Gleason said that this is true for other member districts as well. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried, 8—0. It was clarified that although two representatives from Blue Island were present, they only have one vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. OCTOBER & NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director Chesna reported that various events in October, such as, the Rock & Roll Sock Hop and the Barrel of Laughs Comedy Club were quite successful. The Sports Banquet and the Halloween Hip Hop Dance will take place later in the month. In November there are three dances scheduled as well as a Theater Night.

Lori then talked about co-hosting the "Adventure, ETC" with Tri County SRA. The Department of Human Services in our area was involved in this to put our services, staff and resources together. Our turn comes up every three years, and we will get together with Tri County to create an activity in October, December and February. Our staff needs to be trained on how to handle emotionally disturbed individuals. The Department provided us with individuals who they know and will follow them. They reimburse us for our services.

SWSRA is trying to get a Support Group started in the Summit area. Lula has advertised this, and Lori was the first speaker. The only two individuals who came were sisters. They desperately need services. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Alsip Support Group met. They set the tone for the next few months of scheduling. Their input is valuable to us. We want to know what they need. Director Dziallo, who has a son in our programs, is active in this support group.

Lori thanked the board members who had brought in baskets for the upcoming Candlelight Bowl. SWSRA appreciates their donations. She invited everyone to attend if they can. We've received over \$1,000 in sponsorships for this event to date.

B. EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Amy Mepham has been named Employee of the Month for October. Amy is a graduate of the University of St. Francis, and she is a real "go-getter."

C. RYAN CORTEZ, RECREATION SPECIALIST

Ryan left SWSRA as of Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Amy Mepham has pitched in to help out in her absence. Director Leonard said that Amy was a student of his.

D. DEPAUL UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Director Huber had submitted an application, and the students were to work with Alsip Park District. Under the circumstances, Director Huber suggested to DePaul that they work with SWSRA. We submitted the marketing project. Now that we have a full time person, we need a detailed plan. We did the things that were in the initial plan. Five students are supposed to come out in November and present their plan to us. We are hoping that they will come up with identifying and finding people in your communities to serve. We need new ideas.

E. PACE CONTRACT

We have made our final payment on one vehicle and intend to purchase it for \$1. They want us to sign a new contract on the only other remaining leased vehicle. Under the new contract, they would take care of the maintenance of the vehicle, but it has limitations. Our attorney is looking over the contract, and we are waiting for their advice. Director Gleason commented that Midlothian Park District had to give their vehicle back because it wasn't worth investing in a legal fight.

F. WORTH COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

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The delivery date for the furniture is next week. Lori will be purchasing tables from Sam's Club and will order the chairs elsewhere. Lori suggested that we have our next Board meeting at the new facility. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea, and Director Leonard suggested that a reminder be put on the next meeting correspondence.

G. CANDLELIGHT BOWL REMINDER – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

This topic was discussed earlier.

H. MARKETING/OUTREACH

Lori reviewed various PR and marketing events that have taken place recently including a booth at Graves School (SD 130), a Southwest Coop in Oak Forest at which Lori spoke, the Bremen High School Resource Fair and the Palos Heights "Meet and Greet" which Denise attended. We are currently having a problem with our web site which we are looking into.

I. EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE RENEWAL 12/1/09

The renewal rate for our health insurance decreased by 2.24%.this year. This is the second year in a row that our rate has decreased—last year by 14%. Since the comparisons came back with Blue Cross Blue Shield well under the competition, Lori intends to renew the same contract with Business Insurance Health Underwriters with no changes. SWSRA has been offering healthy programs focusing on weight loss and menus. We try to motivate ourselves, and we are seeing the results.

Director Suhs asked Lori about the recent NRPA conference in Utah. Lori said that there were some complaints and attendance was down due to the economy. They plan to shorten it in the future. Director Gleason told the board about a couple of new products which she thought were interesting. SSPRPA had their social for all members and had a huge turnout.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT - None.

CORRESPONDENCE -- None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RECREATION - No report.

B. FINANCE

1. Approval of Bills & Payroll

Motion made by Director Whitcomb to approve bills for the month of September, 2009 in the amount of \$30,492.29 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

The board discussed setting levies. Director Gleason said that they levy as close to the 4% as possible and end up getting around 3%. Director Huber said that Alsip only levies at 2%. Director Capalbo said that they have completed their access study and they did levy at the 4%.

In response to a question about the After School Program, Lori responded that the Blue Island school district seemed to be all excited at first and then we never heard anything back from them. SSSRA had to put a sticker on their brochure or the school district wouldn't distribute the brochure in their schools. This is not supported by the school district. Director Dziallo asked Director Capalbo if Worth would be interested in an after-school program. Director Kawanna commented on the length of time it took to finalize Blue Island's recent governmental agreement with School District 130. Director Huber said that it depends on who you deal with.

Executive Director Chesna gave a quick update on SWSRA's pending workmen's compensation issue. PDRMA just sent this individual for a second opinion.

Director Dziallo asked what is going on with the Burr Oak Bowling Alley in Blue Island, and the fact that there is no ramp available. Erin has provided them with information about alternate ramps. They have a budget to work with, but I'm sure it is not cheap. We don't have a portable ramp, but we did tell them about it. That is how our workmen's comp issue developed (lifting a wheelchair). This is our first issue with this, and we should do more leg work for them. Depending on the cost, maybe we would want to purchase a ramp. If we leave, we take it with us. It would be portable, but it may need to be custom made. Director Leonard asked Lori to get the figures so the board can consider it.

#### NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that the IPRA election is underway, and everyone was encouraged to vote for John Curran who is the only candidate that would represent the south side.

Reminder that the next board meeting will be at the Worth Community Center, 10707 S. Oak Park Avenue, rather than at Posen who will switch and host the January meeting.

Motion was made by Huber to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Director Gleason. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

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Jeannette Huber, Corporate Secretary