

SOUTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
12521 SOUTH KOSTNER  
ALSIP, IL 60803

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

October 18, 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 Alsip Park District, Alsip, 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
PALOS HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPT.	MIKE LEONARD

SWSRA STAFF PRESENT:

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

ABSENT

BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT	JACKIE DAZZO
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ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA: Director Huber introduced the new SWSRA board member, Mike Leonard, who is now the Director at Palos Heights Recreation Department

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Motion made by Director Ochoa to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on September 13, 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 \$59,912.55. The motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Director Suhs inquired about one of the negative account balances and Marge Cozzone responded that it was due to an internal transfer within the overall combined account balance. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried, 7—0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. **SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

Executive Director Chesna reported that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Bourbon Street on September 15<sup>th</sup> went smoothly. We had a good turn out and everyone had a good time.

B. **EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

Executive Director Chesna announced that Erin Lynch was employee of the month. Lori said that Erin planned the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and her and Alyssa Fusco did a great job on getting contributions and raffle prizes. All staff did a great job!

C. **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER FROM PALOS HEIGHTS**

Executive Director Chesna welcomed Mike Leonard from Palos Heights who will be replacing Mark Purcell on the SWSRA board. Lori said that Mike has some experience with SRAs since he worked with Tri County SRA in the past.

D. **SWSRA BLOWOUT CELEBRATION AT 115 BOURBON STREET**

Lori referred to the income and expense report the board received. She explained that when the event was planned, our thought was to break even. We wanted to celebrate the clients and not really have it as a fundraiser. We had rolled the prices back for our 25<sup>th</sup>, and we went into it with this mindset. As you can see from the statement that Marge put together, we had a profit of \$2,400. Lori thanked the board for the part that they had played purchasing raffle tickets, etc. Since it was the first time we did this, there were some kinks in it, but it was relatively easy to do. Lori said Bourbon Street was great to work with, and she would recommend them to anyone. Lori said that we had a lot of wine left that will be used to make gift baskets for the Candlelight Bowl. Lori listed the individuals who received gas cards for the highest raffle sales.

E. **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL INCREASE**

Executive Director Chesna advised that the health insurance increased 16% this year. It had been as high as 25% other years, and she had budgeted for 25%. Lori explained that we look at the insurance every three years. Last year we decided to have the employees contribute 5% of the premium. We started with a base amount of anything over \$600. In response to a question about quotes from other companies, including PDRMA, Lori explained that the rate is always much higher once you are underwritten. The initial quote can increase up to 65%. PDRMA doesn't recommend we change carriers because of our current health issues. Director Leonard inquired why PDRMA is there if they won't insure us. Lori said that they would actually take us, but their price would be much higher. We have been advised by more than one carrier to stay with our current carrier.

F. **PACE VAN LEASE UP IN DECEMBER**

When our lease is up in December SWSRA will be one of the first agencies who will be able to make a purchase for \$1. Lori was told to put together a letter that we are intending to purchase the vehicle. Pace called and asked if we were going to buy another vehicle. We have two other vehicles already. If the money comes through from Senator Maloney, we will be looking to replace the white bus.

- 3 South West Special Recreation Association  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 18, 2006

Lori said that once the mini van is purchased, she would like to use it as a director's car. She is planning to assign a vehicle for programs to each recreation staff.

**G. BROCHURE**

Lori said that the brochure is at the printer and is scheduled to arrive soon. She asked the board to let us know if they need additional copies.

**H. ILLINOIS THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SECTION LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DIVISION ALTERNATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Executive Director Chesna said that the Legislative Advocacy Division has been working on this funding for years. We are looking to do two things: get in on the gambling money and also get into the Department of Human Services. SWSRA would be a provider for the people who are on Medicaid and who could choose our services as an option. The Department of Human Services asked us to define what an SRA is and come up with criteria so that everyone is not trying to get in on the money. This led us to ask the IAPD to set up criteria that would have to be met to be able to be a provider to obtain funds. Not everyone is going to want to be a provider because there may be a lot of paperwork. It upset some of the SRAs out there who do not meet the objectives. We are not doing this for any other reason other than to obtain funding. There has to be a standard. Based on the standard and criteria, SWSRA would fit in the criteria and IAPD would recognize us as an SRA. IPRA is paying for five attorneys who will look at these criteria. The average cost is \$240 per hour per attorney. We estimate it would take 3 hours, but they are saying 8 hours so we may have to shave that down.

Director Suhs asked about how many people would be able to utilize this. Lori responded about 80%, but that fluctuates with each SRA. Even the kids in our day camps need this—these individuals are not getting the funding that they need. They are tapping into our scholarship program, and we will eventually lose funding. So this is a way to get it without tapping into our own funds. It may not increase participants, but it will help the ones we do have to participate in more programs. Director Gleason suggested that there are companies out there who do the Medicaid paperwork and they take a percentage which isn't that great.

**I. CANDLELIGHT BOWL**

Executive Director Chesna reminded all the board members that the Candlelight Bowl is on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Some of the board members brought raffle prizes that they are donating for this event.

**J. 2006 HOLIDAY PARTY & EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

Lori advised the board that they will be receiving a formal invitation in the near future, but she wanted them to mark their calendars for Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Employees will be receiving service awards for 5, 10 years, etc.

**K. PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR 2007-2011 SWSRA 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN BY DESIGN PERSPECTIVES, INC.**

Proposal was submitted by Design Perspectives, and there was discussion on obtaining proposal from the University of Illinois and Western University as well. They are running about the same price for the 5-year plan. Director Leonard said it would be a

- 4 South West Special Recreation Association  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 18, 2006

good idea to get proposals from others—more than just Design Perspectives. Director Leonard thinks Design Perspectives is a landscape architect. He is branching out and one of Mike's concerns is that he may be spreading himself too thin and may be getting into an area where he doesn't have experience.

Director Huber said that Alsip had a needs assessment—not a 5 year plan. He limits himself to so many per year, and Director Huber felt they got what they needed. Question was asked about who Design Perspectives has done a 5-year plan for? Suggestion we start with needs and then develop into a 5 year plan. Lori said that Western thought that this was uncharted waters with an SRA. Lori said that it is exciting to think that this could be something brand new, and that there will be challenges that we haven't thought of.

Director Gleason that the 5-year plan that South Suburban did with the University of St. Francis was strictly a mail out survey. They put the statistics together. Director Leonard said that at Bedford Park they did both focus groups and mail out. Lori said that SWSRA has had articles in the brochure trying to get a focus group together, but never received a response.

**L. PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR 2006 SWSRA SITE & BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Executive Director Chesna reviewed the potential sites that she has viewed including the property next door on Kostner, property a few blocks down on Kostner across from the pool next to the skate park and also some property by Sears Park. Lori likes the idea of Jeff Braun since he has worked with South Suburban SRA, and he could do something similar for SWSRA but on a smaller scale. Lori went through their building and asked how they liked the building design. One thing they mentioned they were missing was enough storage. Lori likes the design and would rather take a design like that and just tweak it. It cost \$750,000 a few years ago. Alsip Park District is already talking about doing a joint venture on a building with us. We didn't even have to approach them—they approached us. There was more discussion and a consensus that Lori should do the schools and get one more proposal in addition.

The following motions were made at this time:

Director Gleason made a motion to approve the resolution (#06-01) for Section 125 Premium Only Plan. The motion was seconded by Director Leonard. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. The motion carried 7—1.

Director Suhs made a motion to purchase the Pace vehicle for \$1. The motion was seconded by Director Gleason. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried 7—1.

Director Leonard made a motion to assign the former Pace van for use by the Executive Director. Director Suhs seconded the motion. The need for a license plate was discussed. Director Gleason asked if we would be able to transfer the M plate because this may not have to be renewed every year. Lori will investigate this before December. Roll was called with all directors voting yes. The motion carried 7—1.

Director Gleason made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report, seconded by Director Ochoa. 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 Ochoa to approve bills for the month of September, 2006 in the amount of \$14,447.67. Motion was seconded by Director DeBella. Roll was called with all Directors voting yes. Motion carried, 7—0.

Motion made by Director Dziallo to approve payroll for the month of September, 2006, in the net amount of \$14,146.39. 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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Director Gleason to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Director Ochoa. All Directors were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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Marge Cozzone, Corresponding Secretary

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Cali Debella, Corporate Secretary