

River Forest Park District
Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2007

The Board of Commissioners of the River Forest Park District met at 7:00 p.m. in regular session on Monday, February 5, 2007 at River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Dudek, Vice President Lamm (7:10 pm), Commissioners Hirst (7:05 pm), Jones and Steele

Also Present: Executive Director Grundin

2. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. **Public Comment**

Mr. Chuck Race, 822 Keystone Avenue, addressed the Board as a representative of the Oak Park River Forest Strikers Soccer Club. Mr. Race suggested the OPRF Strikers should have been invited to a recently held meeting between current user groups of the District fields. He managed to attend at the last minute per an invitation from Commissioner Jones. He requested the Board consider the request of the Striker's for affiliate status with the Park District.

Tom Cargie, 938 William, agreed with the statements made by Mr. Race, and said all residents should be considered regarding field use.

Chris Barkidjija, 1134 Park Avenue, said he was a Striker's coach, and wanted fairness from the District regarding the use of playing fields. He said politics should have no place in the issue of access to athletic fields.

Molly Hague, 34 Forest Avenue, said she had previously approached the Board about assisting with the development of the Field Use Policy, but was not contacted. She again requested the Field Use Policy be placed on the District's website.

Mr. Greg Gullo, 1402 Monroe, reiterated the comments made by Molly Hague, and said the Board should make the Field Use Policy a public document.

Kathy Corcos, 102 Franklin, said the Board should keep open to the public any and all discussions regarding the Field Use Policy. Ms. Corcos indicated she is a paid employee of the Strikers Soccer Club.

President Dudek then thanked those who made their comments known, and closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting as no other residents were signed-in to address the Board.

4. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of December 4, 2006, and January 8, 2007 regular session minutes; the December 19, 2006 special session and January 8, 2007 executive session minutes.

b. Approval of Financial Statements and Disbursements for the month of January, 2007

c. West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) news/information

d. Executive Director's Report

Commissioner Steele made a motion, seconded by Vice President Lamm, approving the February, 2007 Consent Agenda items as presented.

Voice vote.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 1

Motion carried.

5. New Business

a. Introduction of Student Intern Tovar

Executive Director Grundin introduced the District's current student intern, that being Rudy Tovar, from Illinois State University. Mr. Tovar reviewed the main objectives of his recreation internship, and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve, and looked forward to completing his final college requirement prior to receiving his degree in recreation management.

b. Professional Services contracts for engineering/site design projects

Executive Director Grundin reviewed for the Board a number of projects related to park and facility improvements, the need for completing them, their timeline and urgency, the funding of the projects and related items. Grundin noted the projects had been discussed at previous meetings and in the budget approval process, and were now at a point to get started. After a discussion and series of questions related to the improvements, the funding amounts and authorization for the following were acted on:

Priory North Ball Diamond Study:	\$1,000
Washington Square Tennis Courts:	\$5,500
Constitution Park Playground & Improvements	\$7,050
7810 Lake Street Maintenance Building	\$5,000

The Board agreed in principal to authorize Executive Director Grundin to proceed with the aforementioned items with the individual consultants, assuming Counsel approval on the contractual language in the contracts. The dollar amounts to be paid upon approved invoices, at not to exceed expenditures per the amounts approved for each project. Further consideration of each proposal will be taken after preparation of documents and specifications and cost estimates.

6. Old Business

a. Field Use Policy

President Dudek stated the proposed modifications to the Athletic Field Use Policy (AFUP) incorporated public input from multiple board meetings. The changes included establishing a tier system which prioritized field allocation by the percentage of River Forest participants (the higher the percentage of River Forest residents, the higher the tier and priority in the allocation process), and lowering the field use fees. Discussion ensued as to the proposed revisions to the Policy, the meaning of the revisions, intent and effect on the public.

Commissioner Hirst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to table discussions regarding the Athletic Field Use Policy until a copy of the revised policy is shared with residents.

Roll call vote

Ayes: Hirst.

Nays: Dudek, Lamm, Jones & Steele.

Motion failed.

Discussion continued regarding the AFUP, the proposed modifications, the equitability for residents and the number of public comments and suggestions already heard from the public regarding the adoption of the Policy. The Board agreed to minor modifications to the policy as proposed including adding the definition of an affiliate program, and a change in language regarding the lightning prediction system versus a lightning warning system.

Commissioner Steele made a motion, seconded by Vice President Lamm, to adopt the revised Athletic Field Use Policy dated February 5, 2007 as noted and modified.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Dudek, Lamm, Jones & Steele.

Nays: Hirst

Motion carried.

Commissioner Hirst then read a prepared statement reflecting her frustration with the process utilized by the Board in adopting the AFUP. Several members of the Board rebutted Commissioner Hirst's statement, while several members of the public disrupted the Board discussion by shouting their opinions.

7. Board Member reports and comments

Commissioner Hirst questioned the process utilized by the Board in adopting the AFUP.

8. Executive session to discuss personnel matters (Section 2(c)(1))

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by President Dudek to convene to executive session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Dudek, Lamm, Jones, Steele.

Nays: Hirst

Motion carried

The Board reconvened in regular session at 10:07 p.m. Upon roll call, the following were:

Present: President Dudek, Vice President Lamm, Commissioners Hirst, Jones & Steele

Absent: none.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Steele.

Voice vote.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Steele, Jr./trg
Secretary