

**River Forest Park District**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2007**

The Board of Commissioners of the River Forest Park District met at 7:00 p.m. in regular session on Monday, March 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 (7:06 pm), Commissioners Hirst, Jones and Steele

Also Present: Executive Director Grundin; Attorney Margaret Kostopolus representing the Ancel Glink law firm

2. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. **Public Comment**

Dale Rider, 207 Gale Avenue, said that he had planned on posing a question to the Park Board, but in the meantime, he had answered his own question.

Joan O'Connor, 351 Thatcher Avenue, said she was concerned that there were no recent references to the status or progress of the Keystone Park Lighting Project in meeting minutes dating back to January of 2007. The following questions were made: 1) Have the east lights at Keystone been remediated per the terms of the agreement with the Village? 2) Will the west lights have the ability to operate in pairs if needed as opposed to all four being illuminated for practice purposes? How will this process be managed? 3) The recently adopted Athletic Field Use Policy makes no mention of the ability to utilize lights, nor fees required for use of them. Why aren't these items listed in the policy?

Agatha Gallo, 348 Forest Avenue, concurred with the questions put forth by Mrs. O'Connor, and inquired as to the status of the compromise made with the Village. She asked what the timeline for implementation of the new lights would be, as spring is approaching.

President Dudek 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 February 5, 2007 regular and executive session minutes**

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

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

**d. Executive Director's Report**

Commissioner Hirst made a request to amend the February 5, 2007 regular session meeting minutes, to which no objection was made.

Commissioner Hirst requested an update as to the dialogue between Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) and the Park District regarding the Athletic Field Request made by OPRFHS for soccer play. Commissioner Hirst repeatedly requested information from Executive Director Grundin as to why the Park District was “stonewalling” the High School over a simple request for field use. It was explained by Vice President Lamm and President Dudek that the institution was making a first-ever request for field space, and as such, the District is within its rights to ascertain the scope and depth of the request as it relates to the overall sports programs at OPRFHS, particularly in regards to percentages of River Forest athletes compared to Oak Park athletes. Executive Director Grundin stated OPRFHS had only partially responded to the request at this point in time, but discussions with the Athletic Director will continue. Commissioner Hirst reiterated repeatedly her objection to the request, and the imperial manner of the Park Board. She requested to see a copy of the letter or e-mail that was sent from the District to OPRFHS requesting the athletic participation data.

President Dudek said OPRFHS’s continued refusal to provide information related to their outdoor athletic programs, prevents any discussion(s) that should take place between the High School, the Park District of Oak Park and the River Forest Park District. He said that future requests from OPRFHS are unknown at this point in time, and the District is simply looking to estimate what future requests might entail.

Executive Director Grundin addressed the questions raised in Public Comment by Mrs. O’Connor and Mrs. Gallo regarding the lighting project at Keystone Park.

After further discussion and debate, Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Vice President Lamm, approving the March, 2007 Consent Agenda items as presented and amended.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Dudek, Lamm, Hirst, Jones, Steele.

Nays: none.

Motion carried

## **5. New Business**

**a. AN AMENDED ORDINANCE PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE PARKS AND OTHER PROPERTY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT, RIVER FOREST, ILLINOIS, AND THE PRESCRIBING OF FINES AND OTHER PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.**

President Dudek reviewed the need for a revised Park Use Ordinance, as the existing Park Use Ordinance has become dated. Copies of both the proposed new ordinance and the existing one were provided to the Board so that comparisons could be made between the two. President Dudek requested the Board review the proposed new ordinance, so discussion could take place at the April Board meeting; he looked forward to its adoption at that time.

**b. Acceptance of Annual Financial Reports for Fiscal 2005 & 2006**

Executive Director Grundin reviewed the completed audits from the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years, and said the audit team, as well as the District's in-house accounting firm, have provided the District with a clean financial bill of health. Several recommendations made by the auditors regarding cash handling procedures at the District office and concession stands have already or will soon be implemented by District staff, according to Grundin.

Treasurer Jones said that he had reviewed the audits in a cursory manner, but his opinion is limited in such manners. Jones said the meeting he attended with Governmental Accounting Services and Executive Director Grundin provided him with an upbeat outlook concerning the new accounting and reporting system that will be implemented this spring, continuing through January of 2008.

Vice President Lamm made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to accept the Financial Reports for the River Forest Park District dated April 30, 2005 and April 30, 2006.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Dudek, Lamm, Hirst, Jones, Steele.

Nays: none.

Motion carried

6. **Old Business**

None.

7. **Board Member reports and comments**

President Dudek introduced the concept of televising the monthly park board meetings, as a means to elevate awareness of said meetings to the members of the community who might not otherwise have any other means as to what business is before the Board of Commissioners. Dudek said that newspapers provide some coverage as to the dealings of the District, but televised coverage would be far more comprehensive. He said that as a means of convenience and possible cost sharing, the Village might also want to consider the possibility of televising their meetings, as both the Park Board and Village Board meet in the same room at different times and dates. President Dudek suggested that OPRFHS has an excellent multimedia department that includes production television production studio, and this might be a great means for intergovernmental cooperation, benefiting both the community as well as students and faculty at OPRFHS. Dudek said he would compile information prior to the next meeting for further consideration by the Board.

Vice President Lamm said that he was pleased District staff made the effort in constructing the ice rink at Constitution Park, and thanked them for doing so. Lamm said a good number of residents enjoyed the rink for several weeks.

Commissioner Jones said that he concurred with Commissioner Hirst's request to see the correspondence requesting athletic participation data from OPRFHS. Jones said that he had received several unsolicited positive comments from members of the community regarding the District's adoption of the Athletic Field Use Policy. Jonea acknowledged the process was somewhat painful, but now that it has been approved, it will be a benefit to the District and the community in the future.

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 7:55 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Dudek, Lamm, Hirst, Jones, Steele.

Nays: none.

Motion carried

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

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

Also present: Attorney Margaret Kostopolus, representing the Ancel Glink law firm.

Absent: none.

9. **Adjournment**

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

Voice vote.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Steele, Jr./trg  
Secretary