

**River Forest Park District
Meeting Minutes of
January 11, 2010**

The Board of Commissioners of the River Forest Park District convened at 8:00pm in Regular Session on Monday, January 11, 2010, at the River Forest Park District, 401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

Call to Order/Roll Call – 8:00pm

President Jones called the meeting to order at 8:00pm, and he requested all to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roll call was then taken with Commissioners Cargie, Hague, Steele, Nieto, and Jones present. Also present were Director Sletten, Athletic Supervisor Kenny, Chris LaFortune (Pioneer Press), Paul Harding (559 Ashland Avenue), Carol Yetken (Oak Park), Michael Zielanski (130 Forest Avenue), Michelle Moore (1023 Park Avenue), Sarah Hicks (103 Forest Avenue), Dave Erfort (103 Franklin Avenue), Liam Van Zant (106 Forest Avenue), Bruce Faland (321 Franklin Avenue), Greg Lamacki (26 Ashland Avenue), Nick Altier (12 Ashland Avenue), and Carmelle Corsini (1415 Lathrop).

Old Business

John Dzarnowski, FGM Architects, presented conceptual plans of the proposed recreation center to the Board. President Jones asked if any of the residents in attendance had a specific question to the architect, and four residents asked a question.

Public Commentary

Paul Harding discussed his concerns of the location of the facility and felt it would be better for the facility to be in a central location in the community. His suggestion was to locate the facility next to Willard School in Constitution Park. Mr. Harding also asked if the Park District has a Master plan, and President Jones responded that the Park District does not have a Master Plan.

Carol Yetken discussed the history of Washington Square and expressed her support in restoring the park back to the 1917 design.

Michael Zielanski requested a traffic study, and environmental impact study, and a phase I environmental study of the property prior to the referendum. Commissioner Hague addressed the requests as not economically feasible before the referendum and discussed the possibility of one tennis court being required for additional parking.

Michelle Moore expressed her concerns over the cost of the referendum, because the State and Village are in financial trouble, and municipal agencies should be frugal in their spending. She also commented that because only 25% of the residents

responded to the Community Survey, the residents do not have a desire for more facility space.

Sarah Hicks noted that the bond payments are over 25 years and did not want to burden her children with this debt. She asked why the Park District and the River Forest Community Center never held merge discussions, and Commissioner Hague answered that the RFCC never committed to a date and Ms. Hicks should contact the RFCC why they would not set a date for the discussions. Ms Hicks stated that she would like to see an operations report, with a detail of all maintenance costs including snow plowing expenses.

Dale Erfort asked about a rumor he heard that the Park District rented space from the RFCC in November and December, and then cancelled all the use. Director Sletten responded that the Park District reserves space during the holidays every year for the Travel Basketball Program, and because we make our school space requests in the summer, and we did not know the space availability until school starts. The Park District was able to secure the needed school space this year, so we did not need the RFCC gym for Travel basketball practices.

Liam Van Zant expressed her opinion that the amenities in the proposed recreation center are not reflective of the information in the 2008 Community Survey.

Bruce Faland asked if the Park District is locked into purchasing the Oilily property, and Commissioner Cargie explained that the contract being negotiated has a contingency for the referendum to pass and successful completion of a site environmental study.

Greg Lamacki expressed his preference that he would like to receive the tax reduction in exchange for the proposed recreation center.

Nick Altier suggested giving the tax funds for the proposed recreation center to other agencies that have gym space.

Carmelle Corsini thanked the Park District for keeping the school sidewalks clear of snow and ice during this winter.

Board Reports: President Jones notified the Board that the draft for the final installment to his series of letters to the newspapers will be completed that week, and asked for the Board Members to quickly respond with any comments when they receive the letter.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Hague moved to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2009 and December 21, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Nieto. President Jones asked if there were any additional corrections, and none were made. A voice vote followed, and the motion was approved 5-0.

Approval of Disbursements: Commissioner Hague moved to approve the December 15-31, 2009 Disbursements for \$12,670.60 and January 1-11, 2009 Disbursements for \$117,838, seconded by Commissioner Nieto. President Jones asked if there were any questions, and none were made. A roll call vote followed, and the motion was approved 5-0.

Staff Reports: Commissioner Hague suggested that the athletic field hotline be used as a hotline for notification on the ice rink availability.

Commissioner Cargie asked if the trash cans be emptied weekly or only when they are filled, and Director Sletten stated that he would have to ask John Beto. Commissioner Cargie asked if the cans at the Triangles can be removed.

Executive Director Report: Director Sletten discussed the progress of the 401 Thatcher Project and informed the Board that the waiting room will be open on January 20th.

WSSRA Report: No Report.

Parks Foundation Report: The January 18th Parks Foundation Meeting has been postponed until February, date and time TBA

Commissioner Hague moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cargie at 9:30pm. President Jones asked if there were any additional comments, and none were made. A voice vote followed, and the motion was approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sletten
Secretary