

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
KENILWORTH PARK DISTRICT BOARD HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL,
419 RICHMOND ROAD, AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

In the absence of Park Board President Feeney, Park District Secretary Brad Burke called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., and called the roll as follows:

Present:	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Rick Peterson	Commissioner
Arrived 5:15 p.m.	Tom Feeney	Chairman
Absent:	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Debby Killion	515 Cumnor Road
	Sue Cozzens	99 Tudor Place
	Polky Kibler	103 Robsart Road
	Cheryl Anderson	606 Wayland Avenue
	Julie Garrison	620 Roger Avenue
	Susan Coughlin	727 Cummings Avenue
	Sheila Mitchell	728 Maclean Avenue
	Nancy Roberts	521 Kenilworth Avenue
	John Roberts	521 Kenilworth Avenue
	Jackie Bossu	614 Earlston Road
	Chip Anderson	731 Roger Avenue
	Mary K. Hartigan	600 Greenwood Avenue
	Lois Stanley	167 Sheridan Road
	Mary Glerum	219 Sheridan Road
	Cristy Laier	306 Oxford Road
	Julia Szafranski	Winnetka
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue
	Merrilee Redmond	Winnetka
	Lou DeFelice	Winnetka

In the absence of President Feeney, ***Commissioner Kenyon made a motion to name Commissioner Rick Peterson Chairman Pro Tempore. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, which upon a voice vote was unanimously approved without dissent.***

Approval of the Minutes of August 26, 2010

The minutes of the August 26, 2010 meeting were placed before the Park District Board. ***Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Pro Tem Peterson seconded the motion, and the August 26, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.***

New Business

2a. Consideration of Request from Kenilworth Garden Club Regarding Possible Tree Removal at Ware Memorial Park

Ms. Sue Cozzens of the Kenilworth Garden Club said her organization maintains Ware Memorial Park. The Kenilworth Garden Club started planting trees in 1997, and to date, has planted approximately 10 trees. These trees are now tall enough to allow for the removal of several non-native tree species found in the park. Ms. Cozzens explained there are 8 large non-native Norway Maples the Club proposes to remove. Ms. Cozzens said the Club feels the Norway Maples will crowd out the mature desirable trees. The Garden Club would like to start with the removal of 2 trees this year, and noted the 2 trees they are proposing to remove this year are in the wooded section on the west side of the park. Ms. Cozzens said the Garden Club will fund removal. Ms. Cozzens said the native trees planted within the last 10 to 12 years are about 8 to 10 feet tall. She said she did not believe it will look like there is a big hole in the park as a result of the removal.

Chairman Pro Tem Peterson made a motion to consent to the Kenilworth Garden Club moving forward on this tree removal project. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion which unanimously carried.

2b. Continued Discussion of Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Joey De Felice – Pee Wee Park Baseball Field Improvements

Next, the Park Board continued discussion of Joey DeFelice's proposed Eagle Scout Project. Joey DeFelice was not in attendance, but the Board discussed his presentation materials.

Park Board President Tom Feeney arrived at 5:15 p.m.

In Mr. DeFelice's current proposal, he wanted to move the bleachers closer to home plate. Superintendent Maggi thought it was a good plan, but noted the players will be further out from the spectators. Mr. Lou DeFelice, Joey's father, explained the proposed Eagle Scout project. He said Joey DeFelice had sent emails to Bob Anderson for comments, but he was not sure if Joey had received feedback.

A discussion of the proposed project design followed. Finally there was discussion of funding the scout project. Mr. DeFelice said required funding would depend on the size and complexity of the project. Mr. DeFelice went on to say that Joey was asking for money to assist in offsetting costs. He felt his son's project was more complex, which was why funding was being requested.

A discussion of going back to the original proposal followed, which included flipping the location of the bench and the bleachers in the design.

Park Board President Tom Feeney expressed his opinion some form of original proposal with nothing closing up the entrance and no wings on either side is the most desirable. President Feeney noted he did not believe the Park District should be involved in funding an individual Eagle Scout project. It was agreed that Joey DeFelice would work toward a project which was more like his original design and that the project would not be funded by the Park District.

3c. *Consideration of Bids Received and Possible Resolution Approving Award of Contract with Team Reil Inc. for Townley Field Renovation Project.*

Next, Secretary Burke introduced bids received for the Townley Field Renovation Project, noting the staff recommendation to approve the bid of Team REIL Inc. Secretary Burke noted the project specified for bid included the elimination of the northern baseball diamond, removal and relocation of the middle diamond to a southernmost location on Townley Field. Commissioner Peterson said he was concerned about the aesthetics of moving a baseball field to the south as well as whether the proposed field configuration would accommodate all age groups.

Mr. DeFelice said AYSO is pretty strongly opposed to the proposed new configuration. Mr. DeFelice noted AYSO is mainly concerned the proposed configuration is to remove a playing field and replace it with a larger baseball field.

A discussion of the numbers of children participating in various sporting activities on Townley Field followed. It was noted that the Park District appears to be sacrificing the potential participating of a higher number of kids with the proposed field configuration.

Commissioner Kenyon discussed baseball needs. Mr. DeFelice said far more kids are involved in sports other than baseball. If the middle field is lost, soccer and lacrosse will be competing. There was more discussion of how AYSO officials feel about getting rid of the middle baseball field.

Mr. DeFelice went on to say when you look at the numbers of participants, keeping baseball far north clears the obstruction in the middle of the field.

Commissioner Kenyon said the downfall of only a northern baseball diamond is that baseball would be played on the north diamond and then nobody would be able to access the rest of the field.

Mr. DeFelice noted the small baseball diamond is only used for about 12 Kenilworth children who play baseball, while there are 142 children involved in soccer in Kenilworth this year. A continued discussion of field usage followed. Mr. DeFelice said there are about 500 kids between soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey, and expressed he felt it just did not make sense to have a whole field dedicated to baseball.

Commissioner Higgins said the Park Board's goal is to serve the most kids.

Mr. DeFelice said the main complaint he hears from Kenilworth parents is the lack of available practice times.

Commissioner Kenyon said the Girl's program has not played one game in 5 years on Townley Field and noted baseball and lacrosse coexist on the field currently.

Mr. DeFelice again said he didn't think the numbers made sense for a dedicated baseball field and noted everyone will have to compromise. Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion compromise is not an issue and noted he needs the field 5 nights a week after 5:30 p.m.

Eileen Madigan expressed her opinion the Park Board should get to the bigger issue of showing current field usage and what their proposal for the field looks like.

Chip Anderson thanked the Park Board for family fun night. He suggested maybe keeping the configuration as is but reducing the clay area infield would be an option. Superintendent Maggi noted some diamonds have a limited skinned area.

Eileen Madigan expressed her opinion maintaining two usable fields makes sense. She said the purpose is to give an opportunity for young people to participate in local Park District programs appropriate for their field use.

Lois Stanley, speaking for the Garden Council, said the club has an aesthetic concern with the fence along the south ball diamond. She felt that when you have the open space there is a feeling of calm and quiet. She felt that if the diamond was moved south, residents would be losing something and expressed her opinion this was an important issue for the Village of Kenilworth.

Mary K. Hartigan expressed her opinion she was shocked the Park Board went out for bid without having a plan they agree upon. She felt they should have invited the public to participate to get community input. Eileen Madigan noted while she has been attending meetings of the Park Board regularly and is well informed on the topic of the field project, this is the first the community is hearing about the project.

Commissioner Higgins expressed surprise in hearing individuals express their comments they are surprised that the Park Board is looking into re-doing the field. Commissioner Higgins noted the Park Board has been talking about a field project for over a year. She expressed her opinion she was grateful for the thoughts shared tonight which would help the Board ultimately come to a good decision.

Jackie Bossu said she was unaware of the project but did receive an email newsletter about this meeting and the topic planned for discussion. She wanted to understand why the Board wants to move the field south. She asked if the Board surveyed the community after the results of last spring's referendum prior to making a decision on the scope of the field renovation project.

Commissioner Kenyon said the feeling he got was the majority of the community did not care what the Park Board does for the field.

Commissioner Higgins said she felt like citizens elect a board to make a decision and represent the community. Hopefully residents have enough faith that the Board will do the right thing, but, yes, input from the public is important.

Mrs. Roberts said the Board has a responsibility to the community. Commissioner Higgins said the Board has not accepted a bid; that is one of the reasons for tonight's meeting.

Lois Stanley said the Garden Club does support updating Townley Field and would also support fundraising.

Mr. DeFelice said AYSO does reseeding and aids in field improvement, and expressed his opinion AYSO would most likely support the improvement if field usage would be granted.

There was a question about the Storch Fund and the use of the fund to pay for proposed Townley Field improvements. Mary K. Hartigan expressed her opinion the Storch Fund should not be used for the field project.

President Feeney said the Storch Fund is a gift fund to be used for parks and park improvements.

Cristy Laier expressed her opinion the Park Board should hold a public hearing if field configuration is to change.

Lois Stanley presented a signed letter regarding the field, use of funds, and fundraising. She felt the Park Board should be concerned about relying on the Recreation Fund and the Gift Fund for the project. Ms. Stanley noted it was her opinion the Board should ask the community for money.

Commissioner Higgins said perhaps residents would make donations so the Storch Fund would not have to be used.

Lois Stanley said, in terms of the fund agreement, the Board should not be talking to the benefactor nor should the money be used for athletic purposes.

Sue Cozzens said she would like the Kenilworth Garden Club to collaborate with the Park Board more in determining how the Storch Fund is expended.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to have a public hearing. Mary K. Hartigan expressed her opinion the Board should produce a schematic of how the field is used. Commissioner Higgins said the Park Board will be happy to provide a rough schedule including the number of games and players.

Mary K. Hartigan expressed her opinion the next thing the Board is going to hear is the need for different lights for the field. Commissioner Peterson said the Park Board has shelved the idea of new lights with the discussion of artificial turf a few years ago.

A discussion of the competing interests regarding the field project followed. Jackie Bossu said she was not sure she was hearing an opposing view. She expressed her opinion the concerns were about moving the field to the southern end of Townley Field. She said the field is used for a variety of things and questioned if it was worth putting a large diamond on the southern end. She felt it made more sense to have only the north diamond. She asked why the Park Board is considering putting the field on the south end.

Commissioner Higgins responded the Park Board is trying to have one expanse of open grass area for the field.

Cristy Laier noted it appears AYSO and aesthetic interests are the same.

Chip Anderson asked if it wouldn't it be an option to cut out clay to have a lesser infield and retain the baseball diamond in the center of Townley Field in its existing location. Commissioner Kenyon said lacrosse and baseball sharing the same field will not work.

Commissioner Higgins said the Board must schedule a public meeting to provide more public discussion of this issue. It was the consensus of the Park Board to schedule another public meeting to discuss the proposed field project.

2d. Approval of August 2010 Bills

The August payables were put before the Board. **President Feeney made a motion to approve the August bills. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the bills were unanimously approved.**

Old Business

None.

Commissioner's Report

President Feeney said the Little Springs program had a loss for the second year in a row, in that expenses exceeded revenue. He explained that last year the construction at Sears School had given some residents the impetus to find other programs for their children, and these families found other programs and stayed with them again this year. If residents do not enroll and the program keeps on running at a deficit, next fall the Park Board will have to consider not funding the program.

Eileen Madigan expressed her opinion the reduced enrollment in Little Springs and Sports Plus is a reflection of the quality of the program.

Lou DeFelice said he could tell a lot of families made a choice in the year of the school construction project, and noted it is tough to pull people back.

Jackie Bossu said she had 3 kids that went through Little Springs. She said older kids from Sears School became mentors to younger children.

Lou DeFelice said he has not seen anything negative. He said the school construction drew people away, but he did not think there was anything negative in the program.

Staff Report

Next, Superintendent Maggi reported that 12 ash trees need to come down. **President Feeney made a motion to approve the removal of the trees. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and upon a voice vote the removal of the 12 trees was approved unanimously without dissent.**

The Board briefly considered the draft fundraising letter included with their meeting materials and were in unanimous agreement to get a fundraising letter in the mail to all residents.

President Feeney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, and upon a voice vote the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Burke