

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
KENILWORTH PARK DISTRICT PARK BOARD HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL,  
419 RICHMOND ROAD, AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m., and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney	President
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary Burke's Secretary
	Maryann Van Dyke	Finance Administrator
	Kate Nahrwold	525 Brier Street

The minutes of the January 4, 2007 meeting were placed before the Board. President Feeney corrected the minutes to read that Director Amy Kinsella of the Summer Program will be paid \$28.00 per hour for pre-camp work. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved 4-0.

President Feeney announced Kate Nahrwold was in attendance to discuss the renovation of Pee Wee Park. President Feeney asked Finance Administrator Maryann Van Dyke to report on the financial position of the Park District. Ms. Van Dyke said the District would report the fund balances of the Park District General Fund and Recreation Fund and explained the District would have to utilize its surplus to pay for the Park renovation if it chose to move forward with such a project in the current fiscal year.

President Feeney reported the total cost to install new playground equipment at the park would be about \$69,000 to \$70,000. President Feeney noted he had talked to Richard Storch a few months ago, and will speak to him again and see if the Storch Fund would be willing to fund a portion of this project. President Feeney said if Richard Storch were to agree to allow money from the Fund to pay for this renovation, the Park District could put up a plaque in the Storch family's honor at the park.

Superintendent Maggi suggested perhaps Mr. Storch could duplicate the amount he gave for the Townley Field resurfacing.

President Feeney said the Park District could do the renovation over the course of 2 fiscal years. He said the District counts on profits from Little Springs Camp to assist in funding such larger scale projects.

Finance Administrator Van Dyke said Little Springs profit was \$32,000 last year; however, this revenue is used to cover other recreation programs and payrolls. The Park District would probably have to go into its reserves to complete any required renovation. Commissioner Kenyon asked if the Park District is allowed to go into the reserves. President Feeney said it is allowed.

Finance Administrator Van Dyke noted the renovation of Pee Wee Park is not in this year's budget. Secretary Burke said the Park Board could amend the 2007 Appropriation Ordinance to accommodate this expenditure, but at this time, the budget does not reflect an expenditure for the renovation of Pee Wee Park. He said staff needs direction from the Board, but it is doable. Secretary Burke asked what approach the Board would like to take, and explained the District could take a similar approach to what was done when the Townley tot lot was renovated by funding 50% of the cost in each of two separate fiscal years.

Finance Administrator Van Dyke, again, said any expenditure will be coming out of reserves even if funded over two fiscal years. President Feeney said it is okay to take it out of reserves, but maybe we can get the necessary money from the Storch Fund.

Commissioner Kenyon suggested the Park District could install a stone plaque to recognize the Storch contribution to the park. A discussion followed regarding the renovation of Pee Wee Park and the possible renaming of the park.

Kate Nahrwold clarified that it was not in the budget, and asked why it wasn't. President Feeney said the Townley Field work was not in the budget either. He said Little Springs Camp had a phenomenal year before that work was done.

Kate Nahrwold again asked why it was not budgeted. Commissioner Higgins said because there was no money for it last year when the Park Board considered the budget for the coming year.

President Feeney explained most likely the Park Board will make a definite decision about renovating Pee Wee Park in March. President Feeney explained he will have had a chance to talk to the trustees of the Storch Fund by that time. He explained the Park Board would really like to do the renovation and is completely in support of the upgrade; however, it is a matter of determining the best approach financially to funding the renovations.

Kate Nahrwold asked how much money is needed and stated she would be willing to assist in fund raising.

President Feeney said the Park District could fund the project out of its reserves.

Ms. Nahrold said there is \$24,000 from Little Springs.

President Feeney said it is earmarked for other things and is not just available for spending on the Pee Wee Park upgrade.

Secretary Burke said if the Board commits to this, there is a process to obtain the funds from reserves although it would deplete them dramatically. He said the \$24,000 Little Springs profit is just part of the Recreation Fund, and the profits from the summer camp are used to offset the cost of providing other park programs and services. Secretary Burke noted after incorporating the Little Springs revenue into the recreation fund and subtracting the necessary amounts to cover expenditures, the Recreation Fund ends up with an approximate amount of \$4,000 available for the renovation.

General discussion ensued.

President Feeney said the Park Board never promised to do the renovation this year.

Kate Nahrwold said it was implied.

President Feeney said another problem facing the Park District is that with governmental fund accounting, money not spent cannot be carried over to the next year's budget.

Kate Nahrwold recommended, if it is not renovated, the Park Board close Pee Wee Park this year because it is dangerous and children are getting hurt all the time.

Commission Higgins said she understood that it is very frustrating.

Commissioner Peterson recommended President Feeney talk to Richard Storch.

Commissioner Higgins said there is only a limited amount normally available from the Storch Fund every year.

Commissioner Higgins said the Park Board does not want to draw down the reserves too much and jeopardize the financial viability of the district. Commission Higgins told Katie Nahrwold that President Feeney will speak with Richard Storch very soon to find out if the Park District could get more money from the Storch Fund for park renovation.

Finance Administrator Van Dyke asked if the discussion with the Storch Fund trustees had to be in person. President Feeney said no, but he had needed more guidelines from the Board. Commissioner Higgins said more information is helpful when approaching possible donors about funding Park District projects.

Commissioner Peterson said the Board should be able to make a decision by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Secretary Burke said the Board could build their budget around this expense for the coming fiscal year.

Commissioner Higgins said it was necessary to move the meeting on to other issues.

Secretary Burke reported on the monthly payables. He noted the payment to the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association was for staff last year for Little Springs. President Feeney asked why the Park District has had no postage expense this fiscal year. Finance Administrator Van Dyke said the Park District owes the Village for postage, and explained she would like more than \$150 included in the Park District budget for postage next year.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the payables. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. The payables were unanimously approved 4-0.

Commissioner Higgins asked about the basketball expense listed on the payables. Finance Administrator Van Dyke said it is for background checks for basketball officials.

Referring to Pee Wee Park, Commissioner Peterson said if it is dangerous and there is the possibility for lawsuits, the Park District needs to improve the park immediately. Superintendent Maggi said all the parks are examined monthly for safety by the Park District staff and annually reviewed by the District's insurance company.

Secretary Burke turned the discussion to the 2007 applications for summer camp, counselors, and counselors in training. He stated the staff had met with Mark Drelischarz, Amy Kinsella, and Blythe Zajakowski. There is no set timeframe for sending out applications yet; however, Secretary Burke noted the applications should be mailed by the end of February.

Commissioner Higgins asked when the counselor applications would be online. Secretary Burke said tomorrow, Friday, February 2, 2007 if the Park Board is comfortable with the applications. Commissioner Higgins asked about hiring counselors under the age of 16. Secretary Burke said the Park District will not be hiring underage people for the counselor positions, but they can be hired as counselors in training for no pay.

Commissioner Higgins said she had Park District basketball coach, Bill Doll, call Finance Administrator Van Dyke so he could order a stick that raises and lowers the basketball hoops. She said frequently, in the past, the school's sticks are missing.

Commissioner Higgins said the basketball program is going very well.

Commissioner Kenyon talked about the ice rink. He said Superintendent Maggi has been acting as skating guard right after school, because the students who have been hired as guards cannot get to the rink till later. The Board asked Superintendent Maggi if he has hired any underage guards. Superintendent Maggi said he prefers hiring guards who are at least 16 years olds.

Superintendent Maggi reported on the ice rink. He said the ice is not in that great of shape. If your look at the rink you can see the ball diamond through it in certain spots because of no frost in the ground.

Commissioner Kenyon said the school cancelled skating because it was too cold.

Superintendent Maggi said he will close the Village House this Sunday because of the cold weather predicted and due to the Super Bowl.

Commissioner Kenyon said he would like the Park District to hold the winter carnival next Saturday, February 10, 2007 after basketball. He said the activities are limited to skating races, throwing snowballs through tires, and a few other simple games. Cocoa is served, too. Commissioner Kenyon noted the children really have fun, and the carnival is very well received.

Commissioner Kenyon said Lacrosse season is coming up, and he explained his main problem is field time. Commissioner Kenyon noted lots of children are involved in Lacrosse. Last session he had 85 sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The home games are every other Saturday from 8-11 a.m. Commissioner Kenyon explained he would like games to be held every Saturday. He suggested that President Feeney approach Baseball League officials and ask for more time and space for Lacrosse. He said the ratio of participants to available field time is wrong. There are more Kenilworth children in Lacrosse than in Baseball, yet baseball gets more time on the fields.

President Feeney said he did not think the Baseball League would be willing to give up time and field space. Commissioner Kenyon reiterated more children are playing Lacrosse. President Feeney said he will discuss this with the Baseball Association.

Commissioner Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole