

**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, JULY 12, 2007.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney	President
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
Absent:	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary to Mr. Burke
	Maryann VanDyke	Finance Administrator
	Mary Gallagher Nomelini	544 Wayland Avenue

The minutes of the June 6, 2007 Park Board meeting were placed before the members of the Park Board. President Feeney moved the minutes be approved. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Secretary Burke explained the June bills. He noted payment to the North Suburban Special Recreation Association for the second installment of the 2007 member contribution. He also noted a premium payment to the Park District Risk Management Agency for property liability and worker's compensation insurance. Secretary Burke went on to note Brian Doll's salary for directing football camp, and a bonus for Joe Wise who runs the Village House Drop Ins were included in the bill list for the month of June. Secretary Burke said the budgeted income from football camp was \$1,000, but the District actually made \$1,540.00 this year.

Commissioner Kenyon questioned the amount of Brian Doll's salary for football camp this year. Secretary Burke noted Mr. Doll is responsible for putting together the football program; however, the amount of compensation received is more than the compensation of other Kenilworth Park District sports program managers. Secretary Burke noted administration of the football program does take a significant amount of staff time.

President Feeney said Mr. Doll struggled at first with the football program and noted there were some year's where he made little if any money for putting on the program. Commissioner Peterson asked if there were any other equivalent positions to compare salaries with in the Park District.

Commissioner Kenyon suggested Secretary Burke explore changing the percentage Brian Doll earns from this program. A general discussion of Mr. Doll's duties followed. Commissioner Peterson agreed the issue of Mr. Doll's compensation should be revisited next January.

President Feeney and Commission Kenyon expressed there opinions the coaches for the football camp should receive a higher compensation.

President Feeney said the bonus for Joe Wise is well deserved because Mr. Wise does a great job with the Village House Drop In Program. President Feeney explained the Park District receives a reimbursement from the Village House Association for Mr. Wise's salary and bonus.

**Commissioner Kenyon made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion which was unanimously approved, and the June bills were approved.**

President Feeney said the next agenda item was organic weed control.

Superintendent Maggi presented a comparison sheet showing differences between pesticides and organic weed control. Superintendent Maggi said he met with a company that does organic control called Pure Prairie Organics. Superintendent Maggi said the representative from this company actually recommended using chemicals for weed control. Superintendent Maggi reported he had also completed some research on the Internet and discovered organic weed control is quite expensive. Superintendent Maggi explained the Park District does not use an excessive amount of chemicals to kill weeds. Superintendent Maggi noted it may be possible to pursue organic park maintenance; however, there will be a need to use spray to control the fence area of Pee Wee Park in the near future to keep the nuisance weeds at bay.

Mary Nomellini asked if Superintendent Maggi had checked with only one organic company, and inquired if he had talked to the Wilmette Park District. She said chemicals make life easier, especially when the Kenilworth Park District crew is such a busy crew, but there is a risk to children.

Superintendent Maggi pointed out that the labels on the weed killers he uses do say they are safe to use around children. Ms. Nomellini said companies are not required to explain the dangers and urged Superintendent Maggi to explore other options. Superintendent Maggi disagreed about the labeling requirements.

President Feeney explained the Park District is trying to maintain a balance between safety and what the community wants. President Feeney noted the Park District receives complaints from residents if a lot of dandelions appear on a field. He suggested advertising to get interested companies to give advice to the Kenilworth Park District.

Superintendent Maggi said he understood that Wilmette was not so happy with their organic weed control program.

Ms. Nomellini again suggested exploring more options.

President Feeney said the Park Board is definitely open to this idea and would like to move forward on it; however, more time may be needed to consider various options.

Commissioner Hanold suggested the Park District crew go ahead with their regular maintenance, but also talk with Wilmette and solicit more estimates for organic weed control. Commissioner Hanold suggested it may be premature to advertise for such service and that by advertising, the Park District would not get the best pricing for such service.

Ms. Nomellini said the less chemicals used, the better. She said this is a learning process and a new technique which requires getting accustomed to before anyone would be happy with it.

President Feeney said she has presented ideas that must be weighed by the Park Board. He thanked Ms. Nomellini and said the Park District will work toward using organics.

Secretary Burke said he would talk to park district directors that are members of the North Suburban Special Recreation Association to see about different agency approaches to organic park maintenance. Secretary Burke noted Wilmette is a member of NSSRA and he would be gathering additional information regarding their approach to park maintenance.

Mary Nomellini thanked the Park Board for their time.

President Feeney told Superintendent Maggi to go ahead with the regular maintenance and put up the usual signs about it. He again thanked Mary Nomellini for her efforts.

Secretary Burke presented a summer camp update and said Amy Kinsella and Mark Drelicharz, the directors, were doing very well in operating the program this year. He explained an issue about a returned check for the camp fee for one of the children participating. Secretary Burke explained that the guardian had been contacted via letter and voice-mail and they were not responsive in settling the account. Secretary Burke asked for direction on handling the situation so the child would not be embarrassed. Secretary Burke noted he did not feel it appropriate to send a child home from camp without knowledge that there would be a guardian at home to care for the child.

Commissioner Peterson asked about any liability involved with sending the child home from the camp. The Board agreed that the child should not be sent home.

Commissioner Hanold suggested leaving the child in camp, pursuing reimbursement for the returned check, and notifying the resident that this would affect their child's future enrollments in Park District programs. Commissioner Peterson asked if this should be written up in some sort of policy form. Secretary Burke said as long as the Park Board's consensus in handling similar situations is reflected in the minutes, nothing more formal is needed.

Commissioner Peterson said the child may still show up, even after notification. President Feeney said the child would not be registered in the program at that point so there would be no Park District liability.

President Feeney asked about the number of campers this year. Secretary Burke said around 250. President Feeney said that must be a record.

President Feeney asked if the Park District lost money on the T-Ball program. Secretary Burke said no, it was an error on the spreadsheet.

Commissioner Peterson asked about the cost of tennis balls. Superintendent Maggi said about \$3 to \$4 per sleeve.

Commissioner Kenyon asked Secretary Burke if the Park District office had received a check from the Lacrosse program. Secretary Burke said no check had been received. Commissioner Kenyon said he is expecting over \$3,000 in reimbursement for the Lacrosse program, and if it has not come in by the next Park Board meeting date, he will check with Lacrosse America to see where it is.

Commissioner Peterson noted there are no high salaries involved in Lacrosse, unlike Brian Doll's for the football program.

Commissioner Kenyon brought up the issue, again, of redoing Townley Field with some form of artificial turf such as Turf Field. He asked if soil samples had been done so an estimate could be obtained. Secretary Burke said initial cost estimates had indicated the total cost of obtaining a topographic survey was approximately \$6,000. Secretary Burke explained that neither the soil sampling nor topographic survey had been pursued due to the anticipated combined cost of \$10,000 for both services and noted Park Board direction to pursue both of these projects is needed.

President Feeney asked about the Pee Wee Park renovation.

Superintendent Maggi said he and his crew are tearing out the old equipment. The new equipment is scheduled to arrive soon. Once the equipment arrives, the company can do their site and cement work.

Commissioner Kenyon went back to the subject of Turf Field. He asked when \$8,000 would be available from the Park District.

Secretary Burke said nothing had been done because the soil samplings and survey turned out to cost much more than had been anticipated and these expenses were not included in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget approved at the previous Park Board meeting.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion he wanted to get things started to get Turf Field for Townley Field. He said the Park District needed soil samples to get an estimate from the company. He thought he may be able to raise the necessary funds for the new turf, and expressed his opinion this issue should be explored further.

Superintendent Maggi said there would be many benefits from some form of turf for Townley Field. Commissioner Kenyon felt it was definitely possible in such a wealthy community to pursue this project.

Commissioner Hanold said he was definitely interested in Turf Field since there is no maintenance and it has such longevity. Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion he would like to learn more about artificial turf options.

Commissioner Kenyon said he is floored by the beauty and efficiency of Turf Field. He said there is a ground swell of residents interested in it. Commissioner Hanold asked if the Park District could charge other towns for use of the field if it is redone.

Commissioner Kenyon said the Park District needs to consider if it would want that kind of traffic, but it could be a revenue source. Commissioner Kenyon noted if the Park District starts the process now, it could be done next summer. Commissioner Kenyon said he has talked with the principal of Sears School about this issue, and the principal said the school may be able to participate in offsetting the cost of the renovation to the field.

President Feeney asked if there were any other benefits from having soil samples and a survey done. He is not in favor of the project because of the expense of the Pee Wee Park renovation and its impact on this year's budget. Superintendent Maggi said there are always uses for the topographic survey needed.

Commissioner Kenyon offered to pay for the soil samples in order to have the project moved forward. President Feeney asked if there are any Park District funds available for this.

Superintendent Maggi said it would cost \$5,500 for the survey which would include topography and trees. Commissioner Hanold asked how the Park District could allocate funds for this when it is not in the budget.

Secretary Burke said the District would need to approve a supplemental appropriation and file it with the appropriate county and state agencies. Secretary Burke noted a supplemental appropriation is a reconciliation of exceeding a line item in the budget, a formal acknowledgement of an expenditure that exceeds the original appropriation.

Commissioner Peterson asked if it could be made up for somewhere else in the budget.

President Feeney said the Park District is in a better position than last year because the summer and football camps did better than projected. He reiterated that the survey is \$5,500 and the soil samplings are \$6,000.

Superintendent Maggi said the company needs both the survey and soil samples to do an estimate on the cost of an artificial turf installation for the Park District.

Commissioner Peterson asked if Commissioner Kenyon wanted to make up the difference in what is available and what are the true costs of the survey and soil samples. Commissioner Kenyon said yes. Commissioner Peterson said the Park District should go ahead then.

President Feeney said Townley Field definitely needs work, and is overused, and a survey would help. Commissioner Kenyon said he would not be at the next meeting and did not want to postpone getting started on this project. He said the Park District should go ahead.

President Feeney made a motion that the Park District move ahead and have a survey and soil samples done. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

General discussion followed about funding.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the cost was by acreage. Commissioner Kenyon said there is no break in the cost if more than one field is done.

Commissioner Peterson asked how long it would take for results. Secretary Burke responded the turn around on the survey or the soil samples would be based on when it can be scheduled through the survey company and the soil engineering firm.

Superintendent Maggi asked if the Park Board had any thoughts on the disposal of the old playground equipment from Pee Wee Park. President Feeney made a motion and Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion directing staff to dispose of Pee Wee Park playground equipment, and the motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

Mary Nomellini asked if the Board would consider using organics for their next weed control application if a resident underwrote the cost. She asked about the rest of the season too. Superintendent Maggi said he was concerned about the fence line and the fact that organics do not go to the roots to kill weeds.

Ms. Nomellini again asked if it was okay for a resident to underwrite organic treatment until the issue could be more thoroughly researched. It was the consensus of the Park Board to allow residents to underwrite organic park maintenance treatments until the issue was more thoroughly researched.

Commissioner Peterson asked if everyone had heard about the driver on Sterling Road whose car got hit by a baseball from Pee Wee Park. A general discussion followed.

Commissioner Kenyon moved to adjourn. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion which carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole