

**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, NOVEMBER 1, 2007.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney	President
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
Absent:	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary to Mr. Burke

The minutes of the October 4, 2007 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, which, upon a voice-vote, was unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke reviewed the October payables. Secretary Burke noted the payables were of a routine nature except for special wood chips for play areas in the amount of \$3,300.00, third quarter unemployment tax in the amount of \$743.48, and fall landscaping materials from Lurveys in the amount of \$1,107.40. He pointed out a negative amount of \$413.00 on the financial report which was a figure that had to be adjusted yet due to incorrect allocation. Secretary Burke said he had received information tax bills would be sent out by the end of next week and be due December 3rd. He said it was good the Park District had reserves substantial enough to tide District over till tax money is received. Secretary Burke noted the IPTTP account was down due to big expenses this year related to the Pee Wee Park redevelopment.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the payables. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, which, upon a voice-vote, was unanimously approved.

President Feeney questioned the amount of money spent on wood chips. He said they must be a special type of chip used for playgrounds. Superintendent Maggi noted the chips are specially engineered for use on playgrounds and consist of hardwoods.

Commissioner Higgins asked if Superintendent Maggi could use chips from trees the District had chipped in response to the recent storm event. Superintendent Maggi replied that he cannot use those on playgrounds because they do not meet code requirements; however, such woodchips can be used for landscape purposes around trees and in planting beds. Superintendent Maggi noted the special chips are required because they provide more cushion for children.

Commissioner Hanold said that must mean that the Park District's wood chips are just for mulch. Superintendent Maggi agreed and noted any residents who need mulch is permitted to haul away mulch from the mulch pile in the Village yard.

President Feeney reported that he has heard from the residents in the Water Tower Park area, regarding a tree that came down in the August storm, and noted the residents are indicating they prefer the open space rather than planting a replacement tree. President Feeney noted the residents in the area feel the park is more usable with the tree removed.

Secretary Burke introduced the Truth In Taxation Resolution. The amount in the Resolution, \$350,347.00, does not exceed the 5% tax cap. It is 4.9% above last year's levy. Secretary Burke noted that this is a standard November business item that the Park Board must approve annually to meet State law requirements pertaining to truth in taxation. President Feeney asked if the County tells the Park District the amount of the tax levy. Secretary Burke explained that Cook County does provide the Park District with the total levy amount, but only after the levy is set by the Park District Board. Secretary Burke noted the District tries for the maximum amount of possible tax revenue based upon an equation factoring in the CPI and growth. If the Park District were to exceed the tax cap, there are referendum and publication requirements.

Commissioner Hanold asked if the Park District needed the extra money. Secretary Burke recommended going for the maximum allowed because the Board is talking about some big expenses such as turf and lighting at Townley Field and due to the fact that this year's Pee Wee tot lot redevelopment did draw down reserves.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, which, upon voice-vote, was unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke noted the auditors have indicated they would have the audit for the Park Board's December meeting, and they will be in attendance at the December meeting to answer questions.

Secretary Burke said he went to a briefing by the County regarding storm reparation. He said the District is in the pipeline for a grant should they become available. The grants are for 75% of the cost of debris removal. He stated the Park District has a claim in to the insurance company for damage to the backstop. Secretary Burke anticipates more information from the County as we proceed through the grant application process.

Commissioner Hanold asked if Secretary Burke was told how much money the District could get. Secretary Burke said the Park District must show all of its costs when setting the levy.

Commissioner Higgins then asked about the donation for crabapple trees on Park Drive. The donator is asking when the planting will be. The staff will check into this.

Secretary Burke announced that Amy Kinsella will not return as summer camp director because of her pregnancy. Commissioner Higgins asked if she had any recommendations for the position. Secretary Burke said Amy had two people in mind, and he asked for their resumes, and noted Mark Drelicharz will return as co-director, but he understands the program works better with a Sears School teacher as the director.

Commissioner Higgins said primary school teachers would be better.

Commissioner Higgins went on to discuss the basketball program. She would like to have the information out to the parents by November 15th, to be returned to her by December 1st. She said then she will have to do evaluations, set up the teams, and mail out the team information. She asked the Board about the fee. She suggested raising it \$5.00 per child. She asked if the

contract had gone out to Coach Bill Doll, which it had several weeks earlier. Secretary Burke noted a contract had gone out in the mail; however, Coach Doll has not returned the contract to date. Commissioner Kenyon said he would check with Coach Doll to see if he is still interested in coaching. Commissioner Higgins said she would like to offer the job to someone else, if Coach Doll is not interested. She mentioned how nice it is with the new pole adjustor for the basketball nets. She said the class at Sears is large, so the numbers in basketball should be bigger.

Commissioner Kenyon said there will be a lacrosse clinic this weekend. He said he has arranged to have the applications and checks sent or dropped off at the Park District Office. He asked Secretary Burke if the Park District has received any money from Lacrosse America. Secretary Burke said no money had been received from Lacrosse America to date. Commissioner Kenyon said this is a good opportunity to sever the tie with Lacrosse America.

Commissioner Kenyon then started a discussion of Townley Field. He cited Northfield as an example, because they are doing a \$4.1 million improvement and have gotten funding. He said he had a meeting at his house for about 15 people, and the money for Townley Field can be raised. Commissioner Kenyon said, eventually, he would get the whole community involved. He said the downside of the new turf is that it has a life span of 10 to 12 years, and then has to be ripped up and replaced. He talked about fundraising opportunities. Commissioner Kenyon said Sears School said no at first, but eventually, the JSSPVA has offered \$20,000 per year. Commissioner Kenyon said he will not go forward on this project if the school will not participate. He added that the maintenance fees for the proposed turf are minimal.

Commissioner Higgins asked what the maintenance costs for Townley Field now. Superintendent Maggi said approximately \$2,500.00, and more should be spent. Commissioner Higgins said then the Park District could be saving \$5,000.00 per year on maintenance with the proposed turf. Some money from Park activities should be put into a separate bank account each year for the new turf.

Commissioner Kenyon asked how much is available each year from the Storch Fund. President Feeney said at this point in time around \$50,000. Commissioner Kenyon asked about profits from Little Springs. He asked if part of the Storch Fund money could go into a savings account each year for Townley Field, including new lighting.

President Feeney said there is a technicality with the Storch Fund which would only allow money for the original installation.

Commissioner Hanold asked if the increase in the budget for property tax revenue could go into savings for Townley Field.

Commissioner Higgins reminded the Board that she would like to see Mahoney Park being opened up for beach use, and would not like all extra funding to go for Townley Field.

Commissioner Kenyon suggested \$5,000.00 per year go into savings. He suggested that activity fees could be raised for various Park District programs. He said he wanted Park Board and Sears School backing before he started soliciting donations.

Commissioner Higgins suggested a percentage of activity fees go into a savings for 10 years for the upkeep of the proposed turf. She also suggested the Sears benefit may provide an opportunity to raise donations for the field.

President Feeney said next month the Board will start budget discussions, and may be able to see how feasible this turf project is.

Commissioner Kenyon said he did not want to put this off much longer. He asked if the Board would want to commit to new lights when the field gets torn up for the new, proposed turf. He suggested doing the lights at the same time. He summed up that the proposed turf would cost less to maintain, and the Board could raise activity fees, and charge outside groups for field usage.

Commissioner Higgins asked about parking. Commissioner Kenyon felt that was not an issue, and could be worked out.

President Feeney said the Park District should create a fund for this. Secretary Burke said it would be a Field Improvement Fund. President Feeney said it should be separate from the Park District's regular operating expenses. Secretary Burke said the Board would have to make a commitment each year for this.

Commissioner Kenyon drew a diagram showing a reconfiguration of the field which would create more playing area. He said the Park District would still have the ice rink.

A general discussion followed. Commissioner Higgins asked if the ice rink would be smaller in size than the Park District currently offers. Superintendent Maggi said not much smaller.

Commissioner Kenyon said he would like to get a plastic liner put down so the children could play ice hockey for a longer period of time.

Commissioner Hanold asked about the survey for Townley Field. Superintendent Maggi reported it had just come in today, and he needs it to make a report on lighting to the Board which he will have in December.

Commissioner Kenyon asked about drainage. Secretary Burke said the Park District will need a permit from the MWRD. He will get direction from the Village's consulting engineers.

Commissioner Hanold clarified the issue of Townley Field. He said if it costs \$1,000,000.00, is it needed next summer when the project starts. Commissioner Kenyon said it would probably be more like 50% at the beginning, and 50% when the project is done.

Secretary Burke said the Park District will have to get the neighbors who live around Townley Field involved if the District wants to change the lighting and rent out the field.

President Feeney said the lights that are there in Townley Field were erected in 1935.

Secretary Burke reiterated that parks in the District may be considered a special use, and if the District want to trigger change and intensify usage, the neighbors must be involved through some type of public process.

President Feeney noted that new lights direct the light down and are diffused so as not to have light spillover onto adjacent properties. Superintendent Maggi said there is less spillage with new lights.

President Feeney said the Park District needs to look into shoring up the beach and the beach erosion issue if we want to open up Mahoney Park. He said there may be help available from the State. He said neighbors of Mahoney Park have shored up their areas. He asked if the staff could check on permits that might have been issued to neighbors for this.

Commissioner Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, which, upon voice-vote, unanimously carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole