

**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, JANUARY 8, 2009.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m., and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney	President
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Mr. Burke's Secretary
	Brett McGinnis	136 Tudor Place
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue
	Debby Killion	515 Cumnor Road
	Rachel Noel	141 Kenilworth Avenue
	Lois Stanley	167 Sheridan Road
	Pete Shadek	310 Cumnor Road
	Roy Leonard	412 Cumnor Road
	Rona Nordstrom	212 Raleigh Road

The minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Hanold suggested a correction to the minutes. Commissioner Hanold made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

President Feeney initiated discussion of the proposed resolution for submission of two advisory referendum questions regarding improvements to Townley Field.

Commissioner Peterson suggested removing the word "beautification" from the language of the proposed questions.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion the installation of Field Turf would include improvements that will beautify Townley Field. Resident Brett McGinnis agreed, and noted the current plan calls for an additional 15 trees to be planted.

Commissioner Higgins said she had been on the phone with Ken Mroc, turf expert for the Chicago Bears, earlier and he asked about water retention. Commissioner Higgins noted, per her discussion with Mr. Mroc, the amount of storm water retention needs to be of a size and equivalent to handling a 100 year rain storm event.

Secretary Burke said there will need to be some type of water retention reservoir and explained the draft plans do contemplate holding water onsite and restricting the release into the Village's existing storm sewer system. Manager Burke noted the plans have yet to be approved by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

President Feeney explained that the Board was at a point where, if they did not pass a resolution to place this question on the ballot in April, it would be another 18 months before the issue could be voted on by Park District residents.

Lois Stanley said this issue is not ready for a referendum vote. Until there is approval from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Park Board does not even know if the project is possible. Ms. Stanley went on to say there is a logical order that the Board has recognized over the last several months. She expressed her opinion the fiduciary duty of each Board member has not been fulfilled, and it is the Park Board's responsibility to determine that the product is safe for residents' health and the environment. The Board also has a fiscal responsibility for financing the cost of restoration or replacement of the field in 6 to 10 years. Ms. Stanley expressed her opinion, the community cannot make an informed decision without this information, nor should any Board member vote in favor of the referendum without knowing this information.

Commissioner Hanold said the Park Board is seeking the public's input on a guiding referendum rather than a binding referendum, and as such the Park Board will still need to make a decision after the public's input is received.

President Feeney explained that if MWRD approves the permit for the project, it would not be fair to the residents who have proposed this project to wait for two years for the Park Board to put a question on the ballot.

Lois Stanley asked how there can be a referendum if the maintenance issue has not been addressed. Commissioner Kenyon said, as reported in the past, different organizations have pledged funds for maintenance.

Commissioner Higgins said she understood what Ms. Stanley was saying and she would need to be assured that the money was in place for maintenance should this project move forward.

President Feeney reiterated that this will be an advisory referendum only to see how the community feels about such a change for Townley Field. The Park Board needs to bring it to the people.

Lois Stanley expressed her opinion the people do not know what they are voting on. President Feeney said the point of the advisory questions is to determine if artificial turf is supported or not.

Lois Stanley asked how people can know about it. Commissioner Kenyon said there could be another public meeting.

Roy Leonard expressed his opinion the referendum question as proposed, with the word beautification, elicits a built in yes vote.

Eileen Madigan reminded the Board they cannot pursue this before there is MWRD approval.

Secretary Burke explained that the Village Engineer has reviewed and approved the engineering for the project. Secretary Burke noted the Village Engineer's approval is needed before an application can proceed to MWRD.

Eileen Madigan asked if the final plans were different from the original plans because Cumnor Road is already extremely taxed in terms of storm water runoff during rain events. Commissioner Kenyon said the Village Engineer required changes to the original plans so water runoff of the field on Cumnor Road is mitigated; however, the plans do not contemplate addressing existing offsite problems.

Roy Leonard expressed his opinion people do not know or have all the information regarding the proposed project.

Commissioner Higgins asked if the private investors could conduct a referendum without Park District involvement, and then if approved, the group could come to the Park Board for consideration of the approval of the plans. She then cited a number of negative points she had heard and read about artificial turf.

Secretary Burke said any resident or group has the right to submit a referendum petition to place a question on a ballot. Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion she would like the donor group to do the referendum.

Commissioner Hanold said the Park Board has an obligation to improve Townley Field.

Commissioner Higgins said if artificial turf is not approved, she has information on other alternatives.

Commissioner Hanold said there is a timing issue related to the municipal election schedule. Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion the Park Board can refine the proposed questions. The Park Board can have a public meeting, or two if necessary, before April to educate residents. The concern is that the Park District may miss the filing date with the County for the ballot and then the field stays the same for two years until the next election.

Commissioner Kenyon said the Park Board will follow what the voters want. Commissioner Kenyon noted Mr. Mroc said Townley Field is a perfect situation for artificial turf. Commissioner Higgins noted Mr. Mroc told her it was a perfect situation

for natural grass. A discussion regarding Mr. Mroc's opinion about improvements to Townley Field followed.

Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion the Commissioners should move on and discuss the wording on the ballot.

A discussion of the wording of the two advisory referendum questions followed.

A discussion regarding the type of artificial turf product proposed followed. Commissioner Kenyon said the Park Board could have representatives from both FieldTurf and Mondo at the proposed town meeting. Then, if artificial turf is approved at the referendum, the Park Board will make a decision on the type of material to be used.

Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion the wording on the referendum question should refer to "artificial turf" on the ballot.

Eileen Madigan said there are huge differences between different brands of artificial turf and expressed her opinion the type proposed should be included in the wording of the ballot question. President Feeney noted the issue for the referendum question is to ask residents their feeling regarding the use of artificial turf in general and not the type of commercial product to be used.

Rachel Noel said if approved, do residents have the right to decide about fences and lights. Commissioner Hanold said the Park Board members were elected to make decisions regarding Kenilworth Park District operations and a referendum for every decision would not be appropriate.

A discussion of lighting changes to Townley Field followed. Commissioner Kenyon said if residents don't want new lights, the Park Board will not pursue them. Commissioner Kenyon noted lighting for the field is a separate issue from the advisory referendum questions currently under consideration.

Roy Leonard suggested taking the word "partial" out of the proposed referendum questions language, then the Board can do 25% or 100% or whatever they want depending upon the voters input. Commissioner Peterson suggested not using any number in the question may be most appropriate, then if the plans change, the Board will be afforded some flexibility.

Commissioner Higgins asked when this referendum question had to be to the County. Secretary Burke said the Park Board needs to pass a resolution placing questions on the April 7 ballot by February 2nd.

Commissioner Hanold asked if the donor group would have any governing authority regarding the field. Commissioner Kenyon said they would not.

A general discussion about the referendum questions followed.

Lois Stanley asked if the Park Board can raise taxes. President Feeney said the Park District is limited to the tax cap and can only exceed the cap through a referendum. Secretary Burke explained about raising taxes.

Commissioner Hanold said one of the issues is if residents want the Park Board to use tax money. Should Townley Field improvements be funded privately or through public money.

Commissioner Higgins said Mr. Mroc said there are other funds available through various programs or grants the Park District may be able to access.

Brett McGinnis said there is no tax money available now to redevelop the field, and taxes would have to be raised. Commissioner Hanold said the Park Board is open to suggestions on how to fund the needed improvements for Townley Field.

Brett McGinnis felt the second referendum question presented indicates tax money is available and it may not cost more for residents. Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion most people would assume this would involve a tax increase.

Peter Shadek expressed his opinion that the wording of the referendum questions as presented does create the impression the Park Board supports artificial turf. Commissioner Higgins noted she is not in favor of artificial turf.

Roy Leonard asked how the Park Board raises taxes. President Feeney said the only way to raise taxes above the tax cap limitation would be through a referendum.

Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion the questions need to be reworded. Commissioner Higgins agreed and said basically the Park Board is trying to capture if residents want artificial or natural grass.

Commissioner Peterson expressed his opinion the Park Board is also interested in knowing if residents want private or public funds used.

The discussion regarding the wording of the referendum questions continued. Rachel Noel suggested inverting the question to leave the final phrase in each question referencing the two types of field materials under consideration.

Secretary Burke stressed that once the questions are placed on the ballot, the Park Board and Park District must present information only on the ballot questions and not use public funds to advocate either side.

Lois Stanley said there has been no independent testing of the products. She expressed her opinion the Park Board has a fiduciary duty to make the effort to look at the issue.

A continued discussion of the wording of the referendum questions followed. Based upon the changes discussed, the Commissioners asked Secretary Burke to read back the wording of the proposed resolution. Secretary Burke read the two proposed referendum questions as follows:

Do you support the renovation of Townley Field, through the 100% commitment of a privately funded Kenilworth citizen group, which would include a majority utilization of an artificial grass surface?

and

Do you support the renovation of Townley Field, through potentially raising property taxes, which would include a majority utilization of a natural grass surface?

Secretary Burke said he would reword the questions and send them out to all Board members.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the reworded referenda questions. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The questions will be reworded and sent to Cook County for placement on the April ballot.

Secretary Burke, next, turned the Board's attention to the monthly finance report and the payables. He noted one of the payables was for the Park District's one-fifth share of the cost of the new server. Another payment was to PRDRMA for one-half year member contribution.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the payables. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the monthly payables were approved.

Secretary Burke also noted the Storch CD had come up for renewal, and had been rolled over. Secretary Burke noted the CD was earning 3%.

Commissioner Hanold reported on the new traveling basketball program which starts Saturday, January 10, 2009. He said there are 126 participants. Commissioner Hanold also said the season schedule is on the Village website and posted at the Village Hall.

Secretary Burke said two new directors are needed for the summer camp. Secretary Burke has talked to Wendy Groesch, who has worked for Sports Plus, about the job and she is interested. One of last year's directors, Allison Loupisinski, has also suggested people for the two positions.

Commissioner Higgins suggested Jason Hahstad may be a great candidate. She said the Park Board should put feelers out to him.

Secretary Burke said the Park District should have camp and counselor applications ready and out by the end of February.

Next, Superintendent Maggi reported that the ice rink would open tomorrow, January 9th, and noted skating guards were lined up to work at the rink during the skating season.

Commissioner Higgins asked Superintendent Maggi if he needed any more help. Superintendent Maggi said no, he had enough people.

Superintendent Maggi also reported that the Park crew would be taking the holiday tree in the fountain down tomorrow, January 9th.

President Feeney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole

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