

**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, FEBRUARY 5, 2009.**

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
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
Arrived 5:07 p.m.	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Mr. Burke's Secretary
	Logan Holling	515 Essex Road
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue

Commissioner Higgins introduced Logan Holling of Boy Scout Troop #13. Logan addressed the Board about an Eagle Scout project he wished to pursue with the Park Board's permission. While with the Scouts, he found a Totem Pole in Townley Field next to the tot lot that is run down, and he would like to refurbish it. Mr. Holling noted the totem pole is a legacy from Lee Getschow who brought it to Townley Field. He said refurbishing the pole would encourage education about Native Americans. Logan Holing requested permission to solicit funds for this project from residents and from the Park District. He shared pictures of the current condition of the totem pole, and requested that the Park District be his sponsor.

Board members had questions about the project. Commissioner Peterson asked about the time element and the process. Logan explained he intends to send out a mailing to solicit funds. He will get the proposed mailing to the Board before he sends it out. Then he will need to get the totem pole out of the ground, and then refurbish and paint it.

Park Superintendent Lou Maggi said he and his crew will provide assistance by taking the pole out of the ground ground for Logan.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the request. President Feeney seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

A discussion of a possible public information meeting on the two pending advisory referendum questions followed. Commissioner Higgins said Ken Mroc was available the first two weeks of March for a public meeting. Secretary Burke explained the Village Board room is booked with meetings scheduled for every night but Friday the first week of March.

Secretary Burke noted the meeting should be an information only meeting, and suggested a panel be assembled with people representing all the options for Townley Field. He said he intends to reach out to the League of Women Voters to be a possible partner in this meeting and participate in the event by serving as mediator.

Commissioner Higgins asked if Mr. Mroc would answer questions about artificial turf or natural grass. Commissioner Peterson said Mr. Mroc has installed both, so is versed in both.

Commissioner Kenyon asked who else should be on the panel. Secretary Burke reiterated there should be people representing both sides of the issue and warned the Park District about election law prohibiting the Park District for advocating a position on issue related to pending referendum questions.

Commissioner Kenyon asked how many people should serve on the panel. Commissioner Higgins said the first public meeting was just about artificial turf. She asked if the Park District could host a meeting and have someone talk just about grass.

A discussion regarding who should participate on the panel at the informational meeting followed. Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion there should be a turf expert, a grass expert, a representative from the MWRD and an engineer to speak at the public meeting.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion there should be a landscape architect, an engineer, Ken Mroc, and Superintendent Maggi's field consultant, Don Michaels of Conserve FS, to speak at the public meeting.

Commissioner Higgins questioned Mr. Mroc being a turf expert. Commissioner Kenyon said Mr. Mroc is both a turf and a grass expert. Commissioner Hanold clarified that Mr. Mroc is a surface expert.

A discussion followed regarding information Mr. Ken Mroc shared previously with the members of the Park Board.

After further discussion on the topic of the panel, Secretary Burke suggested the informational meeting could be slated after the Park Board's regular monthly meeting on March 5th, and noted he would try to get the speakers for that date.

Commissioner Kenyon listed the needed speakers: Ken Mroc; Jason Green civil engineer who prepared the engineering design for the artificial turf option; Don Michaels turf consultant with Conserv FS; a representative for Field Turf and a representative for Mondo.

Secretary Burke suggested the Park Board may want to consider having Tom Graceffa explain the proposed artificial turf plans to those in attendance and then step out of the participating on the panel. Commissioner Peterson expressed his opinion such an

arrangement could pose a problem because there is no other plan for the public to consider.

Commissioner Kenyon said what if the audience wants to see the plans. Commissioner Higgins said we could have a drawing available; however, this meeting is about the type of material for the field.

Commissioner Hanold asked why not provide all the information available and suggested people in attendance will want to see the plans.

Commissioner Kenyon said if there are specific questions, we need experts available to answer questions. Commissioner Higgins said this is a meeting to educate residents on the difference between grass and field turf, and not specific details of the landscape or engineering plan.

President Feeney said we need someone to explain the differences.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion more information is better. Commissioner Higgins said the intent of this meeting is not to be a debate about plans.

Secretary Burke said displaying a plan could be perceived as promoting artificial turf.

Eileen Madigan asked who sponsored the last public meeting. Commissioner Kenyon said Field Turf did.

Secretary Burke said this meeting should focus on the root question of whether an artificial turf or natural turf alternative is best for Townley Field.

Commissioner Higgins stated that taxes may not be raised should the Park Board decide to pursue a natural turf improvement to Townley Field and expressed concern that voter may get this perception due to the wording of the referendum question.

Eileen Madigan said the Park Board has not addressed the need to educate residents on what turf means and what grass means. Residents need to know what the product options are.

Commissioner Higgins said residents say to her that they have heard the turf side, and asked when is the public going to hear the grass side. Commissioner Kenyon reiterated Ken Mroc is on the turf side. Commissioner Higgins disagreed and said Mr. Mroc is on both sides.

Eileen Madigan asked if there is another entity that does both. Commissioner Higgins said the Park Board would check.

Commissioner Hanold said a landscape architect should be included in the public meeting to answer questions. He said there should be experts to answer questions who are unbiased. He said the MWRD is not biased.

Commissioner Higgins asked when the Park District might get approval and inquired how long the permitting process typically takes. Secretary Burke said we are expecting an answer soon.

A further discussion of the panel for the informational meeting followed. Commissioner Peterson expressed his opinion it may be the best approach to take Townley Field out of the discussion and let the conversation be just about the surface materials.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion we should talk about usage of the field and noted we need a couple of grass guys and managers of Park Districts.

President Feeney suggested the panel be kept small, maybe two grass experts, two turf experts and an engineer. Commissioner Peterson said the last meeting was good for turf information.

Commissioner Kenyon said field usage should be addressed and noted there may be questions about field usage. Commissioner Higgins felt usage should not be included in this upcoming public meeting.

Eileen Madigan asked if the Kenilworth Winnetka Baseball Association asked Superintendent Maggi about rain conditions when they cancel a game. Superintendent Maggi said yes they do. Superintendent Maggi added AYSO plays anytime except when there is lightening.

Commissioner Kenyon said there is too much activity on Townley Field which is central to the need for artificial turf or natural grass. Commissioner Hanold asked why the turf people don't schedule their own public meeting.

President Feeney reiterated the need for the informational meeting to represent both sides. Discussion about the purpose of the meeting and who to schedule as speakers followed.

Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion we should have two turf experts, two grass experts, and engineer, and a landscape architect.

The discussion of the meeting was tabled due to Commissioner Hanold needing to leave early and other items needing to be discussed.

Commissioner Hanold addressed the payables and noted there were a couple of things for Coach Bill Doll. Commissioner made a motion to approve the payables. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the payables were unanimously approved.

The Board went back to its discussion of the planned information meeting on the pending referendum questions. Commissioner Kenyon reiterated that the idea was to not have usage questions or Kenilworth related questions at this particular meeting.

Commissioner Hanold left at 5:55 p.m.

President Feeney made a motion to have the speakers Commissioner Hanold enumerated. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yea: Peterson, Feeney, Kenyon
Nay: Higgins
Absent: Hanold
Abstain: None

The motion was declared carried 3-1.

President Feeney turned the discussion to the summer camp.

Secretary Burke said he will schedule interviews with the two applicants for the directors' jobs next week. He said staff set the dates for camp and they are June 15th to July 24th. Several calls have been received about the dates for camp for the coming year. Secretary Burke also said he met with the school about the construction planned for the summer. He said he was told the Park District would most likely be using the Baker Building at the school this summer.

Secretary Burke asked about camp fees. He noted they have not been raised for a few years. The Board agreed not to raise fees since there would be new directors.

President Feeney asked about the bills for Lacrosse. Secretary Burke said they are for an outside company to get the program started.

The Board then agreed upon the date of March 5th for the public meeting on materials for Townley Field. Commissioner Higgins said she would not be able to attend that date, but the Board agreed to proceed in scheduling the meeting for this date. President Feeney said this was subject to the speakers being available on March 5th.

President Feeney returned to the subject of lacrosse. He asked if any programs had been added. Commissioner Kenyon said no. Commissioner Higgins asked if lacrosse was still part of the Kenilworth Park District. Secretary Burke said it is. The payment to True Lacrosse is for them to run the program for the coming season.

Next, Superintendent Maggi reported that there has been 26 days of skating, and he will keep it going as long as possible. He said it usually ends by February 15th.

Superintendent Maggi asked the Board if they want to keep the portable toilet at Pee Wee Park for the coming summer season. It was the general consensus of the Park Board to have a portable toilet at Pee Wee Park for the summer.

Commissioner Higgins asked if the Park District had run an ad in the Wilmette Life for summer camp directors. Secretary Burke said he had just talked to administrators at Sears School.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion which was unanimously carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole

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