

**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, JUNE 5, 2008.**

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
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary to Mr. Burke
	Marti Niemann	433 Cumnor Road
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue
	Kevin Flannery	350 Melrose Avenue
	Brett McGinnis	136 Tudor Place
	Lois Stanley	167 Sheridan Road

The minutes of the May 1, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. President Feeney made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke presented the May bills. He noted there were two check runs because these bills fall into two fiscal years. Secretary Burke pointed out payments to Lacrosse coaches, payment for a new mower, and payment of the Park District's first installment of its annual contribution to the North Suburban Special Recreation Association. The total amount of payables was \$33,081.12. Secretary Burke also noted that John McGovern has resigned as director of the NSSRA, and explained he is serving on the search committee to find a new director. President Feeney made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the May bills were unanimously approved.

Next, Secretary Burke explained the budget amendment. He said the Board needed to approve the revisions to the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. President Feeney noted the Park District is over budget because of the storm event in August last year. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion, and the budget amendment was unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke said the proposed budget is in the packet information, and he suggests the Board approve it in their July meeting. He said it is basically a zero based budget that includes a 3½% increase in salaries and a 5% increase in health and dental costs. Secretary Burke noted the proposed wage increase and increase in health and dental costs were in line with the increases approved by the Village Board for Village employees. Secretary Burke reviewed significant changes in the proposed budget including an increase in outside maintenance costs due to required backflow testing. Secretary Burke also explained that one of the major new expenditures included in the proposed budget is for 1/5 of the cost of a new backup server. The cost is being divided among all Village and Park departments. Secretary Burke said lacrosse

expenses and income are currently included in the budget; however, Commissioner Kenyon has indicated a desire to take over this function in its entirety.

Commissioner Kenyon asked about reimbursement for items he paid for to complete a soil analysis for Townley Field. Commissioner Hanold said these are not currently included in the proposed budget. It was the consensus of the Commission to include funds to reimburse Commissioner Kenyon for expenses related to completing the soil analysis for Townley Field.

Secretary Burke said he will bring the budget back next month for approval.

Commissioner Peterson asked if all expenses for Townley Field are in the budget. Secretary Burke recommended the Park Board include an allocation for possible field improvements as a placeholder should the Board decided to pursue a project. There was a consensus to put in an allocation now for Townley Field.

Secretary Burke asked what amount the Park Board would like to include related to professional services for Townley Field and if the Board had any direction they would like to give staff on this matter. Commissioner Peterson suggested \$10,000 should be included in the proposed budget, and Secretary Burke noted this revision would be made to the proposed budget when it comes back to the Park Board for approval at the July meeting.

President Feeney turned the discussion to Little Springs camp. He said enrollment is on par with previous years.

Secretary Burke said one child had been referred to him by the school as needing a scholarship for camp. The Board agreed.

President Feeney said he knew there were late fee issues. Commissioner Peterson suggested reducing them. Mary Cole said they were reduced last year.

Commissioner Peterson asked if there were a number of campers limit. There is not.

President Feeney next discussed T-ball. Commissioner Peterson said he bought the shirts, and the program went very well.

The next issue was football camp. Commissioner Kenyon said there were 75 kids enrolled.

Then Commissioner Kenyon brought up the issue of Townley Field and Field Turf. He said that last month Mr. Mroc had recommended synthetic turf for Townley Field because of lack of down time for the field. Commissioner Kenyon found a study that showed that artificial turf actually cut down on injuries.

Lois Stanley of 167 Sheridan Road said Mr. Mroc had said grass was best and he did not know the long term effect of Field Turf. Ms. Stanley said she had to believe Mr. Mroc because he seemed to know what he was talking about.

Commissioner Kenyon pointed out that he makes his living with natural grass. Ms. Stanley said it was her recollection that Mr. Mroc's opinion was that grass is safer.

Commissioner Hanold interjected Mr. Mroc also makes money from synthetic turf.

Commissioner Kenyon said the point is there are varied opinions.

Ms. Stanley said we do not know yet the long term effects. Toxins could leach into the ground and into the lake. Lois Stanley said we don't know enough yet. The product is unknown. In ten years, will it be proven unsafe.

Commissioner Kenyon said it has been proven to be safe. He realized there are a lot of rumors about toxins going around. He cited his research, and said there are reports on both sides of the issue.

Kevin Flannery of 350 Melrose Avenue said we should slow down and let the studies be completed.

Brett McGinnis of 136 Tudor Place said Astro Turf has been torn out of fields. He explained the difference between Astro Turf and Field Turf.

Lois Stanley said Mr. Mroc reported last month natural grass is best for the kids.

Commissioner Kenyon said the grass that is on Townley Field now is unsafe because it has become so compacted.

Lois Stanley asked why take such a big unknown risk. We do not know the effects in 10 years. There has not been enough studies.

Commissioner Kenyon said he knows there is concern about Field Turf maintenance and the need to rebuild in 10 years. He quoted the following costs:

	<u>Field Turf</u>	<u>Mondo</u>
Installation	\$722,000.00	\$850,000.00
Maintenance	\$433,500.00	\$425,000.00

Commissioner Kenyon said he has pledges from different organizations to help with the costs. He said AYSO has pledged \$15,000; KWBA has pledged \$5,000; and Rebels has pledged \$20,000. He would like to get pledges from others such as the school who is the biggest user of the field. He is confident we will have the money to replace the turf in 10 years.

Commissioner Higgins said kids need down time. She felt 24 hours a day 7 days a week of field play is not necessary. She is concerned about the safety issue. Townley Field is in terrible condition. Commissioner Higgins felt re-sodding should be looked at.

Commissioner Kenyon cited the negatives of natural grass such as not enough down time to allow re-growth. He said to look at the usability. One rainy day of play causes two to three months time for repair.

Lois Stanley said that refers to a rain of two to three inches which doesn't happen very often.

Commissioner Kenyon said Field Turf allows for more sports, and noted having many programs is not beating up the kids. Rather the variety of programming is offering them an opportunity.

Commissioner Kenyon cited various field statistics. He said the KWBA had to cancel 15 days of play on Townley Field in April. AYSO cancelled 3 days out of 8 weeks. He noted that Loyola in

Glenview rents its field space out to Trevian Youth Soccer. This is a field that Ken Mroc built. They had to cancel play 14 days in April.

Kevin Flannery presented an independent study. He said maybe there are groups who would offer to help with natural grass. Mr. Flannery noted his study is against synthetic turf.

Commissioner Hanold asked if lighting is included in the study prepared. Mr. Flannery said it is only costs for the field. Commissioner Hanold said the Board needs time to digest the information. Mr. Flannery said the Board should take time to study it.

President Feeney asked the status of the work being completed by Commissioner Kenyon and the group of residents pursuing Field Turf. Commissioner Kenyon said it was his understanding, his group was awaiting word from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District as to the status of the permit application.

Eileen Madigan asked if the Village engineer has to sign off on the project. Commissioner Kenyon noted the Village Engineer will be provided a copy of the permit materials.

Commissioner Kenyon said he is fearful we will end up with the same old sod. He wondered if the Park District would be able to keep up with the maintenance and costs if the field were redone with sod.

Commissioner Peterson asked about the private donors. Commissioner Kenyon said there are 35 and they want Field Turf.

Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion she thought residents would help with natural grass.

Commissioner Kenyon said he is worried about not enough down time for sod to be successful on the field.

Marti Niemann of 433 Cumnor Road said it is great that the conditions on Townley Field have been brought to the public. She felt the public would be more likely to help due to Commissioner Kenyon bringing up this issue.

Commissioner Kenyon said again it is the down time for repair that he is concerned about. He expressed it is his feeling that grass won't work.

Eileen Madigan asked what would be best. She said it is not just health from injuries, but there are chemicals that could cause respiratory and dermal risks. These have not been studied. Due to environmental, physical and financial concerns, she said she could not support synthetic turf.

Commissioner Kenyon said then we could go with Mondo. It will allow for longer times of playing.

President Feeney asked about the application to the MWRD. He thought it was about six weeks for the response. Secretary Burke said probably longer.

President Feeney asked when the Board has to come up with the information for a ballot. Secretary Burke said in their August meeting.

Commissioner Peterson agreed with putting the issue on a ballot if it gets MWRD approval. He asked what the Board should do if Field Turf is voted down.

Commissioner Higgins said we should ask residents to contribute to re-doing the field with grass.

Lois Stanley asked how the money would be raised.

President Feeney said we need something formal from Mr. Mroc at the July meeting.

Commissioner Hanold suggested the Board get a proposal for grass, too. He said if the Board decides on grass, no referendum is needed.

There was general discussion about raising money for Townley Field. Secretary Burke said the Board could create a foundation.

Lois Stanley asked how the Park Board could levy taxes for this project. Secretary Burke said there is a tax cap, and explained the Park District would have to go to referendum to authorize the debt that would exceed the Village's tax levy authority.

Superintendent Maggi asked the Board to set the pay scale for his summer help. He has three summer employees, one new employee and two returning from previous summers. The Board consensus was to raise the head helper to \$10.50 and the other returning employee to \$10.00 per hour. They set the pay for the new employee at \$9.50 per hour.

Commissioner Higgins said the pay should be consistent for all jobs. Commissioner Hanold said only if the jobs are the same.

Commissioner Higgins explained to her fellow Commissioners she cannot do the basketball program next year and noted she needs someone on the Park Board to take over.

Commissioner Hanold asked what is involved, so he could know if he would have the time available.

President Feeney said we could run the program by a Committee of Park Board members if necessary.

Commissioner Higgins said she has it very organized, but the program can be time consuming.

Secretary Burke announced that PRDRMA had sent the Park Board a \$500.00 check for getting all of its risk management policies and programs in order.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole