

**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, AUGUST 7, 2008.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:10.p.m. and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney Richard Peterson	President Commissioner
Electronically:	Heidi Higgins Chip Kenyon	Commissioner Commissioner
Absent:	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke Lou Maggi Mary Cole Kevin Flannery Brett McGinnis Lois Stanley Debby Killion	Secretary Superintendent Secretary to Mr. Burke 350 Melrose Avenue 136 Tudor Place 167 Sheridan Road 515 Cumnor Road

The minutes of the June 5, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes. President Feeney seconded the motion, and the minutes as presented were unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke presented the financial report. He noted there was no Park Board meeting in July, so there was a second run of checks before the Park Board for approval at this meeting. Secretary Burke noted the expenses were standard and included payments for Little Springs and Football Camp.

Commissioner Kenyon inquired what the Park District made on the football program. Secretary Burke said \$2,200. Revenues were \$11,400 and expenses were \$9,200. Commissioner Kenyon noted the Park District earns 20% on this program.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the bills were unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke said the next issue is the draft Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. He said he and Superintendent Maggi reallocated some equipment fees to the Recreation Fund since the Board was originally given this budget to examine in the May meeting. Otherwise nothing else has changed and the budget before the Board is the same as that originally reviewed in May.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was unanimously approved.

Next, the advisory referendum question about using synthetic material for Townley Field was discussed. Secretary Burke said the engineering drawings were submitted about 3 or 4 weeks

ago to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. He said Commissioner Kenyon had submitted a format for an advisory referendum question which was in everyone's packets. Commissioner Kenyon said he was unsure of the correct wording, and the Board could change it if they would like to.

Commissioner Higgins said she had heard some discussion of not having two referendum questions pertaining to Kenilworth matters on the November ballot. Commissioner Kenyon said he had just found out about that today.

Commissioner Higgins asked if the Park Board had agreed on this. President Feeney said it had not been previously discussed.

Secretary Burke said basically the Park Board needs to spell out the exact question it would like to see included on the ballot. The question has to be submitted to Cook County by September 2 for inclusion on the November 4 ballot.

President Feeney said the issue of the Historical District Nomination will be on the November 4 ballot.

Commissioner Kenyon asked if there would be room for the Townley Field issue on the ballot.

Secretary Burke said each municipal entity can submit up to three questions for inclusion on the ballot in a general election.

Commissioner Kenyon asked why the Park Board should delay the issue.

President Feeney said the Historical District Nomination is a contentious issue. He asked if all the Park Commissioners have looked at Commissioner Kenyon's sample question regarding field turf.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion we should not drag this out. There will be great voter turn out. If we wait till the April election, we will start the division in the community all over again. Also it will be too late for installation for next summer and he could possibly lose his pledges from the private funding group.

Secretary Burke asked Commissioner Higgins if she wanted to hear the question read aloud. Commissioner Higgins said yes, so Secretary Burke read it to her.

Commissioner Higgins said she did not like the phrase "Park Board decision" because the Park Board did not make a decision. Commission Higgins expressed her opinion she did not support artificial turf.

Commissioner Kenyon asked what was missing in the proposed question. Commissioner Higgins said it is what is in the question. She noted she did not know about any contemplated plans for Mahoney Park and Pee Wee Park.

Commissioner Kenyon said Brett McGinnis emailed that the private funding group wanted to expand the project and in return suggested the referendum question be rephrased.

Secretary Burke said Mr. McGinnis' email was in Park District packets a few months ago.

Commissioner Higgins said she did not remember it.

Commissioner Peterson expressed his opinion he did not want to muddy the issue with Mahoney and Pee Wee Parks.

Commissioner Kenyon said it was okay to let that part of the question go, and noted the funding group had wanted to improve the whole area.

Lois Stanley said she thought it had been agreed upon in the June meeting to explore with Mr. Mroc his ideas for improving Townley Field. She also thought the Park Board had to approve the issue before the referendum. She apologized to Commissioner Kenyon because he has spent so much time on this issue, but she felt it was a very serious issue.

Commissioner Higgins agreed with Ms. Stanley regarding getting a proposal from Mr. Mroc. She asked if the Park Board approved of the wording and if the Board needed to vote on the issue before it went to referendum.

Secretary Burke said the Board can choose any language it wants to include in a possible referendum question.

Commissioner Higgins said the Park Board, as promised, should put the issue up to referendum to let the residents choose whether or not to have artificial turf on Townley Field. She said then put an end to the issue.

Kevin Flannery asked if the ballot will also ask about natural grass.

Commissioner Kenyon asked Secretary Burke if that was possible. Secretary Burke said there is no money currently included in the recently approved budget to pursue natural grass. Secretary Burke, noted the budget could be amended and explained additional time will be needed if this is something to be pursued via a bond issue. The Board could have a financing referendum.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion the Park Board will have to explain how we will pay for natural grass.

Kevin Flannery suggested the same language except for natural grass.

Commissioner Kenyon said he had pledges for synthetic turf.

Lois Stanley again asked if the Park Board first had to vote on the issue, and if they are going forward with Mr. Mroc. Commissioner Peterson asked what Mr. Mroc said about natural grass.

Superintendent Maggi said Mr. Mroc said it requires more aggressive maintenance and more down time. Mr. Maggi said he was just gathering information at this point and had contacted other landscapers.

Secretary Burke said there had been no official responses from landscapers yet. He cited that in the March minutes the Park Board agreed to wait for approval from the MWRD, then go to referendum.

Commissioner Peterson asked where the Park's application was with the MWRD. Secretary Burke said he had not heard anything yet from the MWRD, but there is still time later this month to move forward for the referendum. He clarified, again, that the Park Board agreed to wait for a response from the MWRD, and then if the project is approved, go forward to referendum.

Commissioner Peterson reiterated that the Park Board will not decide anything till after the referendum.

President Feeney clarified that nothing more had been received on regular turf.

Superintendent Maggi said he is waiting for information but everyone he has contacted had said it requires more maintenance.

President Feeney summed up that basically the Park Board is waiting for word from the MWRD.

Brett McGinnis asked about the MWRD application. Secretary Burke said he estimated he would have more information next week.

Lois Stanley said she felt, for the referendum, the key is to have natural grass information also. The Park Board should give information on both sides of the issue to citizens.

Commissioner Kenyon said with natural turf you have the costs of sodding, how it will be paid for, and the Park District crew's maintenance. He said Superintendent Maggi agreed that Townley Field would end up in the same condition with natural turf.

Commissioner Higgins said she agreed with Lois Stanley that information for the other side, which is natural grass, should be included on the ballot. She said the Board needs wording for the referendum which would include that there are private funds for synthetic turf but public funds will be needed for natural grass. She felt that the Board is wasting time and going over the same arguments.

Commissioner Peterson said maybe the issue should not go to ballot till the April election. This Board told the public that the issue would not be on the ballot until it has been discovered if it is even feasible. We need consistency. We don't know if the MWRD is going to approve this project. We offer no alternatives which is not fair to residents. Commissioner Peterson said he had never seen the issues regarding possible improvements to Mahoney Park and Pee Wee Park before tonight's meeting.

Brett McGinnis said he had emailed it to the Park District several months ago. Secretary Burke asked what the Pee Wee Park and Mahoney Park projects are. Superintendent Maggi said he would suppose it would be going on with the restoration as per Jens Jensen's' original plan for Mahoney Park. Brett McGinnis said the Pee Wee Park improvements would include grading and fencing.

President Feeney again said the Board cannot do anything until it hears from the MWRD. He suggested moving on to the next issue on the agenda which was Little Springs.

Secretary Burke said it earned about \$18,601. He said he has gotten very positive feedback from parents.

President Feeney pointed out that Co-Director Mark Drelicharz has quit and we need a replacement for him next year. He said the Board should start early to find someone.

Secretary Burke said there is an issue where the School may want to start charging for use of their gym. The older children's basketball program, which has not been under the auspices of the Kenilworth Park District, may get charged for their gym time. They would like to come under the Park Board. Kristen Casas is in charge of the program and has it worked out so she will collect the fees and turn them over to the District.

Commissioner Higgins said this is absurd, and there should be no gym fees charged by the school.

President Feeney said the Board is in agreement to have the basketball program for older children, that being 4th grade through 6th grade, under Park District auspices.

Secretary Burke said the school Booster Club is interested in doing improvements to the Village House; however, their rules do not allow them to donate money to anything other than the school, so they have looked to the Joseph Sears foundation as a possible channel to donate money for the Village House.

Commissioner Peterson asked what it would cost the Park District. Secretary Burke said they want to come up with the project and will also fund it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole