

**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, SEPTEMBER 4, 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
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary to Mr. Burke
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue

The minutes of the August 7, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the minutes as presented were unanimously approved.

President Feeney said he wanted to discuss bonuses for the summer camp directors first. There was some general discussion about Allison Louposzynski's and Mark Drelicharz's performance. It was noted they both did very good jobs. It was also noted that Mark has moved to California and will not be available for camp employment next year. President Feeney suggested \$150.00 bonus for each of them. The Board unanimously agreed. President Feeney said the Park Board would have to start early to find a replacement for Mark.

Secretary Burke explained a situation that developed with a summer camp employee who, five weeks into the program, thought he was being underpaid. Secretary Burke said he had met with the employee and found no grounds to increase his salary. He told the employee this and followed up with the letter that was copied to the Park Board. The Park Board agreed with Secretary Burke.

Commissioner Higgins said she liked the fact that the counselors had a chance to grade the directors. She asked if the Park Board could see the results of the survey that the counselors were given for this purpose. Secretary Burke said this survey was Mark Drelicharz's idea, and he would get the results out to the Board.

Next, Secretary Burke reported on the monthly bills. He said they were pretty straight forward, noting the payment to Sunrise Tree Service for removal of a tree in Townley Field.

Superintendent Maggi explained that it was an elm tree in the middle of the field. He said there are two more trees that need to come down also.

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

Next, the Park Board turned to the subject of Townley Field improvements. Secretary Burke said there was nothing new to report. He said Superintendent Maggi was still trying to get

information from other contractors regarding natural grass. He felt the information would be more forthcoming as we move into the winter months. Commissioner Peterson asked if natural turf was also contingent on drainage as per Commissioner Kenyon's plan.

Commissioner Kenyon reported that two Rebel Football games were cancelled because of weather, and the kids were disappointed. He said grass just does not hold up in this climate. He read a quote from Loyola High School's coach praising Field Turf. He noted two points. One was that he would like the playing area on Townley Field moved to the south to make it wider and more within football regulations, and the second point was to move forward with new lights for Townley Field. He felt the lighting issue got lost in the discussions about Field Turf. He said Northfield has new lights and there is no spillage from the fields onto adjacent properties.

President Feeney agreed.

Commissioner Peterson asked how tall the Northfield lights are. President Feeney said they are pretty tall. Commissioner Higgins suggested finding out who installed the lights in Northfield. President Feeney noted the current light system at Townley Field spills over onto Cumnor Road residences.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board should concentrate on improving the field first. Commissioner Kenyon said that is a separate issue from lighting. He suggested the Board move forward with regard to lighting and make some progress. The Park Board has to wait for MWRD approval for the Field Turf issue. We will not be able to have the issue on the ballot at least until next spring.

Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion staff should get bids on new lighting. Secretary Burke said he would get specifications from other communities and move forward to get bids.

Commissioner Kenyon noted that the grass seed Superintendent Maggi put down has made Townley Field better, though it will not last. He congratulated Superintendent Maggi on a job well done.

Commissioner Higgins said she is turning all of her basketball information over to Commissioner Hanold. She will help him run the program.

President Feeney said he read an article on Loyola Beach and its use of sand dunes and natural grasses. He said there are state grants available which the Park District should look into to improve the shore area of Mahoney Park East. He suggested eventually taking down the fence and making the area more natural. President Feeney said this would help with erosion and make it nicer for the community.

Commissioner Higgins concurred and noted the goal is to get the fence down and let the community enjoy the area like years ago. She felt it was ridiculous not to have access from Mahoney Park.

A brief discussion of Mahoney Park East followed. President Feeney said the area should be more accessible. Commissioner Higgins said senior scouts are always looking for a project, and they could clean the area up.

Commissioner Higgins said she had received a number of complaints about the lifeguards, even though it is the Village who owns the beach, and not the Park District. Secretary Burke said it is the Water Superintendent, Kevin Zeoli, who hires the lifeguards and he would discuss the concerns raised with Village staff.

President Feeney expressed his opinion part of the problem is the guards stay at the top entrance gate. Eileen Madigan said they were not at the top gate this year.

Commissioner Higgins said she has never heard complaints before this year.

Secretary Burke explained that there was less staff this year. Both Water Superintendent Zeoli and Secretary Burke wanted the guards down by the beach watching the crowd. Secretary Burke said more complaints came in after one weekend when both the Wilmette and Winnetka beaches were closed, but Kenilworth Beach was open. There were throngs of people and not enough staff.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Park District was responsible for the safety of swimmers. Secretary Burke said no, it is the Village's beach and as such the Village is responsible.

Superintendent Maggi reported about the tree which was cut down on Townley Field and said there are two more in Mahoney and Centennial Parks. The removal is budgeted for and will cost \$2,000 including some needed trimming.

Superintendent Maggi said the warranty was about to expire on the lightning detection system in Townley Field. The cost to renew for one year is \$350.00. Commissioner Peterson said that was a reasonable amount. Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion the Park District should not go with the warranty.

Eileen Madigan asked if the Park District has ever used the warranty before.

Commissioner Kenyon said the detection system is necessary because if it broke and a child got hit, the District would be sued.

Commissioner Higgins asked how Superintendent Maggi knew if the detector was working. Superintendent Maggi said he can look on the computer and see and noted there are monthly checks made of the system. Commissioner Higgins asked if the company tests the detector every so often. Superintendent Maggi said they do not and explained the only maintenance required is to keep the sensors clean.

President Feeney made a motion to renew the warranty for one year. Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Secretary Burke reported that the Park District auditors will start the annual audit in late September or early October.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion which was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole