

**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 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 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
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner

Absent:	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
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Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Mr. Burke's Secretary
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue
	June Merkel	151 Sheridan Road
	Dr. Frederick K. Merkel	151 Sheridan Road
	Kevin Flannery	350 Melrose Avenue
	Debby Killion	515 Cumnor Road
	Frank M. Haynes	427 Sheridan Road
	Arlene C. Haynes	427 Sheridan Road
	Margaret Hart	522 Essex Road
	Ed Chestnut	133 Kenilworth Avenue
	Lois Stanley	167 Sheridan Road

The minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Hanold made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, and the minutes, as presented, were unanimously approved.

Secretary Burke reviewed the March bills. He said all bills were of a routine nature. Secretary Burke explained this month's invoices included the Park District's inclusion payment to the North Suburban Special Recreation Association in the amount of \$2,099.46. Secretary Burke cited other payments for sports programs and field maintenance, and tree removal. Commissioner Hanold made a motion to approve the payables. President Feeney seconded the motion, and the March payables were unanimously approved.

Next Secretary Burke said the new directors for summer camp have completed hiring of the help they need for the coming Little Springs/Sports Plus session. Secretary Burke explained the directors will hire more counselors if registration numbers indicate additional staff is needed. Secretary Burke noted the Park District continues to receive applications for counselors. Secretary Burke explained the new directors have been at

work scheduling field trips and entertainment for camp and requested permission to submit deposits for camp entertainment as reserved by the two directors. Secretary Burke explained the various entertainment acts require early deposits. The Park Board gave unanimous permission to send those deposits.

Secretary Burke said he and Superintendent Maggi will be meeting in the near future to start budget discussions. He said any Commissioners should let him know if they have any ideas or suggestions for the budget.

Secretary Burke announced the unofficial election results from the two advisory referendum questions and noted Field Turf was voted down by 81%. He reiterated that these are unofficial results until Cook County does its canvassing which should be done by the last week of April. He said the numbers may change slightly after canvassing due to absentee and provisional ballots.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to end all discussion of artificial turf as an option for improvement to Townley Field and to move ahead with grass. Commissioner Hanold requested Commissioner Higgins clarify her motion because there was no major support for improving Townley Field with grass either.

Commissioner Higgins revised her motion for the Park District to stop all discussion of artificial turf. President Feeney seconded the motion which unanimously carried. President Feeney said the Board will need to look at the new budget and figure out how to improve Townley Field with natural grass.

Ed Chestnut asked how the Board plans to improve Townley Field with the current budget when estimates for improvement have been so high. President Feeney said the Board plans to take whatever actions it can to improve Townley Field without raising taxes. President Feeney noted increasing the tax rate would require a referendum, and the Park Board is not planning to pursue a referendum.

Commissioner Higgins noted she has learned from Ken Mrock there may be companies willing to work with the Park District as a test site to improve the field, or funds could be raised through donations.

Mr. Chestnut expressed his opinion the Park Board has not offered alternatives to improve the field during the time that artificial turf was being explored. Mr. Chestnut stated he felt the kids are being short changed, and the Park Board has not taken needed action to maintain the field.

Commissioner Kenyon said Townley Field needs to be improved, and the Park District has got to get this done. Commissioner Kenyon noted the improvements to the field cannot be delayed.

Kevin Flannery expressed his opinion the Park Board should consider opening up the discussion of Townley Field improvements to the community and donations should be

requested. Mr. Flannery suggested first the Park Board set parameters for what is to happen on the field. Mr. Flannery stated he felt the problem experienced by the Park Board with the artificial turf proposal was that the plans were not shared with the public, adjacent neighbors and other users of the field early enough in the process. Mr. Flannery said the majority of residents agree that something needs to be done, and suggested the Park Board consider a mailing to residents.

Commissioner Higgins expressed concern that other organizations that use the field, such as AYSO, should not be involved in discussing field improvements because they will try to direct the outcome.

Commissioner Kenyon expressed concern a mailing will make people curious.

Lois Stanley said Kenilworth needs Townley Field to be like a sponge and not drain into the sewers. Mrs. Stanley noted there are already storm sewer problems in Kenilworth, and the Park Board should work with the Village Board regarding potential field improvements that could also help the storm water and storm sewer system.

Commissioner Higgins noted it was her recollection that Mr. Ken Mrock's discussion of improvements to the field contemplated taking actions to address the drainage problems.

Next, Commissioner Hanold reported that there were 133 basketball players who participated in the basketball program. He said some of the dads were proposing a draft for next year. A discussion about a younger child getting into the program followed, and it was decided to stick to the required age limits in the future.

President Feeney reported that Tee Ball applications had been sent to homes. Staff reported a limited number of registrations for tee ball had been received to date.

Superintendent Maggi reported that he and his crew were taking actions to improve playability on Townley Field. Superintendent Maggi noted he was doing the flower order tomorrow and explained the order would be the same as last year. He also said he was starting to work on the budget with Secretary Burke.

Secretary Burke brought up a request from a family in town for a scholarship to summer camp for their two children. The request was unanimously approved.

President Feeney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole