

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005 AT THE PEORIA PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, GLEN OAK PAVILION, 2218 N. PROSPECT ROAD, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

President Timothy J. Cassidy presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Budzinski, Cummings, Johnson, Vice President Petty and President Cassidy.

TRUSTEE ABSENT: Trustees Allen and Ryan.

STAFF PRESENT: Director Noble, V. Joyce McLemore, Attorney Jim Konsky, Mike Baietto, Jan Budzynski, Katie Hogan, Chief Bob James, Dennis Mantick, Cyndy McKone, Shaless Pie, Bill Roeder, Rebecca Swiger, Dave Wheeler, Bill Woolard, Eduardo Araya, Joe Atkinson, Carl Cannon, Connie Cloat, Abby Curl, Donna Day, Meridith Deverman, Tod Daniels, Robbie Dobbstein, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Dale Goodner, John Gostele, John Hoffmire, Linda Huff, Trent Kaufmann, Scot Loftus, Valerie Marek, Tom Miller, Sandra Mitchell, Steve Montez, Michelle Morse, Rick Robbins, Rachel Rush, Dave Schmidt, Jan Schweitzer, Doug Silberer, Bob Streitmatter, Yvonne Strode, Mary Toel, Deborah Totten, Brent Wheeler, Sue Wheeler and Lisa Ullenius.

PRESS PRESENT: Sarah Okeson, *Journal Star*.

OTHERS PRESENT: Oneita Volz, League of Women Voters, 2038 West Delray, Peoria; Tim Gorman, Peoria.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: No corrections or additions and **TRUSTEE BUDZINSKI MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2005 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. Motion seconded by Trustee Johnson and carried on unanimous voice vote. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays)**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Noble thanked Trustee Johnson for his statement of support on behalf an IDNR grant application hearing held in Springfield last week. Also, on behalf of the Board Trustee Johnson accepted a donation check from National City Bank. This is the second year National Bank has donated one-half day for employees to volunteer at the Park District. This year's project was in Lakeview Park.

MARKETING DIVISION: Superintendent McKone announced winners of the sixth annual *Journal Star Readers Choice Awards*. The Readers Choice Survey is published several times in the newspaper throughout the spring and asks readers to select what they consider the "best" in 100 different categories. More than 1,000 people

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Minutes were presented for Finance meeting of Wednesday, October 12, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PENDING BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Communications were received as submitted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

(Attorney Konsky left at 6:15 p.m.)

FY-2006 BUDGET REVIEW: Upon conclusion of agenda items, the Board reviewed proposed FY-2006 budgets.

Director's 2006 Budget Report

Director Noble presented a proposed balanced budget for consideration. Noble noted "... the Park District enhances property values, increases municipal revenues by bringing in homebuyers, workers, visitors, and tourists and attracting retirees. The bottom line: 'Parks' are a good financial investment for a community. "

Superintendent of Finance Budget Report

Superintendent Budzynski noted for 2000 through 2005, the District has maintained a stable tax rate. Last year, in order to build a balanced budget fees were increased for many of the District's programs and services were reduced. Staff is recommending returning to the level of maintenance needed to provide quality facilities and parks in 2006. Staff is recommending .6999 tax rate, the same rate as originally projected for 2005 budget.

Trustee Cummings noted the increased dollar amount for the 2005 Tax Levy compared to 2004 is \$900,000 and he questioned what portion of the increase would be used to bring back part-time maintenance staff. Staff will provide a summary report of part-time payroll increases broken down by fund.

Superintendent Baietto spoke on behalf of parks regarding part-time staff. The Parks Division plans to bring back part-time staff to match 2002 levels. The increase in number of parks in the system requires manpower to be restored.

FY 2006 BUDGET REVIEW:

President Cassidy stated the Board understands and knows what difficulties the Administration and staff have endured since 2002, with interim budget cuts forcing a tight grip on spending. Yet staff has moved this District forward and Peoria Park District is still a Gold Medal Park District because of every staff member present. The Board appreciates and knows only this staff makes it possible. Hopefully, the economy will turn around and things will return to the

prior levels of maintenance and manpower at our facilities and parks.

RECREATION DIVISION

Superintendent Mantick began with a video presentation capturing the quantity and quality of events and programs offered by the Park District Recreation Division.

Superintendent Mantick presented brief overview of the Recreation Division Budget. Trustee Cummings questioned what could be done to minimize fee increases. Mantick reported staff feels recreation fees are at maximum levels; and this is determined by participant response and feedback.

2005 Proposed Recreation Division Synopsis:

- restore appropriate funding levels for training and conferences
- minimize fee increases across all departments, in all three funds
- centralize advertising dollars in Recreation Administration for job recruitment
- critical evaluation of programs and services throughout the Division, resulting in
 - a) restoring as a part-time position, the former full-time 18-month opportunity for a Recreation Coordinator budgeted within Recreation Administration; and
 - b) alteration of service hours, based upon identified user trends, within aquatic areas of operation at both Lakeview and Gwynn Family Aquatic Centers.

Arts & Leisure Services Department: Supervisor Steve Montez introduced his full-time staff members and briefly overviewed departmental programming operations: Amphitheatre, Day Camps, Dance, Drama, Leisure Services (responsible for all program registration services at Glen Oak Pavilion), Music, Park/School, Senior Programs, Special Events, Teen/Council Programs and Vagabond Tours. A new programming initiative is proposed in 2006, a Pre-School camp program. Trustee Cummings inquired about programming for seniors and Superintendent Montez noted the variety of activities offered to seniors throughout the Park District: senior department programs created for ages 50 and older, to include water and land exercises, social clubs, excursions, life-long learning in music and the arts, and special events; Park/School classes, the RiverPlex, Vagabond Tours, and Golf. Montez noted the Park District follows national trends and the trend is getting away from the term "senior". Research has shown customers don't like being referred to as seniors.

Trustee Johnson noted his concern about the lack of after school programs at the schools. Discussion followed regarding current Park District TEC drama programs in the grade schools, an after-school choir program at Irving Primary School (funded by a grant) in partnership with First Methodist Church, targeting of pre-teens (ages 11-13) to participate in all-teen special events. Abby Curl, Teen Coordinator noted that teen programs are scheduled throughout the city and transportation to the special events is provided from Glen Oak Park. Trustee Johnson noted his concern park district teen programs do not attract inner city kids. Staff responded advertising for events is handled via park district brochures, school flyers, newspaper ads and guest appearances on local television news shows. Montez believes there needs to be more research for marketing to inner city kids. Superintendent Mantick noted teens are a very changeable market.

FY 2006 BUDGET REVIEW:

Director Noble noted the new Recreation Assistance Recreation Coordinator position will target inner city youths.

Athletics & Fitness Department: Supervisor Rick Robbins presented the department budget. There are no major changes for proposed for 2006. New programming for 2006 will feature Dodgeball Leagues at Franciscan Recreation Center. Fee increases are recommended for ball field rentals and Parochial Soccer. Trustee Cummings asked how the projected revenue increase in 2006 for Franciscan would be generated. Robbins noted projected increase in sports camp revenues and new dodge ball league revenues. Trustee Cummings requested staff consider increasing advertising budget to promote Franciscan.

Trustee Johnson requested copy of line item budget pages for youth baseball and soccer. Johnson would like to see youth baseball league play at Manual High School ball fields, as he is concerned southern district youngsters cannot play baseball in their neighborhoods. Trustee Johnson also requested staff look at the number of inner city t-ball program participants.

Community and Inner City Services Department:

Supervisor Deborah Totten presented the division budget. Trustee Johnson requested Copies of Community and Inner City Services Department line item budgets. Logan Manager Jonelle McCloud stated her goal for Logan is to have participants at the facility during the daytime. Target markets are grandparents and seniors.

Trustee Johnson invited Deborah Totten to attend an upcoming meeting of "Friends of Proctor Center".

Environmental and Interpretive Department:

Supervisor Dale Goodner presented the division budget. Staff has proposed a fee increase for outdoor wedding rentals at Luthy Botanical Garden. Trustee Cummings raised questions about the advertising budget for the Garden and staff will cautiously try to increase the advertising budget.

Special Revenue Producing Facilities Department:

Supervisor David Schmidt presented the overview for his department. In order to recruit, train and retain quality lifeguard staff, staff has proposed offering competitive wages, incentives, strategic marketing and working through the local schools. Staff again proposes that Central Park Pool not open during the summer for public swim. Gwynn Family Aquatic Center will open for the summer season at the conclusion of the school year, and will close at the end of the first week of August. Lakeview Family Aquatic Center will open Memorial Day Weekend, and close the season the second week in August.

FY 2006 BUDGET REVIEW:

Trustee Johnson requested Gwynn open the same day as Lakeview Family Aquatics. Discussion followed regarding swimmer attendance, length of swim Season and hours of operation. **President Cassidy requested staff bring back to the next budget session a statistical report for both Lakeview and Gwynn Family Aquatic Centers, showing the swimmer load by month;**

Cassidy would like five year average attendance. Staff will also calculate cost associated with keeping Gwynn open as long as Lakeview Family Aquatic Center.

Schmidt noted there are no changes proposed at Owens Center for budget year 2006. However, it was noted that in March 2006, a new ice skating rink will be opening in Bloomington. Lower revenue projections were discussed. Owens Manager Doug Silberer stated the pro shop is to be downsized, resulting in lower revenue projection.

RiverPlex Recreation and Fitness budget reflects two fee increases: increase arena rental \$5 per hour and a \$5 increase in the price of non-resident, non-member swim lessons.

RIVERFRONT EVENTS FUND

Superintendent Roeder presented the budget for his division. 2005 was the first season the District programmed and operated all aspects of The Landings facilities. Staff is recommending increasing base fees an additional \$1 for Landing events. Staff will concentrate on cost containment strategies for 2006 while keeping entertainment fresh and exciting.

2006 BOND ISSUE AND 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Administrative Assistant David Wheeler distributed bond issue list and the five-year capital plan for trustee review. These will be presented and reviewed at the next budget session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:55 P.M., D.S.T., **VICE PRESIDENT PETTY MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING AND RESUME REVIEW OF FY 2006 REMAINING BUDGETS AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARK BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M.** Motion seconded by Trustee Budzinski and carried on unanimous voice vote. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays)

V. Joyce McLemore
Secretary, Board of Trustees