

Minutes

The Regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Brauer, Gunderson, Hunter, Jones, Lenertz, Spelman and Voelz, Director Major, Superintendents Felix, Hoffmann and Krause.

President Lenertz resided.

President Lenertz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation - None

President's Comments

President Lenertz thanked Commissioner Hunter for hosting the Staff BBQ and all those who attended. President Lenertz thanked Commissioners who attended Willy Wonka and stated the play marked a close to a good season at the Park District.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Voelz moved to accept all items under the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, roll was called, and motion carried 7-0.

Vote: Brauer, Gunderson, Hunter, Jones, Lenertz, Spelman, Voelz – Yes

Director's Report

There was an initial planning meeting between the City of West Chicago, the West Chicago Park District, the architects for the Park District, and the land planner for the City. During this meeting priorities and options were laid out regarding the potential site plan for the campus. The conceptual plan was discussed from an integrated standpoint, and other options were proposed as well. Some ancillary considerations are: the current site (corner of Washington and Main) has some elevations challenges as well as a utility corridor which could be problematic; there is a desire to create a green space/park for community events and overall aesthetics; there is a need to have each element of the site work together, such as parking proximity, possible trails or boardwalks, recreation center options for outdoor spaces for seating and traffic drop offs; remediation requirements, wetlands impact; development of retail along Washington, etc.

Last night there was a development meeting at City Hall where some initial concepts were proposed; those results will be discussed at this meeting. The Park District has indicated there is a strong need to determine the most realistic site for the recreation center by Dec. 1. It is important for this process to remain aggressive so that the time frame remains intact for a possible referendum.

Other developments include the fact that over 2500 people have accessed the wegoforfun.org website. Also, a video presentation and testimonial presentation are being prepared for group presentations and social media applications.

Summer programs are winding down and the new brochure has been released for the fall. The preparation of this brochure is entirely in house at this point, exclusive of the printing. The Home Town Hero Award is being circulated throughout the city of West Chicago. Recently, a bronze statue has been purchased to recognize this award and the individuals receiving the award.

Staff has completed the baseball/softball tournament schedule for this season, and will be evaluating the continued relationship with Game Day, which has been excellent. The primary concern will center around staff capabilities and scheduling conflicts.

Work continues at Easton Park. Clearing of underbrush and buckthorn, along with trail development, pond cleaning, and clearing of the forest area have been emphasized. Three staff members will be attending the Walt Disney training seminar in early August. It is felt this exposure will further enhance effort to improve customer service, needs assessment, and creating for fun opportunities within the Park District.

Superintendent of Recreation's Report

Fall 2011 Program Guides were mailed out the last week of July. There is a wide variety of new programs as well as the familiar favorites. Volunteer Appreciation Night was held at Turtle Splash at the end of the month. We had about 30 volunteers and their families participate in the event. They were very appreciative that there was a night just for them. Each volunteer was given a \$10 gift certificate towards any program. Thank you to the commissioners and staff who helped with or came to see the production of Willy Wonka. This was a tremendous success for the theater program and the Park District. With almost 1,000 people coming through it was a great opportunity to showcase the quality programming the park district has for the community. The Early Childhood Coalition, the Park District is a member, is putting on a Come Play With Us event in Pioneer Park. The focus will be Town and Country apartments and Aspen Apartments. This event will be a kick off to other playgroup opportunities for those communities.

Denise Scott

- Summer Camp finished up a grant funded reading program brought to us by the Girls Scouts. Jessica Brown came out to Camp four times to bring the "Follow the Reader" program to the campers starting with the Kindergarten all the way up to 8th grade. She read to and with the children and then the children worked on crafts related to the stories. On the last meeting each child received a book to take home. We will be looking forward to working with Jessica and the Girl Scouts during the school year with our After School Programs.
- The Summer Campers worked on building a float for the Railroad Days Parade again this year. Each group designed and worked on parts of the float. We had 20 children and counselors ride the float and help us hand out candy.
- Camp Idontwanna the 4th and 5th grade campers started the Mighty Acorns program brought to us by a grant through the Conservation Foundation. They will participate twice a week in this program until the end of camp. The campers learn about and observe animals and plants in their native habitats by participating in games, activities and nature walks. They walk to Preston Fields to do their observations and many of the activities and also have guest speakers.

Chelsea McKone

- We are looking for and hoping to hire another instructor for the fall session.
- Theme for our spring performance is going to be "World Tour 2012"
- "Willy Wonka" was a great success with approximately 935 seats filled over the three performances. We had a great experience performing at Wheaton Academy and working with their technical staff. Our pit had 14 members, 56 cast members, countless volunteers and backstage help. Our concessions during the show did well also and the biggest hit was the "Wonka Bars". We are already in the works planning for next year... stay tuned!

Kristin Newton

- **Fitness Station:** Have placed order for one new tread and replacement cardio theater pieces. Hopefully will be installed before the fall rush hits. We have 352 members, up from July! Going to be hiring 2 more front desk staff for the fall. Budget is on the plus side, which is a good accomplishment for the summer months. This sets us up to have a very successful fall and winter.
- **Turtle Splash:** Swimming lessons currently have 75 kids in the current weekday session. Gina Radun and Sarah Bicchinella have done a great job running lessons. It has been a smooth summer. Lessons end for the summer on Saturday, August 6. Passed last 2 Starguard Audits; only have one left for the month of August. Managers and staff have done a great job working through the heat, despite the cranky patrons.

Joe Urban

The 7th and final tournament has taken place July 29-31. We have had teams participate in our tournaments from 20 states, Canada, and Dubai. Football and Cheerleading has started practice with games the weekend of August 27-28. We have 230 football players and 70 cheerleaders, very good numbers and very similar for the past 4 years. We will be having our games at the High School field again this season. Thanks to Doug Mullaney and his staff.

Glory Spies

- Created, wrote and established three E-newsletters using Mail Chimp, an online marketing service, for the

following: General news, Park news, Turtle Splash Water Park

- Created a template using Mail Chimp for press releases to be sent out to media, contacts, and the general public
- Sent out press releases on general information, events, and programs
- Created a Hometown Hero nomination form for the Sept. 11 event
- Created a June/July newsletter for Railroad Days
- Took photos of Easton Park adventure trail renovation per grant funds for future publicity; took photos of Willy Wonka for publicity purposes.
- Working to establish press contacts with Trib Local, Daily Herald, Suburban Parent, West Suburban Living, and Merle Burleigh
- Created an account on the St. Charles Patch website for posting of future events
- Created a Twitter account and posted daily tweets
- Created an Oaklee's Family Fun Guide account. Submissions to the website are listed for free in addition to a quarterly printed publication
- Created inserts to be included in bank envelopes for the promotion of Willy Wonka and brought over to State Bank of Illinois

Superintendent of Park's Report

This is a recapitulation of staff activities from July 7 thru August 2, 2011

Weather highlights: July ended being the wettest on record. Eleven out of 31 days of rain resulted in over 9 inches of water.

Department Highlights:

Reed-Keppler Park: Rail Road Days was prepared for, maintained during and cleaned up after from July 5th thru the 12th.

Game Day Tournaments were successfully held on July 8th thru the 10th and 28th thru the 31st.

Staff prepared for National Night Out on August 1st and 2nd.

Pioneer Park: Hosted the same two tournament dates.

The Splash Pad has experienced a couple of glitches caused by dirty valves or clogged nozzles. We have started a maintenance, backwash day on Fridays. Next year, this will be posted on our sign which was installed with basic rules suggested by the CDC.

Easton Park: Ten youth conservation workers have been hired for Easton Park. They are young but very willing to learn as we began clearing, grinding stumps, picking up branches in the woodland area.

Jason Day and a group of volunteer firefighters used their boat to assist us with cleaning the pond and resetting the aerator. The pond has been dyed with an enzyme to help with the water.

Kress Creek Farms: The re-design of the disc golf course is still developing.

Dyer-Riverwoods Farm: The Forest Preserve is very close to beginning the bike trail that will run alongside the park. Earthwerks is the contractor and with our relationship I have no doubt we get a quality job for our section.

Other Notes:

Staff is working on getting caught up with maintenance in the parks. This is typical at this time of the year when we come off Rail Road Days and a tournament. The words that I was waiting to hear finally were spoken. "How long are we staying today?" were spoken by a very dedicated but tired staff. I am trying to keep everyone at 40 a week hours this month.

I am monitoring the temperature humidity index for the health and safety of the staff. When the index reaches 105, I am sending them home.

Superintendent of Finance's Report

The written report from the Superintendent of Finance was delivered to the Board as part of the consent agenda prior to the meeting.

Committee of the Whole - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Commissioner Voelz moved to approve Policy 11-1; Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gunderson moved to include approval of the addition of Policy 11-1 to the Field Use Agreement/Contract/Policy. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion, roll was called, and motion carried 7-0.

Vote: Brauer, Gunderson, Hunter, Jones, Lenertz, Spelman, Voelz – Yes

Roll was called for approval of Policy 11-1, and motion carried 7-0.

Vote: Brauer, Gunderson, Hunter, Jones, Lenertz, Spelman, Voelz – Yes

Executive Session - None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Voelz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa L. Medeiros, Secretary