

Minutes of the May 15, 2014 Meeting of the Posen Park District Board of Commissioners

Call to Order Pres. Chmielak called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call Present: Karen Gilbert, Jody Chmielak, Mark Murphy, Ashley Gulli and Al Chmielak

Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions or Revisions to the Agenda None.

Approve Minutes of April 17, 2014 Comm. Chmielak moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2014 with Executive Session to remain sealed, seconded by Comm. Gulli. The resulting vote was 4 Ayes and 1 Abstain (Comm. Murphy). Motion carried.

Approve April Financial Report & Bills Comm. Murphy asked if the bill for the cell phone was the normal monthly bill, which Director Whitcomb confirmed it was. Comm. Gilbert asked if the office landline is called regularly, to which Director Whitcomb responded it depends on the time of year, but more regularly in non-winter months. Comm. Murphy moved to approve the April financial report and payment of bills, seconded by Comm. Chmielak. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Director's Report Director Whitcomb gave his report (Attached) and answered questions on the items.

Unfinished Business

Long Term Planning/ADA Transition Plan: A discussion ensued regarding the fences at Memorial and Commissioners Parks. Comm. Gilbert stated that she had brought this up before and she wanted the fences down to open up the park and that in her opinion the fences make the park look like a prison, we don't have fences at our smaller parks and all the surrounding park districts do not have fences at their parks. Pres. Chmielak stated that a plan would have to be developed if the board decided to take this step. It was agreed that a decision on proceeding with this particular project would be placed on the agenda for the June meeting.

Parking Lot Repair Quote: No update on this item.

New Business

Budget Ordinance: Director Whitcomb conducted the 3rd reading of the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance. Comm. Murphy moved, seconded by Comm. Chmielak, to approve the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 2014-1 as presented. All voted Aye, motion carried.

Approval of Director's Salary Increase: Comm. Gilbert moved, seconded by Comm. Gulli, to approve the 5% salary increase for the Director effective June 1st, 2014 as agreed upon in Executive Session on April 17, 2014. The resulting vote was 4 Ayes and 1 Abstain (Comm. Murphy). Motion carried.

Approval of Com Ed Lease for Memorial Park Parking Lot: Comm. Chmielak moved, seconded by Comm. Gulli, to approve the execution of the lease with the discussed changes made to page 1 regarding the square footage, and Exhibit A to reflect an accurate map of the leased property. All voted Aye, motion carried.

Approve Filing of G.L.R.I. Application: Comm. Chmielak moved, seconded by Comm. Murphy, to approve filing an application for the G.L.R.I. grant and acknowledge the funding commitment of \$5,500.00 in matching funds if we are approved. The resulting vote was 4 Ayes and 1 Nay (Comm. Gilbert). Motion carried.

Election & Appointment of Officers for Fiscal Year 2014-15: Nominees for President were Al Chmielak and Karen Gilbert. Upon a hand vote, Al Chmielak, Jody Chmielak, and Ashley Gulli voted for Al Chmielak, and Karen Gilbert and Mark Murphy voted for Karen Gilbert. Al Chmielak was elected President for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Mark Murphy was nominated for Vice President. With no other nominees, Mark Murphy was declared Vice President by consensus. Comm. Murphy moved, seconded by Pres. Chmielak, to have the offices of Secretary and Treasurer remain filled by Jody Chmielak and Karen Gilbert respectively for Fiscal Year 2014-15. All voted Aye, motion carried.

Public Comments A discussion ensued between Pres. Chmielak and Comm. Gilbert regarding communication between board members and discussions held between board members and between board member and the Director outside of meetings. Director Whitcomb moved to the public seating area and stated he wanted to make a comment as a member of the public not just as a staff member. He commented that the board needs to work together for the community and leave personal feelings and issues at home. Director Whitcomb stated that all board members receive the same information in their board packets prior to each meeting and that many items claimed to have not been brought up have been brought up and discussed at length then had the discussion forgotten by the next meeting. Comm. Murphy commented that many of the people in the room have had instances where they have been guilty of not remembering past discussions.

Executive Session Comm. Gilbert moved, seconded by Comm. Chmielak, to enter Executive Session at 8:45pm to discuss litigation. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

(CONTENT REDACTED)

At 8:48pm, Comm. Chmielak moved, seconded by Comm. Murphy to exit Executive Session. All voted Aye, motion carried.

Adjournment Comm. Chmielak moved to adjourn at 8:49pm, seconded by Comm. Murphy. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Report of the Director of Parks & Recreation May 15, 2014 Board Meeting

Com Ed Lease – I forwarded copies of the lease to your emails and included them in the packets. This is for a renewal to take effect June 1st for an additional 10 years. I am asking for approval of this item at this meeting. Upon reviewing it the lease appears to be straightforward. The Com Ed property has been leased by us under multiple leases and lease extensions continuously since 1984 without issue according to our records.

ITHA/Therapeutic Park – I have no update on this item.

Memorial Park Sewers – Representatives from Robinson Engineering met with myself and Pres. Chmielak last week to get follow up questions answered and determine adjustments to the plan for running the sewer, which they have determined to be possible. I am expecting a final drawing plan to be sent to me shortly as they are modifying the route the pipe would run to significantly shorten the distance and consequently the cost.

Basketball Courts – The poles have been installed and they are currently in the process of the surface coatings working as the weather permits. Backboards and rims will be installed once the surface is finished and striped.

Outside Meeting Attendance –

- I attended the SWSRA meeting on April 16th. They are currently busy prepping for Summer Day Camp and may still be hiring counselors at this point if you know of anyone looking for summer work.
- I attended a workshop for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative about grant funding for tree planting on April 29th at Thornton Township.

Classes & Events

- **Program Schedule** – Jump Rope Aerobics and the Senior Brain Health Workshops are ongoing with active participation of approximately 12 and 8 respectively. The classes scheduled for this month were cancelled. We do have enrollees for the June classes and I am hopeful we will reach the minimum of 5.
- **Egg Hunt** – The Egg Hunt on April 19th was a great success. Turnout was well over 300 and the children were thrilled to have the Easter Bunny appearing at the Hunt. Next year I will probably fence off an area on the west side of the park with orange fencing and have the middle age group out there instead of on the playground for crowd control reasons. There were no issues with early dashers, but I did have to keep a sharp eye out the last 15 minutes before the jump. Thank you to Pres. Chmielak, and Donald Myers for volunteering at the event. Salvador, who is one of our staff, also worked the event.
- **Other Events**
 - The Memorial Day Picnic will be held on Monday May 26th at Memorial Park.
 - The Community Resale Event will be held on Saturday June 14th at Memorial Park.

Park Site 5 – The title commitment for the property has been ordered by the Village Attorney. Once in hand the Village will pass their ordinance and the Intergovernmental Agreement will be signed.

G.L.R.I. Grant Application – After attending a grant workshop, I am looking to submit an application for grant funds to plant trees at Zuziak Park. These are federal funds made available through the Morton Arboretum for reforestation relating to the Emerald Ash Borer. We are eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding which would require a match by us of approximately \$5,500 (includes in kind labor and hours of my salary in our match). I am looking for the board to approve my submitting this application because of the match commitment required.

2014 Maintenance Staff – I have hired our Maintenance staff for this year. Salvador Cervantes and Carlos Corpus were hired as Maintenance 1 for seasonal work and are so far performing their duties competently despite the rain making timely grass cutting difficult. Chris Cochrane will be our Maintenance 2 on a part time year round basis. He should start sometime this week. He has a background in maintenance with the Cook County Forest Preserve and should be a great asset in the upkeep of our vehicles and other equipment.

Correspondence