

Lan-Oak Park Board
Park Board Meeting
December 21, 2009

President Long called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Gaffney, Flanagin, Kelly, Long. Absent: Commissioner Leck. Also present were Kuniej, Wilson, and Reynolds.

Motion made by Flanagin to accept the Consent Agenda Items A-F which includes: Park Board meeting minutes of November 16, 2009; Truth in Taxation Hearing November 16, 2009; Buildings and Grounds Committee on November 25, 2009, Planning Committee on November 10 & 25, 2009, Finance & Personnel Committee on November 10, 2009; Refunds and Payroll W/H of November 24, 2009 and December 10, 2009; AP invoices of December 21, 2009; Ordinances 21-12-09(a) Levying and Assessing Taxes of the LOPD, Ordinances 21-12-09(b) Directing the County Clerk to Reduce the LOPD 2009 Levy, and Ordinances 21-12-09(c) Abating the Tax Levied for Year 2009 to pay debt service on Series 2003 GOB's. Second by Gaffney. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"- Flanagin, Gaffney, Kelly, Long. No "nays". Motion passed.

Director Wilson presents his report. Wilson informs the board that he has been investigating a company - Seven Utility Management Consultants, Ltd and an IAPD recommended company. The company reviews the agency's utilities bills and negotiates with several gas and electric providers to reduce the agency's utility costs. Kelly would like to keep track of cost/savings with using this company to see if LOPD sees a substantial savings by using them. Wilson shared the saving statistics of other park districts on how they saved utility costs. Discussion continued on the firm and how the agreement would work. Motion made by Flanagin to authorize Wilson to proceed with the execution of the Agreement with Seven Utility Management Company, Ltd. Second by Kelly. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Gaffney, Kelly, Flanagin, Long. No "nays". Motion passed.

Wilson provided information about recent automobile break-ins at the Eisenhower Center. Indicating that they have been random acts where patrons left valuables in the open inside their vehicles. Following a suggestion by Commissioner Gaffney, he indicated that Sharon Desjardins, Superintendent of Recreation, has put a safety reminder in the program

brochure and printed the same information on the registration program receipts.

Wilson briefly discussed the pending contact with a restaurant group based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan that he will be contacting in regards to the Park Plaza. Wilson is still researching the matter and will keep the board informed when more information is available.

In the packet, a news article was discussed about the Ash Borer. Gaffney lead a discussion and believes it is a matter that the Board must address, and the board must be pro-active on the matter because it may soon start to affect trees in the parks. Gaffney volunteered to survey the trees in the parks to see if we have any trees infected by the bug.

Commissioner Gaffney stated that the next Recreation Committee meeting will be sometime after the holidays. He also stated that Roger Jerome has signed all contracts.

It was noted that Desjardins has written a letter to Amber Mechanical Contractors, Inc. about the boiler for the men's steam room requesting that it be replaced by them free of charge because it is less than a year old and has needed several repairs so it must be a flawed unit.

Gaffney informed the Board that on December 1, 2009 there was a meeting with the Lansing Lions to discuss issues that have occurred in the past at the Eisenhower Center. The meeting went very well.

Gaffney also informed the Board that the Staff will be installing a new type of covering for the walls in the weight room that will help cut down the cost of repairs that have been made to the current walls due to damage by the weights hitting them.

The report for the Buildings and Grounds Committee was presented by Long. Long says he has spoken with Kathy Podgorski, a teacher who is in charge of the science department at Memorial Junior High, and she is very excited about working up a plan for her students to help care for the Mildred Burt Nature Center.

Commissioner Kelly presents his report for the Planning Committee. Flanagan thanked Kelly and the staff for the wonderful work they did on planning the Christmas party and it was a wonderful event. Wilson stated a new agreement has been resubmitted to the Cook County Forest Preserve District for the construction of the Pennsy Greenway Spur in Lansing Woods.

Discussion centered on the naming of the park 177th & Locust. Wilson stated in received a suggestion from the townhome association which was -

Locust Avenue Park. After a brief discussion, Wilson suggested to the Board that they consider the name- Volunteer Park - in honor of all of the people who have volunteered their time to better the community. Long suggested that the board take another month to decide upon the name of the park.

A discussion was held about installing swings or not installing swings for the Meekma project. Wilson showed space requirements and costs with and without swings. The recommendation by Wilson to the Board was to construct playground without swings. The board agreed.

Commissioner Kelly asks that Long suggest to the Schultz Park committee to give the board time to review any plans they may have for ordering equipment for the park. He would also like them to know that the board will have the final say in what equipment will be placed in the park so that it will meet all safety and Park District's standards. The next Schultz Park meeting is scheduled for sometime in January. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for December 28, 2009 at 2:00pm.

Wilson reviewed with the Board the recent changes in the Freedom of Information Act. Based upon the changes Wilson recommended to the Board that Sharon Desjardins, Angel Summers and he be designated as Freedom of Information (FOI) officers for the Park District. Wilson reviewed the training the three would have to go through on an annual basis. Motion made by Gaffney to designate Wilson, Desjardins, and Summers FOI officers for the Park District. Second by Flanagin. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Kelly, Flanagin, Gaffney, Long. No "nays". Motion passed.

Discussion was held on planning of the parks and the next Referendum Planning meeting. Comments were made about the survey that has been included in the Winter/Spring brochure. The board hopes that they will get the best feedback from the surveys by February 1, 2010.

On January 21, 2010 Wilson will have Commissioner Kelly as his guest on the monthly LOPD taped in the Channel 4 studios.

The Board talked about different ways to communicate the needs of the Park District and the upcoming referendum. Suggestions ranged from having a board member in an info tent at the Farmer's Market, Channel 4, neighborhood park meetings, attendance at the opening day at the Old Timers and more. Kelly suggests finding a way for individuals to be able to go to LOPD website to figure out their exact tax increase per household. Wilson will look into this possibility. Wilson suggested that the Planning Committee start meeting in January to go thru each park and make a listing of suggested improvements to come up with a plan to present to the

community.

Revisions to the conference policy were discussed by Flanagin and the rest of the Board. Wilson indicated that President Long suggested that he look at the policy and may a suggestion on how the Board could share money with their attendance at various conferences. Long stated he would like a motion to accept the revision. Flanagin requested that the Board wait until corrections go back to the Policy & Ordinance Committee before a motion be made and the Board acts on the revised policy. Long agreed to wait until the January Board meeting to consider the policy revisions. Long requested that there be a Policy & Ordinance Committee meeting before the January Board meeting to review the policy revisions.

Treasurer Kuniej presented her report. She states that the Park District is still short about \$297,000 in property taxes, but that could be because of the holiday season. Kuniej has reinvested the CD that has come due and the best rate she could get was 1%. Budget line items look like a loss because tax money has not come in yet. Expenses are off because of the mandate on the repair for the pool drain, Kuniej indicated that the district is financially maintaining. Kuniej also stated based on pass history we should see significant money coming in January because of the fitness special. Motion made by Flanagin to accept Treasurer's Report/Operating Statement-November 30, 2009. Second by Gaffney. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Flanagin, Gaffney, Kelly, Long. No "nays". Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the written report from Attorney Primack of projects he has been working on.

Wilson responded to a comment about where the District now buys gas. He stated as per the Boards direction, the staff is now buying gas through the Lansing business, Ridgeway Petroleum and everything is going well. He also indicated that on emergency situations the staff will purchase gas from the Mobil in Lansing.

There was a brief discussion about the Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Commissioner Leck's communication to the Volunteer Committee. The Board felt that the discussion should be continued when Leck was in attendance at the next meeting, or if needed, a special meeting could be held to discuss the letter. Discussing the role of the Lan-Oak Park Foundation, Kuniej stated that the Foundation is its own entity and should have its own tax id number. Long stated he believes that Wilson is not to

blame for giving Leck the id number and he was only doing what a Board Member asked him to do.

Wilson informed the Board that staff members will start printing a prevailing wage advisory on all purchase orders and bid documents to provide proper written notification as required under Public Act 96-0437.

There being no further business. Motion made by Gaffney to adjourn the meeting. Second by Kelly. Upon roll call all present voted "aye". No "nays".

Adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Wilson, CPRP
Secretary to the Park Board