

Lan-Oak Park District  
Board Meeting  
July 21, 2008

President Flanagin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Long, Leck, Beymer, Flanagin. Absent: Commissioner Reynolds. Staff present: Desjardins, Davenport, Havran, Rushmeyer. Also present: Wilson, Primack, Kuniej, and Celmer. Guests: Peter Julien, arrived approximately 7:30pm.

Motion made by Leck to accept the Consent Agenda. Second by Beymer. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Leck, Long, Beymer, Flanagin. No "nays".

Desjardins presented her report. The board thanked Desjardins and her staff for a great Fourth of July celebration at Lan-Oak Park. Desjardins commented on the great pictures from the event that were published in *The Times* newspaper. Leck asked Desjardins about planning a pumpkin-carving contest at the Park Plaza in the fall. Desjardins responded by saying that there is a youth pumpkin-carving program planned for the fall at the Eisenhower Center and that it would be difficult to have a carving contest at the Park Plaza because there is not a water hook-up. Flanagin asked Desjardins about the Playskool open house. Desjardins stated that it was scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Havran presented her report. Long inquired about an incident at the Eisenhower Fitness Center which involved fitness member Peter Julien and personal trainer/fitness attendant Mary Owens. Havran explained to the board that Mr. Julien was asked by Mary Owens to remove his gym bag from the fitness center. Julien responded by using profanity towards Owens, which resulted in a 2-week suspension. Desjardins stated that Julien is a very large and loud person who intimidated the fitness attendant by his language and demeanor. Desjardins asked the board if they had any problems with Mr. Juliens 2-week suspension. The board did not answer. Long questioned the fact that neither Desjardins nor Havran witnessed the altercation. Wilson responded by stating that Desjardins and Havran cannot be in the fitness center at all times and that they depend on the facility attendants to monitor fitness members. It is a trust relationship with the fitness staff or any staff member on matters such as this.

Rushmeyer presenter her report. Flanagin asked Rushmeyer about her summer programs with Rushmeyer responding that the summer activities were all going well. She also stated that the staff for camp were working out well and that they were still getting used to her management style.

Leck and Desjardins discussed the eight (8) SSSRA programs that are going on at the Eisenhower Center. Desjardins responded that all of the programs are going great and that she is scheduled to meet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with the SSSRA Superintendent of Recreation.

Davenport presented her report. She discussed the upcoming movie in the park scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. The movie will be the "Bee" movie. Beymer asked Davenport if invitations to the Clock Tower dedication ceremony could still be sent out. Davenport responded that if the

board still had invitations that they would like sent out that they could give them to her and she would take care of it.

Desjardins, Rushmeyer, Havran and Davenport left the meeting at 7:12pm.

Wilson presented his report. Primack stated that he would like to discuss 2 items from Wilson's report in Executive Session. Long asked Wilson about the approval for alcohol on park property during the cruise night and Park Plaza dedication. Long wanted to know why there were two letters addressed to the mayor when the board had not even seen the letters to approve them first. Wilson responded by saying that letters have not be sent to the Mayor, and that the letters along with the issue of alcohol on Park Plaza for August 23 are in the packet for the Board's consideration due largely to the issue of alcohol on park property from the last car cruise. The letters are before the Board in a proactive matter because Mayor Podgorski requested two separate letters for the two upcoming car cruise nights if in fact the Board was going to allow the sale and consumption liquor on park property. Wilson stated that the board would need to decide if they would approve the sale of liquor on park property on August 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Park Plaza dedication. Wilson asked Primack if the police should be informed that there would be alcohol consumption allowed on park property on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with Primack responding yes, the police should be informed. Motion made by Long to permit the consumption of alcohol in the Park Plaza only on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, during the hours of 6:00pm-10:00pm. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Long, Beyer, Leck, Flanagin. No "nays".

Wilson asked the board for the outstanding May meeting minutes so he could present them to the board in final form. He also discussed the personnel agenda and proposed referendum, which would be brought up during Executive Session.

Wilson and Leck discussed inviting Tracy Massucci to the next board meeting scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Massucci had written a letter to Wilson discussing the need for new playground equipment at Rotary Park. Wilson had responded to her letter and she in return had expressed interest in becoming involved with the park district in trying to help pass a referendum. Long responded by saying that first the board needed to decide if they were even going to try for a referendum with Flanagin responding that it does need to be decided first.

Leck asked Wilson which parks the Planning Committee had already visited during his annual park tour. Wilson responded by saying that they had started on July 18<sup>th</sup> with Oakwood, Heritage, Jaycees, Rotary, and Erfert. The tour would continue on every Friday until August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Kuniej presented her report and discussed with the board the park district's finances. She stated that \$164,000 more dollars had been spent than had been taken in, and that the bank balance is at \$861,000. Flanagin asked if the Cook County tax bills would be coming out on time this year with Kuniej responding that she thinks maybe the bills will be on time this year. Kuniej also stated that the 2-day audit went really well and the draft should be received by mid-August. She also stated that a few CD's came due and that she was looking to find the highest rates.

Kuniej explained that she had missed the June board meeting due to attending a Government Finance Officers conference. Wilson questioned Kuniej about taxes being collected for a museum fund. Kuniej was going to question the Board about this also. Based upon her research the collection of taxes for the museum fund dates back to 1989. Primack asked if there was money in this fund with Kuniej responding yes. Kuniej asked if the money could be legally added to the general fund with Primack stating that he would have to do some research into it.

Flanagin discussed the Personnel Policy. He stated that the Finance Committee needed to schedule a meeting first to discuss any changes before it could be approved.

Primack explained to the board that the proposed referendum needs to be on file by September 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. He suggested that he prepare the ordinance first and that the board can make a motion to approve it after it is viewed. All board members approved Primack preparing the ordinance for review. Long asked the board if the referendum would be an advisory referendum and what the cost would be. Wilson replied that it would be a binding referendum and that the only cost would be his time after hours attending meetings to discuss the referendum. Flanagin asked about the amount of revenue that would be generated from the proposed ten (10) cent tax hike with Wilson responding that it would be around \$440,000, which would go toward capital improvements throughout the park system.

Primack presented his report, which included the draft of an intergovernmental agreement for the police department to enforce park district ordinances. Primack would like to add an item stating that the board would receive a copy of any report issued by the police and that the police would receive any revenue generated from the enforcement of those ordinances. Primack stated that specific ordinances, which need to be enforced, would go to the Policy & Ordinance Committee for revision.

Wilson told the board that he was planning a meeting for the Bicycle Advisory Board. Flanagin stated that they should check their calendars to set a date for the meeting.

Wilson discussed the upcoming Clock Tower dedication ceremony scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He stated that the invitations had been sent out and Popolano's will provide a meal for the invitee's with the park district covering the cost. The food and non-alcohol beverage tickets would be issued for those who had RSVP at the dedication. Channel 4 would be providing the entertainment in the way of four different types of bands-70's, jazz and gospel rock. It was suggested at the planning meeting that bands play more 50's/60's type music with the cruise night taking place at the same time. The dedication time for the clock tower will be between 8:00-8:45pm with both Mayor Podgorski and President Flanagin speaking. After the speeches the lights of the clock tower will be lit and the chimes will be played for the first time that night. Wilson also discussed the fact that the concrete bollards will be in place but the plaques were not in yet because the Village of Lansing was redesigning it's flag and wanted the new design displayed on their plaque.

He also stated that the new village Christmas tree will be planted in the Park Plaza this fall and that the location of the tree was chosen by the Village of Lansing.

Guest Peter Julien of 18801 Ridgewood discussed with the board members the letter he had received from the Superintendent of Recreation regarding an incident at the Eisenhower Fitness Center in which Mr. Julien was asked to remove his gym bag from the fitness center due to a "no gym bag" policy at the Eisenhower Center. The letter stated that he had used profanity towards a fitness center employee and that he was suspended for a period of 2 weeks. He stated that he had been a member at the fitness center for over 3 years and that he had never used profanity towards anyone at the fitness center. He said that he needed his bag close by to be able to retrieve the workout gear that he needed to complete his workout. He also stated that other fitness members have told him that the staff at the Eisenhower center does not want him there due to the fact that he grunts loudly when he lifts weights in the weight room. He told the board members that he has been harassed in the fitness center by Fitness Supervisor regarding his loud grunting. Leck asked Julien what other kind of harassment he had received from the staff besides being asked not to grunt so loudly, with Julien responding that that was the only thing the staff had spoken to him about. Primack asked Julien if he could take what equipment he needed out of his bag first and then place the bag out in the hallway with Julien responding that he could not do that. Julien went on to state that he is canceling his membership and that he had advised his bank to deny any ACH payments that may come due. Long replied that the fitness center is losing a good member if Mr. Julien left. Julien claimed that the fitness center is not clean when he comes in to workout and that he has to spend time cleaning and picking up weights before he can even start to workout. He stated that the only facility attendant that he sees cleaning upstairs is Jim Wieczorek. He told the board that the personal trainer Mary Owens was not qualified enough to give members training tips and that after she would show someone the proper techniques on how to do an exercise or stretch, he would go behind her and let the member know that she told them wrong and that they could get hurt if they proceeded in doing what she showed them to do. Wilson asked Julien if he was a certified personal trainer with Julien responding that no he isn't, but he has lifted weights for 20 years. Long asked Julien if he had any contact with the Fitness Supervisor over the incident with Julien responding no, that he had not talked to her. Long stated to the board members that no other posted gym rules are enforced. Members are seen wearing outside shoes into the fitness center and that they also bring coffee upstairs into the fitness center to walk on the treadmill. He explained that the facility attendants are not in the fitness center during busy hours and that they are on duty during slow hours. Wilson explained that attendants are there based upon time records of members using the center. In addition, the Board requested that personal trainers be scheduled at different times and on all days if possible. Wilson further responded to Long that if he and the board wanted the fitness center to be better supervised than the board needed to spend the money to hire more staff to monitor the fitness center during all of

the hours of operation. If this were the desired direction of the Board, the staff would look at raising the current fitness fees to cover the additional costs of salaries. Flanagan explained to Julien that the board would be looking into his membership agreement and discuss what his obligations toward payment are. He stated that the Recreation Committee would be looking at all of the information and would be bringing it back to the board for the next board meeting scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Julien left the meeting at 8:14pm.

Motion made by Leck to go into Executive Session for the discussion of land acquisition, personnel, probable litigation and/or other subject matters as allowed by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5ILCS, Par. 120/2. (c)(1)-22.(e). Second by Beymer. Upon roll call the following voted "aye" -Beymer, Leck, Long, Flanagan. No "nays".

Executive Session at 8:15pm

President Flanagan called the regular session back to order at 8:50pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Beymer, Leck, Long, Flanagan. Also present Wilson, Primack.

Motion by Leck to approved the public release of executive session meeting minutes as recommended by the Secretary of the Board. Second by Beymer. Upon roll call the following voted "aye" Beymer, Leck, Long, Flanagan. No "nays".

Flanagan discussed the Board's involvement attending various golf outings, conferences, and dinners. Board members would need to discuss their attendance at these various functions with the Board prior to the event. It was stated that Long would be attending the Copper Muggers and LARC golf outings.

There being no further business MOTION by Beymer to adjourn the meeting. Second by Leck. Upon role call the following voted "aye"-Leck, Long, Beymer, Flanagan. No "nays".

Adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Wilson, CPRP  
Secretary to the Park Board