

Lan-Oak Park District
Committee Meeting
March 2, 2009

President Flanagin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Flanagin, Leck, Reynolds. Staff present: Desjardins, Rushmeyer, Havran, Davenport. Also present: Primack, Celmer. Beymer arrived at 7:05pm; Wilson arrived at 7:25pm. Absent: Long, Kuniej. Guest: Mike Gaffney.

Desjardins presented her report. Reynolds stated that she wanted to discuss the increase in fitness center fees but would like to wait until Wilson arrived. Leck stated to Desjardins that she thought that changing member appreciation days to offering services instead of food was a great idea because it would save money along with giving out important information. Desjardins stated that members like receiving services instead of food and that nothing is being taken away. Reynolds stated that the change was fine with her.

Reynolds asked the board if they were all fine with the Fourth of July celebration being changed to food and fireworks only. All of the commissioners agreed that they are fine with the change. Reynolds requested that there be some type of music played through the speakers during the celebration.

Reynolds discussed the fitness center increase proposals that Desjardins had prepared for the board. . She stated that her recommendation would be a 6% increase and that even if the fitness center increased their fees by 6%, the only fitness center that comes close in price would be Active Edge. Reynolds explained that the two really shouldn't be compared because Active Edge is open only half the amount of time the Eisenhower fitness center is, and that they don't offer nearly as much as the Eisenhower fitness center does. She explained that there has not been an increase since 2007 and that 6% is really not that much of an increase. Reynolds also stated that Desjardins would need to know by March 13 in order for the increase to be put in the new brochure so that the increase could take effect on May 1, 2009.

Beymer arrived at 7:05pm.

Flanagin asked Reynolds what her second choice percentage increase would be with Reynolds stating that she really did not have one but she would go for the second highest amount, which was 5.75%. Reynolds also stated that the increase needed to be straight across the board because that makes it easier.

Havran presented her report. Havran explained that her ACH totals had changed because she had just gotten new figures from the computer that day.

Rushmeyer presented her report. Rushmeyer explained to the board that she had a new class that was going which was Interviewing for Teens and that it had 7 participants enrolled. Flanagin asked Rushmeyer if she had ever thought of offering a workshop like that for adults. Rushmeyer explained that she would want to have someone with more experience be able to help the adults. Flanagin suggested that she contact the temporary agency Staffmark, to find someone with experience in helping people fill out job applications. Flanagin also asked Rushmeyer about the cooking class for adults with Rushmeyer stating that with all the new classes starting up she had not found the time to call the high school but would be contacting them soon. Flanagin asked about the drive-in movie night with Rushmeyer stating that she would soon be looking for huge boxes for the “cars” to be made out of and that they may be giving out awards. Flanagin suggested going to Strack and VanTil or Ace Hardware with Rushmeyer stating that she will try a furniture store.

Davenport presented her report. Reynolds stated to Davenport that the Memorial Jr. High Dedication night that she was going to be attending is scheduled for 5 days before the election and that it was going to be packed. Reynolds recommended that a Commissioner be there with her to answer any questions in regards to the referendum. Flanagin stated that he would be happy to go with her with Leck stating that if she could, she would also go with her. Leck stated to Davenport that she would help out as a volunteer for the Easter egg hunt. Reynolds asked if the hunt was going to be moved to the Plaza next year with Davenport responding that she hoped so. Leck asked Davenport how she was doing in regards to the farmer’s market. Davenport explained that she had sent out the application packets and that the market was going to be on the first Wednesday of the month from June to September. It will be held at the Park Plaza and run from 5pm-8pm.

Flanagin stated that he had received a lot of questions in regards to the youth soccer program when he was at the Old Timers Baseball sign-ups. He stated that maybe next year the park district could talk to the Old Timers and set up a soccer registration there or just have some information there to hand out.

Davenport, Havran, Rushmeyer left the meeting at 7:23pm.

Wilson arrived at 7:25pm.

Reynolds asked Wilson what fitness center increase that he recommended with Wilson stating that he would recommend the 6% increase as presented in the information in the packets. Wilson stated that the last increase was 3 years ago so the fitness center operation has not kept up with the CPI. Desjardins stated that the increase would still keep the fees inexpensive for Lansing residents.

Desjardins left the meeting at 7:35pm

Wilson presented his report. Reynolds asked Wilson about the Community Day and how that was going to work. Wilson explained that it was a fundraiser benefiting the Old Timers and that people would buy the ticket, go to the game and enjoy themselves. There would be no transportation provided. Reynolds asked about the ticket pricing with Wilson explaining that the tickets are sold to the park district by the White Sox at half of the ticket price but then are sold by the park district at their face value, which is \$23.00. Wilson explained that the park district had already provided the \$860.00 deposit on the tickets. Reynolds asked when the tickets would come with Wilson stating he was hoping it would be in 3 to 4 weeks.

Wilson stated to the Board that he had hired Chris Somervell as the new full time park laborer. He explained that he had interviewed 8 candidates with Chris being the one with the most experience. With this hiring the maintenance staff is back at 100% with three full time employees. He also explained that the greater share of the seasonal crew would be coming back in the summer to work.

Flanagin asked Wilson if everything was ready for the Legislative Conference-Parks Day in the State Capital. Wilson replied yes. Flanagin asked Commissioners Reynolds, Beymer, and Leck if they were going to be attending the conference. Reynolds and Beymer stated no, Flanagin and Leck stated that they would be attending. Wilson explained to the board that the legislative breakfast on March 9th at the Tinley Park Park

District was originally cancelled, but was now back on. Several legislators indicated their attendance at the last minute.

Reynolds asked Wilson if the Little League coaches could have a key to the bathrooms in Lan-Oak Park on Saturdays during their games. Wilson stating yes, that this was the practice last year and the previous year. Reynolds thought that we were doing that, but was told that the restrooms were not open. Wilson suggested that Reynolds check with representatives of the Old Timers to see why the coaches did not open the restrooms last year.

Wilson discussed with the board the district's Enhancement Grant for the Pennsy Greenway. He explained that the grant for the bike trail had had an educational component in the amount of \$128,000. Wilson explained that since the park district has already received the educational trailer from the Safe Route To School to program, and that Schwinn has donated the bikes for the trailer, Wilson felt that the educational money could be transferred to the construction portion of the grant since it has been a problem with the IDOT to author the intergovernmental agreement with the educational component included in the grant award. He stated that at the March Board meeting he would like the Board to ratify the transfer of the educational funds to the construction portion of the grant.

Leck brought up the draft of the community wide bike plan with Wilson. Flanagin stated that it was on the agenda for approval. Wilson stated that he would like to have additional time to review the plan to determine with information could be included in the plan about the new program from Active Transportation Alliance that is called "Safe Routes To Parks". Flanagin asked Wilson if he had gone to the state or federal governments for additional dollars for improvements listed in the plan. Wilson explained that as long as the park district board provided that direction in the future and the district had sufficient capital improvement funds to pursue state and federal dollars, he would then apply for various grant funds.

Leck asked Wilson about the clock tower. Wilson explained when the weather breaks the contractor will turn the volume up on the speakers, put the snow guards up and fix the problem with the low voltage connection of the Carillion which has not been

working properly because of either a short or a surge of the electrical system. Wilson also stated that the clock should automatically change with the daylight savings time.

Wilson discussed with the commissioners the RFP solicitation for portable toilets and asked if there were any parks that they would want to eliminate off of the list provided in the packet. Leck asked Wilson if there were any he felt that should be eliminated and Wilson questioned the need for portable toilets in Lions and Schultz parks since these two parks are considered neighborhood parks. Beymer asked Wilson if portable toilets were not placed at those parks and a need arose, could they be added at a later date with Wilson responding yes. Reynolds stated that if there are no bathrooms at those parks people will start urinating on the equipment and she felt that people should have some type of bathroom in the parks listed. It was agreed that the list should be left as presented by Wilson.

Wilson discussed with the commissioners the upcoming dates for the referendum meetings. A special meeting maybe called for referendum planning of the second mailer later in the week. If a meeting is needed a public notice will be posted.

Flanagin asked if there were any questions from the audience. Mike Gaffney asked the commissioners about the increase in fitness fees and asked what they anticipated as a loss of membership. Wilson stated that they might lose some members, but history of the center has proven that members will return because of the low fees and amenities. This is something the staff does not like to see happen, but fitness fees support the daily operation of the fitness center and they must stay current with the expenses.

Reynolds asked Wilson about handing out information throughout Lansing on April 5th relating to the referendum. Reynolds stated that they should start handing out informational flyers in March. Wilson explained that the Board had a no solicitation policy at the Eisenhower Center. Reynolds also asked about handing out referendum information to the patrons enrolled in programs at the Eisenhower Center with Wilson explaining that he personally really did not like that idea. Wilson explained that they could put a display up in the lobby and people could take the information if they are interested. Primack stated that as long as it is informational referendum information could be passed out in the Eisenhower Center. Reynolds asked about speaking to businesses about putting information up on their marquis about the town hall meetings and asked

Wilson if he could put the dates up on the Eisenhower marquis with Wilson responding yes. Reynolds asked Primack if she could write a letter to the editor of a paper saying, “vote yes” for the referendum and sign it as a park district commissioner. Primack stated yes.

Motion made by Reynolds 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, 5 ILCS, Par. 120/2.(c)(1) – 22.(e) . Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted “aye”-Leck, Reynolds, Beymer, Flanagan. No “nays”.

Motion passed.

Executive Session at 8:30pm.

Flanagan called the regular committee meeting back to order at 8:45pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Beymer, Leck, Reynolds, Flanagan. Also present were Primack and Wilson.

There being no further business Motion by Beymer to adjourn the meeting. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted “aye”-Beymer, Leck, Reynolds, Flanagan. No “nays”.

Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John. W. Wilson, CPRP
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners