

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 18, 2009

- **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Washington Park District Board of Commissioners, Tazewell County, Illinois was held on May 18, 2009 at the Washington Park District office located at 105 S. Spruce Street, Washington, Illinois. President Jim Bremner called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Staff present was Doug Damery, Director; Kristy Howell, Recreation Manager; Kim Hess, Finance Manager; Brad Kanaga, Superintendent of Parks; Jodie Dennis, Summer Intern. Commissioners present were: Scott Underwood, Matt Moehle, Lorelei Cox, Dale Claus and Jim Bremner.

- **Petition and Public Comment**

No public comment.

- **Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes
- A motion was made to approve the April 20, 2009 meeting minutes. (Moehle, Claus; C-Un)

- **Administer Oath of Office to Candidates elected at the April 7, 2009**

- New commissioners Doug Weston and Herb Knoblauch were sworn in by Secretary Lorelei Cox. President Bremner presented commissioners Underwood and Moehle plaques for their service to the Washington Park District. New commissioners Weston and Knoblauch were officially seated.

- **Financial Report**

- A motion was made to approve the financial report. (Cox, Weston; C-Un)

- **Review and Approval of Claims**

- A motion was made to approve and pay the claims (Cox, Knoblauch; C-Un)

- **Committee Reports**

- Update from HISRA Representative: Director Damery and Commissioner Claus both attended the meeting but nothing to report. .
- Update from the WACC Representative: Commissioner Cox reported that memberships are holding steady. They continue to work with the city on an easement for the electronic sign. She also reported that the WACC Board approved a principle payment that would reduce the amount of the remaining payments of the additional loan that the entities are backing to an amount that equals what the entities committed to assist. It is Commissioner Cox's feeling that if they can make the payments on their own, then they should start to relieve the entities of their contribution.

- **Staff Reports**

- **Parks and Property**-No additions to Brad's report.
- **Athletic Coordinator**-Jean and Kathy's report was presented in the packet.
- **Recreation Manager**-Kristy had no additions to her report.
- **Executive Director**-Doug highlighted a few items on his report.

- **Orders of the Day**
 - **Election of Officers**
Commissioner Cox nominated Commissioner Bremner for President and Commissioner Claus as Vice President. Commissioner Claus nominated Commissioner Cox as Secretary/Treasurer. (Claus, Weston; C-Un)

- **Old Business**
 - **Update regarding the Washington Recreation Trail Wilmore Rd. Connection**
Director Damery reported that he has not yet heard from CVS and had placed another phone call into his contact. It was asked by Commissioner Cox if he felt that he had the correct contact and Director Damery felt that he is in the correct area of the CVS organization.

- **New Business**
 - **Discussion and Action on Howl at the Moon**
Commissioner Claus expressed his reservations about the Washington Park District promoting the consumption of alcohol at a park sponsored event. Kristy and Kim brought up that none of the proceeds from the alcohol sales benefit the park district. Although Commissioner Weston expressed that he personally thought the event was great but was concerned about the over saturation of the event itself if done within the 3 months of each other.
 - A motion was made to allow the staff to move forward with plans for two Howl at the Moon events in the 2009-2010 budget year. (Cox, Weston; 4-1)

 - **Discussion and Action of the Summer Meltdown**
Director Damery explained the thoughts and ideas behind the Summer Meltdown Festival. He explained that we would like to attract all ages with a variety of attractions. He also explained the need for a revenue source for the event to offset the attraction expenses. Director Damery suggested that we consider the idea of a beer garden as a revenue source. Commissioner Claus, Cox, Bremner had reservations about the consumption of alcohol in the public park. All commissioners agreed that an event would be a great idea but would like a proposal with and without the beer garden at the event. No action was taken but permission was granted for an informal inquiry on what such an event would entail.

 - **Discussion and Potential Action on the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010**
Director Damery presented a Proposed Budget to the board. Last month's budget was showing a negative balance of -85,000. Director Damery believes that in reviewing it missed one transfer revenue of \$130,000 which would have been included in the transfer expense. He also cut several line items in order to reduce expenses. The board discussed that the fund balances are becoming smaller and smaller each year. Commissioners expressed interest in a completely balanced budget and reducing the Net Income from -\$231,480 to \$0. Director Damery said that the deficit spending is partially due to the capital projects from the construction fund as those projects were funded a couple years ago through the alternate revenue bond and that the money must be spent on capital projects. Director Damery thought it would be very difficult to do this

and that it is not fair to count the Wilmor Rd Connection as part of the deficit as the fund balance is made up of the revenue for that project. The commissioners agreed, to a point, but were still concerned with the negative direction of the fund balance. It was proposed that \$100,000 be cut from the budget and some discussion ensued as to possible cuts. The commissioners then thought it would be difficult to make any decisions without addressing some personnel discussions and then discuss the Employee's Health Benefit Contribution.

- **Executive Session**

- A motion was made at approximately 9:20 p.m. to adjourn from the regular meeting and move into executive session for the discussion of personnel and health care policy. (Claus, Weston; C-Un)
- A motion was made at approximately 10:13 p.m. to return to regular session. (Cox, Weston; C-Un)

Discussion and Potential Action on the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Commissioners directed Director Damery to reduce the Net Income loss by \$100,000 through some of the ideas identified through discussion.

- **Adjournment**

- After coming out of Executive Session, the board discussed continuing the meeting on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Office located at 105 S. Spruce St., Washington, IL.
- A Motion was made at approximately 10:15 p.m. to suspend the meeting (Claus, Knoblauch; C-Un)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorelei Cox,
Secretary
Washington Park District