

Elmhurst Park District
Feb. 9, 2010
7:00 – 8:00 pm

All Commissioners present
Staff: 15, Public: 0
Observer: Dannee Polomsky

President Kubiesa called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Remarks/correspondence from visitors:

Lori Neubauer presented the Elmhurst Park District with the 2009 IPRA No Employee Left Behind award.

Board Business:

The **consent agenda** was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- 2010 Paving project bid coming in under budget. 2010 paving project approved by all.
- Ordinance 0-02-10: 2010 General Obligation bond sale was moved and seconded. Executive Director Grodsky said that this rate was less than last year. More projects could be done and pay it off by fall. Grodsky recommended approval. Motion carried.

New Business:

Program and Service Report of the Environmental Committee Report

EPD staff members, Geoff Penman, Megan McNamara, Greg Utaski, were in attendance to present report.

14 staff members make up the Environmental Committee, which have developed a long-term action plan, including 7 priorities:

- 1) Development of environmental policy, include training of staff, now part of orientation, to increase awareness.
- 2) Purchase and use eco-friendly products, including sharing information.
- 3) Protect air, water, soil and wildlife.
- 4) Evaluation of use of energy sources. Conducted a lighting audit of Wagner Community Center, which was a first step to a comprehensive energy audit.
- 5) Reduction in waste. Implemented recycling program with mixed results. Used organic matter at Golden Meadows (mulched leaves) from EPD and Elmhurst College for garden soil.
- 6) Open space planning and preservation. Use of native plants, use of controlled prairie burns.
- 7) Environmental Education and Interpretation: Seeking to educate employees, EPD had organic gardening show, and promoted new mascot, ECO, to raise environmental awareness. Articles in publication and available electronically.

2010 objectives, falling under the 7 priorities, include:

- 1) Develop cost/benefit criteria for assessing development of projects and programs.
- 2) Purchase and use environmentally-safe products (having consistent use/purchasing guidelines).
- 3) Continue participation in air, water, soil and wildlife protection: create procedures for ozone action days; develop maintenance for lagoon at Eldridge Park.
- 4) Use of energy sources: begin conducting energy audits, implement energy-saving measures, such as greenhouse improvements.
- 5) Reduction in waste: strategies to reduce paper use.

- 6) Begin creating a park development environmental checklist, develop and maintain plan for natural areas.
- 7) Web subcommittee to develop Green Team site. Environmental camps to be planned. Community programs, vendor compliance, interpretive signs/brochure development to be ongoing.

Discussion:

- Spaeth liked that there was a cost/benefit analysis and asked if thought was put into green containers at concession stands. Penman said it had been researched and thought they were ready to implement a reusable cup. Spaeth also asked if there was any way to get together with other agencies to increase purchase power for eco-friendly products that were more expensive than alternatives. Grodsky suggested a purchasing co-op, for example, and said that this is the model for the purchase of an environmentally-friendly vehicle.
- Reinertsen said he agreed with Spaeth's comments.
- Howard asked about addressing the issue of noise pollution, explaining that leaf blowers are banned in some areas all summer long. He asked if staff could incorporate this type of initiative, as it could make an impact.
- Morissette-Moll thanked Penman for taking this initiative and noted that Morton Arboretum was a great resource for some ideas.
- Kies pointed to native plants related to air and water, and said people were asking where to buy them. She was glad to see there will be more education. She asked what EPD did with old garden waste. Penman explained EPD mulches leaves and puts back into soil.
- Ubriaco said that it felt like every member of the group had made an imprint. She liked that it focused on things that can be done immediately and things that are tangible.

Commissioner Information Items:

- All commissioners congratulated Commissioner Kubiesa, who just completed her commitment as President of the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD). All enjoyed the conference and luncheon.
- Kubiesa, following up, thanked EPD and the Board for allowing her to be chair of IAPD board and said she appreciated all the support from them and thanked her family because the work required a lot of travel and time. 48 legislators were in attendance, and despite the economic downturn, 4200 attendees.

Staff Announcements:

- Jeff Penman thanked those present for nice comments.
- Jerry Pask said that on Feb 16, bids will be opened for a project at Berens Park.
- Colleen Toomey said that the '10 spring planting bid would be opened Feb. 24th.
- Angela Ferrentino said there was a new sign at Washington Park – at Poplar and May.
- Cathy Medema thanked the Board for approving the General Obligation Bond Ordinance and said she would file before the deadline.
- Sarah Lagesse reported that that open swims continue at York High School, February 28, March 7 and March 21.
- Greg Utaski noted the possibility of Life Fitness bringing in individual viewing stations for machines at Courts Plus.

- Dave Kenny said that camp information will be available on web site.
- Colleen Callahan said that the spring brochure would be coming out the following weekend and said that they were promoting the Wagner scholarship fund.
- Jim Rogers said the next Gateway board meeting would be Feb 18.
- Grodsky
 - Reminded all that the administrative office would be closed for Presidents Day.
 - He congratulated staff for the \$400,000 OSLAD Grant for Wilder Park.
 - Staff is finishing certification on FOIA and the Open Meeting Act.
 - NRPA legislative forum in Washington, DC, is March 16-19. He asked that those interested in attending to please let him know by Wednesday of the next week.
 - Wilder Park Plan: Comment cards will be available at various locations and a survey will be on the website. They are seeking residents' impressions regarding ideas. There is space for questions and comments. Also, staff will be present open houses on February 26, 12-5 pm and March 10, 6-9 pm at Wilder Mansion. Drawings will be available for viewing and staff will be available to answer questions. Additionally there is a public meeting on April 7.