

Let's all welcome Dannee Polomsky, our new Park District Observer! Dannee may not be able to make all their meetings, but is willing to try to get to at least one a month.

Elmhurst Park Dist
October 27, 2008
7:00 - 9:20 pm

All Commissioners present - Morissette-Moll, Healy
arrived late **Staff: 10 Public: 5**
Observer: D. Polomsky

President Kubiesa called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: Two people spoke about the meeting that took place at fire station # 2. They learned that if the building were not torn down, garage doors would need to be demolished to allow for driveway for new fire station. One individual gathered 160 signatures supporting the idea of using the existing fire station as a theatre venue. He requested that the board seriously consider acting on his petition. Another individual thought the idea of saving the station was good. He views the structure as worth \$3 million. Architects who reviewed it did not find serious flaws. He submitted 2 pages of architectural report to Commissioner Kubiesa.

Terry McCullom, Vice Chairman and Military Liaison of the Military Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, recognized the support of the Elmhurst Park District, for adhering to their obligations to an employee during his leave for military exercises. On behalf of the Dept of Defense, he recognized the service of Sergeant Richard Fafinski and the EPD was awarded a pin to recognize it as a patriotic employer.

The **consent agenda** was approved. Illinois Association of Park Districts State Conference state meeting is scheduled for Jan 31, 2009. Made motion to accept delegates and encouraged board to attend/serve. Seconded and approved.

Motion carried for vending and concession agreement awarded to The Classic Group of Chicago. This company offers both Pepsi and Coke brands.

A discussion of a letter from Tom Borchert, Elmhurst City Manager, concerning the current Firehouse #2 building was held after a motion was presented and seconded. Executive Director Grodsky stated that he was in agreement with the staff's recommendation not to use this building. He continued by saying that the building was a good building but in the wrong location.

Questions and points raised during discussion:

- Mr. Spaeth suggested that the process be slowed and all ideas considered.
- Ms. Ubriaco agreed and that there could be good use for this building by the park district and to re-examine potential expenditures to repurpose the building for performing arts. She later suggested storage and/or garage purposes for it.
- Mr. Reinertsen said that he thinks there are plenty of places for performance in Elmhurst and that the building is outdated and would need costly repairs/updating. He was also concerned about the upkeep cost.
- Mr. Healy was in favor of tearing the building down in favor of green space/active park at York Commons. He continually asked about the building's

- use within a park.
- Ms. Kies asked to consider uses for the building and to look at costs of rehab. She later told of a 1993 plan that considered a community center in this park. It was never pursued.
 - Ms Morisette-Moll asked if the Park District had ever told the City they were interested in the building? She reminded all that the building does not belong to the Park District. A possible intergovernmental agreement might be possible.
 - Ms Kubiesa stated several times that the Park District has no rights to this building and it is not known how much it would cost to upgrade it to be useable.

It was decided to wait until the indoor facility study is complete to make any further recommendations or suggestions about the building. Mr. Grodsky will ask the study group to consider the commissioners' discussion points while looking at this building. A motion to suspend the initial motion until more information was received was seconded and carried by a 5 – 2 vote with Reinertsen and Healy opposed.

Announcements: Commissioners and staff made many announcements, including introducing the LWV Observer.

Motion to adjourn closed session.