

Elmhurst Park Dist
November 24, 2008
7:00 - 9:20 pm

All Commissioners present
Staff: 9 Public: 2
Observer: D. Polomsky

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

Public Comment: Chuck Jacobsen of Elmhurst was present to submit 165 additional signatures expressing interest in using the existing fire station at York Commons as a theatre venue after the new station is constructed and operational. Paul DeMichele, of unincorporated Addison Township, was present. He stated that he was a former tenant of 605 S. York before it was demolished and had the opportunity to observe activity around the current fire station. He said that he wants the building to remain intact for alternative uses. He said it could be operational and is not advocating for any one specific use but wants to keep it up.

The **consent agenda** was approved. Included in this agenda:

- November 10 public hearing of FY 09 proposed budget
- FY 08 amended budget minutes;
- November 10 regular meeting and closed session minutes;
- Check registers;
- 3rd quarter report;
- Employee health and dental insurance renewal.

Board Business

A. New Business

1. 2009 meeting dates The proposed 2009 meeting dates were approved.

2. Program and Service Report Dave Kenny, Director of Information Services, made a presentation for the purpose of providing an overview of anticipated new Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network. Mr. Kenny explained that the current paradigm involved two separate networks: a voice network and a data network. The proposed VoIP network will integrate both data and voice networks and has the potential to be hosted by the Park District, allowing a significant cost savings compared to networks hosted by data service carriers such as AT&T. Additional advantages of a VoIP network include integrated “inboxes,” allowing employees to view voice mail notification via email, greater potential to retain messages, enhanced ability to monitor communications usage, compatibility with existing digital and analog equipment and ease in assigning or reassigning phone numbers and extensions. Patrons are expected to be better served by multilayer menus, paging options and specific day or night automated messages. One drawback relates to potential power issues, in the event of a power outage, though they should be ameliorated with battery and generator support. Another potential drawback is the need to increase capacity to support data lines throughout EPD.

Commissioners asked questions about the presentation. Mr. Kenny explained that it is possible that EPD would need to add to its exiting data structure to support this initiative. The projected payback on this would be in 3-5 years. EPD doesn't need this immediately, but there is a need to weigh the positive and negative. Mr. Grodsky noted that there is a budget

line item to fund a portion of this and that if EPD didn't set up VoIP this year, it would save \$56,000, minus the \$20,000 allotted. He explained that it is possible to configure one building at a time. He felt that EPD will need to move to VoIP eventually and the alternative is to have AT&T or another carrier house it, which is another cost.

There is a need to discuss legal issues involved in message archival and retrieval.

3. Consent Agenda Discussion A commissioner requested that a discussion from the previous meeting about the consent agenda be examined and that the steps involving discussion of consent agenda items are reviewed because she was not permitted to discuss a topic listed under the consent agenda.

A legal opinion from Jim Washer to determine the appropriateness of Commissioner Kubiesa's action to allow a discussion of a requested item was submitted, which was based on the transcript from the last meeting.

A summary of the events of the last meeting's consent agenda portion indicated that a commissioner moved to approve the consent agenda and another seconded the motion. Another commissioner wished to discuss a topic was not permitted to do so. This was addressed in the legal opinion by Mr. Washer to which he stated that Commissioner Kubiesa acted appropriately, according to Robert's Rules of Order, by not allowing a discussion after the motion to approve the consent agenda had been made.

It was clarified that consent agenda items typically address perfunctory business. A true consent agenda item cannot be discussed. It must be removed from consent agenda (and become a separate agenda item). Mr. Washer did convey that the Board may wish to amend the protocol for adding or removing consent agenda items.

Commissioners offered opinions about the previous meeting in which an item was not permitted to be discussed. One said that the refusal to allow discussion was obstructionist. Another stated that the board and its members should err on the side of facilitating discussion to serve the public, not halting discussion. Another stated that the discussion was impolitely shut down. Some noted that in the past, it had been customary to discuss consent agenda items and that official rules weren't followed. One indicated that it would be helpful to be informed when discussion was appropriate and also when a pending motion would take the possibility for discussion off the table. A commissioner stated that there were plenty of opportunities to add, remove or change items for discussion and that this should not be an issue.

Commissioner Kubiesa discussed her plan to ask for deletions, additions as well as changes to the agenda before the opportunity to move to approve the consent agenda.

B. Old Business

2009 budget: According to Grodsky, based on the insurance plans approved, there is an anticipated \$339,000 net savings, which is \$73,000 more than anticipated.

Information Items/Announcements

- Craftsmanship in woodwork, details and landscaping in Wilder Mansion were praised.
- The heritage baseball game is scheduled for July 12.
- Elmhurst Garden Club trimmed 3 trees at Wilder Park.
- New Park District brochure is out.
- Courts Plus hosted a certification training for fitness instructors, free for Courts Plus instructors. Membership at Courts plus has been increasing.
- Donations for People for Elmhurst Parks, to be designated for Wilder Mansion, were encouraged.
- An EPD staff committee is working on developing an environmental policy.
- New banners for Wilder Mansion have arrived.