

**Elmhurst Park District
September 14, 2009**

**All commissioners present,
Staff: 8 Public: 3
Observer: D. Polomsky**

Changes to Agenda:

Ubriaco moved an agenda item about land purchase between EPD and municipal taxpayers into open session. Ubriaco cited the guide to open meetings act to support the request, explained that this was not property subject to open market forces and that while such issues could be, they were not required to be, closed session items. The motion was seconded. Bob Howard had some comments before going to the merits of the motion. He wanted to disavow a remark made at the last meeting. Someone had said that “we” had heard about closed meetings/actions done behind closed doors. He asked that when using the word, “we” when referring to controversial facts or opinions that the speaker identify the individuals included in the “we” specifically. He said that if someone had information on backroom or handshake deals, he would like to hear about it, and that would be transparent. He also stated that he had 3 main points relevant to the merits of the motion:

- 1) It the duty of the Board to act in the interest of the taxpayers from a fiscal standpoint. The fact is that there could be private interests served by the board’s actions.
- 2) “We are, for lack of a better term, the ‘understudy’ here.”
- 3) The other entity has the primary stake in this. Commissioner Morrisette-Moll summed this up perfectly in the last meeting when she said this will all come out when the time is right. We should trust our executive director to do our bidding for us.

Ubriaco said that this was not an issue of trust, but principle. Kies said that the park district is not a second player, but an important player. Spaeth wanted to know if what is in the envelope is considered to be in the closed session or if there was other information.

Kubiesa reminded the board that there was a motion on the table. She stated that a yes vote would support moving the agenda item into open session. Ubriaco, Kies and Spaeth, voted yes. Morrisette-Moll, Reinertsen, Howard and Kubiesa voted no. The motion failed so it stayed as a closed session agenda item.

Kubiesa then addressed closed sessions. Packets marked “confidential” would be addressed in closed session. Only the Executive Director could be asked about those before a meeting.

Remarks/correspondence from Visitors:

Commissioner Kubiesa read a letter from Mary Grebin. The family of Jon Grebin played a soccer game on the grounds of the Jon Grebin Memorial Soccer Field to commemorate 25 years since his passing. She thanked EPD for their work and wanted to show her appreciation.

Karen Stezowski of Elmhurst thanked the board and Colleen Callahan for looking into the question of buying rides from Kiddieland. There were 142 families interested in this. She also said that she loved the skate park plans.

Mitch Despinich of Elmhurst said that liked the skate park but asked if the board would consider adding a full-size basketball court. Also, he said he had heard that there was a possibility of swapping out Park District land with public land or private land, perhaps to straighten out a street. He wanted to know if there was any information on that.

Committee Reports:

Gateway (Jim Rogers): The board met on September 10. Ray Graham Association (RGA)

brought policies for review. They are looking to tighten up the Association's policies for refunds, one-on-one aides, and financial assistance.

PEP (People for Elmhurst Parks) (Colleen Callahan): Committee met on August 20. Gala tickets are now on sale. They discussed ticket sales, sponsorship and entertainment. A draft about Wilder endowment guidelines is under attorney review. An update on the skate park was discussed. PEP Board members were at Touch a Truck to collect for the Recreation Assistance Fund.

Sugar Creek (Vince Spaeth): The committee met on August 25. The parking lot was resurfaced and minor repairs due to storm damage were made. Revenue is up a tiny bit, rounds and pro shop are down a little, alcohol sales are flat, and instruction is up. The capital plan for replacement has been drawn up. The house that was occupied by a former superintendent is vacant. Grodsky added that it is being painted and that Jim Rogers is listing it as a rental property for an Elmhurst College faculty member, which would bring in some cash for EPD.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was seconded and carried.

Board Business

Old Business:

- 1) Committee Appointment: Park/City - Motion to Park/City appointments was made, seconded and carried.
- 2) York Commons Skate Park Recommendation – It was moved and seconded to approve ramp replacement. Spaeth asked if American Ramp Company had done anything else for EPD or at a location nearby. Jim Rogers answered that visits had been made to one of the American ramps and another vendor's ramps. Nothing but favorable recommendations were heard about American Ramp. Spaeth asked about the longevity of the ramp. The old one had lasted about 10 years and the new one should be at least that. Now that it will be all concrete, it should last longer and be quieter. The warranty is 15 years. Motion carried.
- 3) October 13 Park Board Meeting Change in Date: After discussion to confirm enough Board members would in attendance to have a quorum, it was agreed to schedule the meeting on Monday, October 12, which is Columbus Day.

New Business

- 1) Program and Service Report: SRA/Gateway: Gateway Special Recreation Association (SRA) is a joint special recreation association between 9 agencies which is funded jointly. An early study showed that EPD cannot do better financially or programmatically than Gateway. Gateway contracts with the Ray Graham Association (RGA) to actually run programs. Since Gateway is a separate entity from the RGA, the funding issue that RGA is facing with the state is not affecting the SRA. The Association has purchased 3 vehicles. The Gateway SRA is funded by 9 agencies, not by donors which involves a special recreation tax of about \$400,000 annually, paid on a per capita basis (of the park district), outside of the tax cap. Participant families do pay registration fees. EPD could look at many options, and it could cost more if they left the Gateway SRA and went on their own.
- 2) Action on Proposed Lawsuit was moved and will be addressed after closed session.

Commissioner information items:

- Kies: Jeweled Objects of Desire at Lizzadro planned for October 6 - January 30. Special museum night is November 8. Work dates for the Prairie for weeding/ collecting seeds: September 19, October 17, November 21.
- Spaeth: Elmhurst Heritage Foundation Gala is planned for November 7.
- Ubriaco: Thanked EPD for their involvement in the Saturday concert series.
- Reinertsen: Dec 5 for the PEP fundraiser - get your tickets.

Staff Announcements:

- Working on finalizing 2010 budget.
- This weekend, Chicago is hosting American Society of Landscape Architecture National Conference. A professional trade magazine asked landscape architects to submit information on projects and project photographs. EPD contributed and was chosen to be included in a 2-page spread highlighting 4 of EPD's projects.
- Marjorie Davis Park opened last week. Still working on bocce ball area and back flow compartment.
- September 19 is the birthday of Courts Plus. Cake will be served on Saturday morning. Membership special has been concluded.
- The Hub's season has been extended due to turf field and relationship with Elmhurst College. Scheduling events for 2011 at Wilder mansion. Most prime time dates are booked.

Motion for closed session was made, seconded and carried (6 yes, Ubriaco no).

Closed session was held and open session resumed.

A motion was made, seconded and carried for the EPD contracted risk management firm to pursue litigation against Precor Corporation, manufacturer of exercise equipment.