

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC REGULAR MEETING
PLEASANT DALE PARK DISTRICT**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Center
7425 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, Illinois

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Commissioners Moon, McMurray, Pettrone, Martin, and Brewer. Also in attendance were Attorney Vince Cainkar, Consultant Katherine Parker, Chalet interim Director Nikki Naroleski, CAC Chair Tom Kuwaliak, and Auditor Robert Horstman.

3. **Report from Outside Auditor:** Moon interrupted the proceedings to move that the agenda be “put back” as it had been in the past. McMurray seconded. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: NAY; Martin: NAY; Brewer: NAY. Motion failed.

Robert Horstman of Baker Tilly, whose firm has conducted the annual Park Board audits, presented a report about the Park District’s financial status. He stated that in order to understand the Park District finances one needed to understand the operation of the Chalet. Since FY05, the Chalet has had insufficient cash flow to meet its operating expenses and the Chalet has required operating expenses be paid from the Park District’s other programs. Mr. Horstman explained that the Park District has borrowed money, by issuing bonds, and that the payments (debt service) extend to the year 2027. He said that he does not have a comfortable feeling about the Park District’s ability to pay back what it has borrowed.

Moon asked for clarification about the Chalet’s status as an Enterprise Fund. Mr. Horstman explained that an Enterprise Fund is supposed to perform like a business. Pettrone asked if public funds may be used for an Enterprise Fund such as the Chalet, and Mr. Horstman replied that the Park District may use public funds to pay for Chalet expenses. He noted that the Park District has supplemented the Chalet’s accrued deficit and over the years that has totaled \$4,688,579., which includes the original purchase price of the Chalet. Moon noted that a percentage of staff salaries and other expenses are shown as part of the Chalet expenses. He added that he had previously wanted to meet as a Board with the Park District’s financial officer and Director to discuss.

Mr. Horstman reiterated that until the year 2027, the Park District will be unable to issue bonds to pay for capital improvements. He noted that payments for the Chalet were taken from many funds, including the Debt Service (bond repayment) fund, which now has only \$4,376. remaining. The Park District will be required to replenish into that fund the amount of \$1,600,000., which was expended for purposes unrelated to the bond issue.

Attorney Cainkar noted that closing the Chalet might be the prudent approach. Pettrone stated that it’s not the right time to sell the Chalet.

Cainkar stated that the proposed budget will need additional work because it projects a \$1.1 million loss. He suggested that the Board members meet to find ways to cut the budget.

4. **Board Member Comments:** McMurray expressed concern about the minutes and said the Executive Session minutes were inadequate.
5. **Consent Agenda:** Martin moved to approve the consent agenda. Pettrone seconded. Pettrone stated that she had not received minutes from the May 7, 2009 meeting, and she then moved to amend the previous motion to exclude from the Consent Agenda the minutes from the May 7, 2009 Board meeting; Brewer seconded. Roll: Moon: NAY; McMurray: NAY; Pettrone: AYE; Martin: AYE; Brewer: AYE. Motion passed. Pettrone then suggested that the minutes be reviewed and approved later.

Pettrone moved that the Board approve the Financial Reports of the Consent Agenda and McMurray seconded. Moon asked about a check to the City of Countryside for \$5.00 and Parker replied that she would investigate. Moon asked about item 64 in the amount of \$488., and Parker responded that the expenditure was for staff shirts. Moon inquired about item 68 in the amount of \$500., and Parker responded that the funds were for employee and coach criminal background checks. Moon also inquired about item 248 in the amount of \$3,275., and Parker responded that it was to the computer consultant. Finally, Moon asked about item 259 in the amount of \$107.80 and Parker responded that it was to change the lock on the door of the Director's office. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: AYE; Martin: AYE; Brewer: AYE. Motion passed.

6. **Old Business:** Moon complained that certain items were not included under Old Business, including the status of the accessible toilet project, the Hess property, the Willow Springs pool, Savoy Park, and the July 4 celebration. Parker reported that she had been trying to familiarize herself with all the issues and could report on several.

Parker then reported that the July 4 celebration planning was well underway and that staff would meet on Friday, June 12 to continue planning. She reported that the local liquor license had been issued and that staff would travel to the Thompson Center in Chicago to obtain the state liquor license. Parker explained that last year the Park District entered into a three year contract with Premiere Productions and that entity will be responsible for filing appropriate paperwork with the Fire Department. Parker noted that food vendors will include Sma's, Ledo's Pizza, Bokowski and the Flagg Creek Heritage Society; cash donations totaling \$2,500. have been received.

Regarding Savoy Park, Parker noted that she had spoken with Daniel Callaghan, the developer, who promised that the landscaping would be finished by the end of the week. She also reported that the Land Cash fund has a current balance of approximately \$114,000. and that two benches and a picnic table set would be purchased with part of those funds, per the Park District's commitment.

Moon next demanded to know if a criminal background check had been initiated for Parker and he insisted that she was a Park District employee and the state law required that she undergo such a check. Moon stated that he had been

told by two anonymous staff members that Parker had said she did not require that procedure as a contractual employee. Moon moved that Parker not be allowed to work until the background check was completed. McMurray seconded the motion. Pettrone moved that the motion be amended to state that Parker could be allowed to work and that the background check be initiated immediately. Martin seconded the motion. Moon shouted that Parker should not be allowed on the premises near children or funds. Moon insisted that the Board vote on his original motion. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: NAY; Martin: NAY; Brewer: NAY. Motion failed.

Moon next made a motion that Pettrone, Martin and Brewer resign; there was no second and the motion died. Attorney Cainkar pointed out that Commissioners were making motions that were not on the agenda.

McMurray complained that she had called Parker and asked that items be added to the agenda; Cainkar explained that the agenda could not be changed without providing 48 hours notice.

7. **New Business:** Pettrone moved that the Board adopt the Prevailing Wage Act Ordinance; McMurray seconded. Moon asked what it meant and Cainkar explained that it's required annually so that the Park District agrees to pay prevailing wages to employees. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: AYE; Martin: AYE; Brewer: AYE. Motion passed.

Next, Pettrone moved the Board adopt Resolution 2009-01 to approve changes to the signature authority for Park District Bank accounts; Brewer seconded. Moon asked what this meant and Cainkar explained it was a routine procedure so that former Board members would no longer have signature authority and newly elected Board members would have such authority. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: AYE; Martin: AYE; Brewer: AYE. Motion passed.

CAC Chair Tom Kulawiak cautioned that the Board not make any decision about the Chalet without taking into consideration that certain expenses are attributed to the Chalet, including Director's salary and maintenance and that before selling the Chalet, the Board should read the financial statements.

8. **Additional Items:** The Board discussed their calendars and determined that they were all available to meet for a budget workshop at noon on June 10 at Walker Park.
9. **Executive Session:** The Board discussed and postponed an Executive Session until the other agenda items were reviewed as the time was quite late.
10. **Hiring and Dismissal of Personnel:** This agenda item was not further discussed.
11. **Report from Interim Consultant:** Parker's prepared, written report was read by Martin. In that report, Parker wrote that she traveled to the state capitol on May 27 because the legislature was scheduled to adjourn on May 30, 2009. Further, the report stated that Parker met with Representatives and a Senator whose

districts included the Park District and that she left written notes for House and Senate leaders who also have districts within the Park District. Parker's efforts resulted in the capital budget including two line items: one for funding in the amount of \$289,000. and another for funding totaling \$100,000. to the Park District to be administered through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Martin stated that this was fantastic and welcome news.

12. **Presentation:** The Board did not address this agenda item.

13. **Open Forum:** Martin asked that speakers limit their presentations to three minutes each. John Manieri spoke about the Savoy Club and expressed that he was concerned that the Park District may have expended Land Cash funds inappropriately. He emphasized that the funds must be spent in Burr Ridge and must be for capital improvements. He noted that he had met with Parker earlier in the day to discuss and that she would provide a breakdown of expenses as soon as she obtained that from the financial officer.

Ed Witowski asked Parker how she was able to secure grant funds so quickly. She explained that the typical grant process, through an agency or foundation, is usually lengthy and complicated; however, the state appropriation routinely includes "member initiatives" that allow state Representatives and Senators to include funds for projects within their districts. This year's capital bill required appropriations for capital projects, and Parker met with members to plead for funds and was ultimately successful.

Brad Tertell expressed that he was appalled that the Board had called a meeting at noon. He then demanded that Parker answer if she had Park District experience and if she had lived in southern Illinois. Parker responded that her background included a well known guilty plea to a marijuana charge nearly 25 years ago and had successfully been reinstated as an officer of the court.

Mike Dudek asked about any meetings regarding the Cheslow Pool and Cainkar noted that no park districts make money on swimming pool revenues.

Susan Dudek said that there had been a study done five years earlier. She also complained that the Open Forum was only at the end of the agenda for this meeting, and she would prefer two Open Forum opportunities. Pettrone responded that having the Open Forum after the substance of the meeting saved time and allowed the public to be educated on the issues before speaking about them.

Kristin Violante expressed that she was disheartened by the Board's conduct and that she felt badly for the previous director. She added that the job required someone who had park district experience. Pettrone noted that the Director of the Chicago Park District did not have a park or recreation background when he was appointed by Mayor Daley.

Sharron Mosak stated that she felt some Commissioners were corrupted.

Tom Kuwaliak complained that the Board voted consistently with three members agreeing on one perspective while two agreed on the opposite.

G. Nelson pointed out that the former director had worked with her to apply for "Safe Routes to School" grant funds and if the grant was eventually successful, Willow Springs would receive funds. Pettrone clarified that she had previously spoken about successfully securing grant funds, not just applying for

them and that she was very pleased that the previous director had been helpful to Willow Springs' efforts.

Craige Nice asked if the Board might be able to refinance its bonds. Cainkar noted that there would be no reason to refinance as the interest rates on the bonds are very low.

Ellen Raymond stated that she would make sure Commissioners would be prosecuted if they violated the Open Meetings Act and that the director should have a background check.

Pettrone moved that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss compensation of personnel and McMurray seconded. Parker noted that there was no tape recorder, as required by the Open Meetings Act, and the Board determined it could not proceed in Executive Session.

14. **Adjournment:** McMurray moved that the Board adjourn until Noon the following day, June 10 at Walker Park; Pettrone seconded. Roll: Moon: AYE; McMurray: AYE; Pettrone: AYE; Martin: AYE; Brewer: AYE. Motion passed.