

Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
February 17, 2015

Board President Jim Goshorn called the Gurnee Park District board meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called. Commissioners present: Libby Baker, Gerry Crews, Michelle Klemz and Jim Goshorn. Commissioners absent: Vicki Paddock. Executive Director Susie Kuruvilla was absent except for executive session. Also present: Jeff Reinhard, Supt. of Parks; Scott Crowe, Supt. of Recreation; Mike Szpylman, Supt. of Business; Jennifer Gilbert, Marketing/PR Manager; Sabrina Hinkens, Youth Recreation Supervisor; Kristi Murray, Viking Park Facility Manager; Kara Moss, Aquatic Facility Manager; and Suzanne Gage, Administrative Assistant. Please review the attendance sheet for visitors.

A motion was made by Libby Baker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2015. The motion was seconded by Gerry Crews. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Klemz, Baker, Crews, and Goshorn. Nays: none. Absent: Paddock. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gerry Crews to approve the minutes of the executive meeting of January 20, 2015. The motion was seconded by Michelle Klemz. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Klemz, Baker, Crews, and Goshorn. Nays: none. Absent: Paddock. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$745,803.34 presented on February 17, 2015 was made by Gerry Crews and seconded by Libby Baker. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Klemz, Baker, Crews, and Goshorn. Nays: none. Absent: Paddock. Motion carried.

The financial report and treasurer's report were reviewed.

The President opened the floor to visitor comments but there were none.

Community Service awards were presented to those nominated by the Board and staff this year for their outstanding efforts to help foster our mission of quality parks and programs in Gurnee.

Supt. of Parks Jeff Reinhard presented an award to Greg and Amy Alderson for their volunteer work as the community garden administrators for the past eight years. They have done an outstanding job organizing the gardeners each year, collecting fees, maintaining the pathway, arranging for tilling and generally being the liaisons to the park district. They have made the Gurnee Community Gardens a wonderful community asset. They also had the idea for and built the "Little Free Library" at Prairie Oaks Park. Visitors can take a book and/or leave a book. Jeff thanked them for their dedicated service.

Facility Manager Kristi Murray presented an award to Sgt. Michael Mann of the Gurnee Police Dept. Sgt. Mann has been instrumental in the growth and success of the annual Touch-a-Truck event. Each year for the last 5 years, he volunteers his time to reach out to other local police departments and invite them to participate, as well as to coordinate event details with confirmed participants. He has also used his personal connections in the community to secure many of the specialty vehicles we see each year. Because of Sgt. Mann's persistence, the District was able to take the event to an entirely new level and land the Flight for Life helicopter this past year. Kristi stated that "Sgt. Mann's child-like enthusiasm for this event is contagious, and it is a joy to collaborate with him each year. He has a heart for this event and his community, and is very deserving of this award." President Goshorn thanked the leadership of the Police department for coming and supporting Sgt. Mann.

Kristi Murray presented the next award to Mike and Deb Rawailot and their Z team of sled dogs. Mike and Deb began working with GPD as Frosty Fest volunteers through Adopt a Husky, but when, for budget reasons, Adopt a Husky withdrew from the event, Mike and Deb continued their participation. They come all the way from the southwest suburbs to this event every year and this will be their fifth year participating. Through no snow, crazy snow and rescheduled events, they are always willing to share their love of dog sledding with the community.

If you ask Mike and Deb about why they are involved in dog sledding, they would say that it allows the dogs to do what they love to do and what comes naturally to them. Also, it builds an amazing camaraderie between the dogs and the musher, as well as the other teams with whom they socialize. Kristi stated that “in reality, we are the lucky ones to have been blessed with their talents each year.”

Sabrina Hinkens presented an award to full time employee Tracy Paulsen. She stated that Tracy helped transform the CARE and Camp programs. She is very caring, reliable, trustworthy and fun to be around. Tracy greets every child and parent with a friendly hello and makes sure every parent leaves with a smile on their face. Tracy has become a trustworthy figure to the parents who return year after year. Parents tease that they wish their child would not grow up so they can stay in her program. She always finds a way to make the experience the absolute best it could be and holds staff accountable if they do not meet the expectations. She is the type of person who will drop what she is doing to help you in any way she can. For example, one day a child in the before school program forgot her homework at CARE. Tracy drove to the school to hand in the homework just to put the child's mind at ease. Sabrina said she was very honored to be able to recognize Tracy for the amazing job she does. The CARE and Camp Programs would not be what they are today without her.

Sabrina Hinkens also presented an award to part time employee Wesley Burba. She said that when she thinks of Wesley the first thing that comes to her mind is his big smile. Wesley always has a smile on his face and a "pep" in his step. Wesley started volunteering at Special Events and then became a counselor for the CARE and Camp programs. Wesley is always striving to make sure the kids and staff are having a good time. No matter the task, Wesley is always up for the challenge. In 2013 the CARE participants put on a talent show. Wesley not only helped the kids prepare for the show; he got into the act himself and performed as Elvis. She said she has seen so much growth in Wesley in the two years he has worked. He has created so many great memories for not only the children, but for the staff as well. Sabrina stated she was very honored to be able to recognize Wesley for the great job he does.

Department heads reviewed their written reports with the Board.

Superintendent of Parks Jeff Reinhard presented his report and updated on the office remodeling occurring at the Viking office, including the marketing area, rental coordinator office and registration office. Ice rinks are still being successfully maintained at this time.

Superintendent of Recreation Scott Crowe answered questions on his report. Preschool numbers are up and full day preschool already has 11 participants so we know that the program will definitely run. Camp registration is also up since last year - 1334 versus 858 last year at this time.

The Board reviewed three customer letters that discussed concerns relating to parent/tot swim classes at FitNation, specifically congestion in the locker rooms and lack of stairs in the pool. Scott Crowe discussed the issues that were brought up and how they are being addressed. Commissioner Crews noted and the other board members agreed that they were just now seeing the correspondence (that was specifically addressed to them) and they would like to take the time to prepare their response. It was decided that the Board members would send individual feedback to the Director by end of day

Wednesday and she will prepare a response on their behalf on Thursday, 2/19. The other two letters were addressed to the Director and those responses have been sent.

Superintendent of Business Mike Szpylman reviewed his written report. First draft of the budget has been prepared and will be given to the Board in March. He also reported that using the Chase purchasing card in 2014 has qualified the District for a rebate of \$5,626.84 for items that staff would have purchased anyway. He also discussed the technology changes that will be mandated for credit card purchases in the near future.

Marketing Manager Jennifer Gilbert reviewed her report. Staff will be promoting aquatic center passes shortly. Sales begin 3/1, later than in the past. For the first time, renewals and new sales will be done at the same time this year.

Mike Szpylman reviewed the written Director's Report in Susie Kuruvilla's absence. He asked that Board members let the staff know if anyone can attend the IAPD Legislative Conference on April 28-29.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Michelle Klemz to approve the affiliate agreement with Blue Devil Swim Club as presented. Motion seconded by Gerry Crews. Scott Crowe introduced Aquatic Facility Manager Kara Moss, who spoke regarding the affiliate agreement. The club has 163 swimmers; 58% of swimmers are GPD residents. They use WTHS pool six days a week and the aquatic center in the mornings during the summer. She said they have been great to work with. Their board is made up of committed parent volunteers. Swim Club president Jill Carlson also spoke. She said they are always growing but they are at the point where they can't grow further. She said that Kara is a tremendous help to their board and they appreciate the GPD partnership. They have a good, long time coach and stable staffing. She thanked the board for the affiliation. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Klemz, Baker, Crews and Goshorn. Nays: none. Absent: Paddock. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed a T-Mobile proposal for a 100 foot pine tree/cell phone tower in either Cedar or South Park. Board members questioned whether or not there is a zoning requirement or a Village ordinance limiting such towers. Jeff Reinhard noted that the District has turned down previous proposals for cell towers because of the neighbors as well as the aesthetics of the installation. Another question was whether the district should be getting into the business of selling rights to public property. The Board asked that staff research where a "monopine" is already in place and then make a recommendation next month after going to see it. It will be put it on the agenda for action.

A motion was made by Libby Baker to enter executive session at 8:14 pm to discuss:

- The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- To consider information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Motion was seconded by Michelle Klemz. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Klemz, Baker, Crews, and Goshorn. Nays: none. Absent: Paddock. Motion carried. Susie Kuruvilla participated in the executive session by telephone and Suzanne Gage was also authorized to attend the closed session.

A motion was made by Michelle Klemz to return to open session at 8:26 p.m. Motion seconded by Gerry Crews. On voice vote, all voted aye.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gerry Crews and seconded by Michelle Klemz. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

James G. Goshorn, President

Michelle Klemz, Secretary