

Morton Grove Park District

6834 Dempster Street • Morton Grove, Illinois 60053 • 847/965-1200



MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT
Prairie View Community Center
6834 Dempster, Morton Grove, IL 60053
Committee of the Whole
March 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Burdi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Dan Ashta, Rusmir Zec, Betty Fergus and Dominick Burdi

Commissioners Absent: Eileen Coursey

Staff Present: Marty O'Brien; Interim Executive Director, Laura Kee; Human Resources Manager, Greg Jayne; Superintendent of Parks, Sue Braubach; Wellness & Fitness Manager, Kari Redmond; Recreation Supervisor and Claudia Marren; Executive Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: Dr. Phil Collins; Superintendent of Morton Grove School District #70, and Eric Poders; The Morton Grove Voice/resident,

Public Comment: Dr. Phil Collins, Superintendent of Parkview School asked if there was a possibility for Parkview School to play their soccer home games at Harrer Park. In the past the home games have been played at National or Hren Parks, which forces them to travel to "home" games. Their season starts the beginning of April and they can be done by the end of April. They provide the goals which are very mobile and easy to use. Dr. Collins requested that the Park District consider allowing Parkview School to play their spring and fall home games at Harrer Park. At this point Interim Director O'Brien stated that this subject came up because of the initiative to re-purpose National Park and that he would investigate the possibility of Parkview playing at Harrer Park.

Eric Poders suggested that the Park District purchase an atomic clock.

Recreation and Facility Program Committee: Commissioner Coursey, Chair (Dan Ashta substituted)

Fees and Charges: The summer brochure fees and charges were distributed with the packet. Commissioner Fergus said it looked good, however asked if the pool non-resident rates were kept the same, because it seemed like it was awfully high. It was agreed to set the standard non-resident rate to a 50% increase vs. a 100% increase, thus keeping Morton Grove competitive. Director O'Brien would provide the pool rates to the Commissioners.

Pool Hours: It was agreed to close Harrer Pool at 8:00 p.m. because there will no longer be lights there and to close Oriole Pool at 9:00 p.m. The staff is looking to recruit college students, Chicago public schools students and even adults to work at the pools in order to keep Oriole Pool open after Labor Day. The Park District policy is to close the pool if there are less than 10 participants, however Commissioner Ashta asked for the pool to stay open as long as possible, weather permitting. He also wondered if we

were losing momentum by closing our new pool earlier than the posted hours. Commissioner Fergus stated we have a policy on closing the pool early due to low attendance.

Parks and Facilities Maintenance Committee – Commissioner Fergus, Chair

Ball Field Groomer: Director O'Brien explained the current groomer is no longer reliable. Superintendent Jayne provided three quotes for a new groomer. The Board agreed that a new groomer was necessary.

Community Room Tables: Director O'Brien said we are looking to replace tables that are in poor shape. We can still use the old tables for outside use. It was agreed to purchase new tables. Also, Commissioner Burdi asked if we could purchase 2 new picnic tables for Oriole Pool.

PVCC Lobby Painting: The Commissioners agreed to hire Codeco Industries of Hodgkins, IL in the amount of \$9,970.00 to prep and paint the lower level lobby of the Community Center. The Commissioners asked that we contact J. C. Licht in Morton Grove and speak with a color consultant.

Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Zec, Chair

Budget Review: Director O'Brien explained that since last month there were only slight changes from the original budget presented on February 4th, i.e. senior programming adjustments. He also reiterated that the budget will be on display at the Morton Grove Library and on the Park District website for at least 30 days prior to publishing and the meeting.

National Park: Director O'Brien suggested that rather than repurposing National Park fields (per the January 14, 2015 meeting), due to the fact that SKOMOR, one of the major soccer players, since the January meeting notified us that they will no longer use our field, it may be less expensive and make more sense to repurpose the Prairie View Park North ball field to a multi-purpose field. The Prairie View field gets the least amount of use and would therefore make more sense. Commissioner Ashta asked if this area could also be used for a dog park and Director O'Brien said there may be a possibility to do a dog park under the ComEd easement, although we would have to look at the square footage, amenities, Water, sewage, drainage, electric, etc. to make it a proper park. Do we want to go ahead with a study to find out where we want to put a dog part and what we are going to put together. The conclusion is that National Park would remain the same, but Prairie View would be repurposed as a multi-purpose field.

Board Meeting 2015-2016 Calendar: It was agreed to adopt the 2015-2016 Board meeting Calendar with a June a June 10th Committee meeting, a September 23rd Board Meeting and a January 13, 2016 Board Meeting, which deviates from the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Interim Executive Director Appointment: The Commissioners agreed to officially appoint Martin O'Brien as the Interim Executive Director and to supplement his income with a bi-weekly stipend of \$850.00, while he holds the position.

Dog Park: After discussing the building of a Morton Grove Dog Park it was agreed to start a feasibility study in August 2015. Commissioner Ashta voiced his opinion on the lack of participation by some Commissioners and the inability of the Board to make decisions. He also asked why this project has been delayed for two years. Commissioner Burdi explained that we have too many issues going on right now, and we have to look at what's going on and where we are as far as employees. He wants the Board to make the right decisions and we have to look at the big pictures. We are down 5 full time staff

so it's too much to ask of the current staff. Commissioner Zec agreed the Board talks about many topics and issues do not always get resolved, however with Marty acting as the Executive Director and Finance Manager and the budget having to be completed it really is too much to ask right now. Also, although the dog park may not be a priority the staff could begin to gather information. Interim Executive Director O'Brien when asked his opinion on the time line of a dog park stated he would know better if he was given explicit directions on what was expected. It was agreed to address the dog park in August. Commissioner Ashta wondered why the Board has not done anything with Harrer Park too. He mentioned that the Board always talks about issues but he thinks the Board can be more pro-active. Commissioner Burdi reiterated that we have several important issues to tackle and we are currently understaffed.

Distinguished Agency:

Interim Executive Director O'Brien explained as we pursue the Distinguished Agency Accreditation, the following items must be reviewed and approved: Mission Statement, Succession Plan, Crisis Plan, Personnel Policy Manual and the Ethics Ordinance.

Director O'Brien also discussed the salary ranges and job descriptions within the budget which need to be reviewed. He will send the information to the Board. Director O'Brien brought up the Safety and Risk Management job description and a part-time position which took over the job of a full-time position. The job description of the Executive Director, was reviewed and discussed at length. It was debated whether to once again use an outside firm or to hire a Director through our own search; at that point the issue of a conflict of interest came up because no matter how good a job Human Resources Manager, Kee could do, there still may be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Burdi reiterated he feels confident with Manger Kee conducting an in-house search and that we can at least start there.

Executive Session:

At 8:25 p.m.

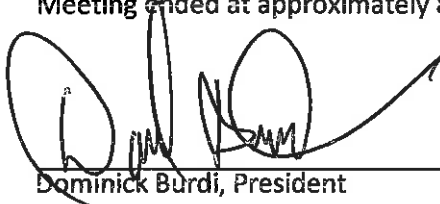
Commissioner Burdi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to go into Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act section 120/2.(c)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. **Ayes: Commissioner Fergus, Zec, Ashta, Burdi. Nays: 0. Absent: Coursey. Motion carried.**

The Committee Meeting reconvened at approximately: 8:45 p.m.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Commissioner Ashta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fergus to adjourn the meeting. **Ayes: Commissioners Fergus, Zec, Ashta and Burdi. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

Meeting ended at approximately 8:46 p.m.



Dominick Burdi, President



Martin O'Brien, Secretary