

West Suburban Special Recreation Association

October 13, 2015

Board of Directors Meeting

Held at: WSSRA

2915 Maple St, Franklin Park

MINUTES

I. Vice Chairman Joe Modrich called the **meeting to order** at 5:04pm those present included:

Steve Thomas, Park District of Forest Park
Dennis Raleigh, Hawthorne Park District
Mark DeSalvo, Norridge Park District
Joe Vallez, North Berwyn Park District

Annette Volpe, Village of Harwood Heights-
John Lannefeld, Village of Elmwood Park
Joe Modrich, Park District of Franklin Park
Katherine Porreca, Park District of Oak Park
Jan Arnold, Park District of Oak Park

Not in Attendance:

Clyde Park District, Excused Absence
River Forest Park District, Excused Absence
Berwyn Park District, Excused Absence

Others in Attendance:

WSSRF, Annemarie Casas
WSSRA staff: Bob Foster, Gretchen Dennis, Marianne Birko

II. DeSalvo/Raleigh moved **to approve the agenda**. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. DeSalvo/Thomas **moved to approve the September 8, 2015 Regular Board Meeting minutes**. The motion was approved.

IV. A. DeSalvo/ Raleigh **moved to accept the September 2015 Financial Report**. The motion was approved.

B. DeSalvo/Lannefeld **moved to authorize payment of payroll, prepaid disbursements #35986 and ending with check #36004 and authorizes payment for the months of September 2015 payroll and disbursements debit charges and cash transfers totaling \$195,890.51 and authorizes payment of October 2015 payroll and disbursements #36005 and ending with check #36031 disbursements debit charges and cash transfers totaling \$14,303.61 pending the availability of funds. By roll call vote the motion was approved.**

V. **Public Comment** – None

VI. Under the **Foundation Annemarie Casas** introduced herself as the parent of an 8 year old who has used WSSRA services for the last 4 years. Her son increased his motor skills, speech and language and has become a success story in inclusive programming. She stated the family is truly grateful for all of the support she has received over the years. As a result she is giving back by being a part of the Foundation. She reported **the Foundation** is busy doing the final touches on the upcoming Fall fundraiser "Fallin For Our Stars" at the Cheney Mansion. This year's event is co-chaired by Lisa Masucci, Karen Mullarkey Kerrins, Lisa Shanahan and Beth Kaplan of Oak Park and River Forest. The Foundation is once again grateful to the Park District of Oak Park for giving the Foundation this opportunity to host the event at the beautiful Cheney Mansion. Guests will enjoy an evening of food, entertainment, Star Pull, Live Auction and Lagunitas Beer and wine for this special night. The event is this **Friday, October 16, 2015, 7 – 11pm**. WSSRF hopes all WSSRA Board Members will plan to attend. It's not too late to buy your tickets and support the event.

Star sponsorships currently include:

Gold Stars: Park District of Oak Park, Park District of Forest Park, the Village of Franklin Park, and Good Heart Works Smart **Silver Stars:** Craft Jack, Affordable Tents, Village of Forest Park and Joseph Mullarkey Distributors **Bronze Stars:** The Democratic Party of Oak Park, Mohr Oil Co, River Forest Park District, Deidre Rudich of d'aprile Properties, Forest Park National Bank, Right at Home and the Knights of Columbus of Franklin Park **Friend Donors:** 21 Friend donors, over 100 Star Pull donors and 8 LIVE AUCTION Donors from all over the Chicago area. Once again, John Mullins of Oak Park will chair the Chicago Bear fundraiser at Jimmy's Place.

on **Sunday, December 6th** when the Chicago Bears play the San Francisco 49ers. The party will start at noon and continue until the end of the game.

Food will include pizza, salad and pasta. There will be a cash bar. The cost remains \$25.00 a person. WSSRA Board Members and Alternate Board members are invited to this very fun, casual event. The bigger the crowd the greater the chance the Bears will win!! Come join the fun. Call WSSRA today to make your reservation!

The Foundation is soliciting sports related items and tickets are appreciated as auction items for the Bears party. Please contact Marianne at the WSSRA office about any donations and pick up arrangements will be made. Casas thanked the board for their support.

VII. **Under Committee Reports**

A. Finance Committee chair Modrich stated the committee Finance Committee chaired by Joe Modrich met to continue the 2016 budget review. The discussions included merit planning, a review of the auditor's comments on adding the Capital Replacement Fund and Facility fund as a separate part of the budget for transparency, scholarships and medical. The Committee is scheduled to meet October 20 and November 19 to continue 2016 budget planning.

B. No Other

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

A. Approval of 2016 Partner Shares

DeSalvo/Raleigh moved to approve the 2016 shares with a .8% increase as presented. A roll call vote showed 8 ayes and no nays. The motion was approved.

B. Defining Capital Replacement & Facility Expenses within the budget

DeSalvo/Thomas moved to approve creating a Capitol Fund & Facility Fund to better track these expenses & revenue going forward. The motion was approved

C. IAPD/IMRF pension discussions continued- *Birko reminded the board of last month's discussion about the recent response shared by IAPD related to salary increase procedures at IAPD which directly impacts IMRF pension and all contributing agencies. Modrich reminded the board that he contacted agencies looking for feedback on "Best Practices" for pensions and found nothing definitive. The concerns shared were that IAPD's current practices are not sustainable. Birko reminded the board of the three options discussed 1. Do nothing 2. Consider not renewing membership in IAPD or 3. Propose a By-law change that would require procedural changes of IAPD requiring them to follow transparency procedures and ceiling salary increases. Many partners believe that IAPD is not following the "Best Practices" model expected of public entities. Birko asked for feedback on partner board's response to this. DeSalvo stated he questioned the cost of IAPD and anticipates his board will vote to against renewing its membership in IAPD. Most have **not** discussed with their boards and have delayed until a full board is present. Arnold asked if WSSRA benefited and Birko confirmed they did and encouraged the board consider proposing changes in IAPD's procedures. The board agreed to have Birko invite Eric Entler, Commissioner for the Park District of Forest Park and board member of IAPD to attend the November Board meeting to give the board the opportunity to ask questions and help bring clarity to the issues. Birko will request questions of the board in advance of the meeting.*

D. No other

IX. **Under New Business**

A. Other- None

X. **Correspondence was distributed**

- XI. Under **Board Reports** – DeSalvo reported the **Norridge Park District's** soccer & softball seasons are ending. Basketball signups are currently taking place and they are currently repainting the pool. Thomas reported the **Park District of Forest Park's** has a busy fall session with the garage sale, camp out, softball tournaments, fall festival, Trunk or treat and Halloween dance taking place. Big News the Roos project has begun. The rubble is being removed starting today. Volpe reported for the **Village of Harwood Heights** is also preparing for their upcoming Halloween activities. They have great sign up so far! Lannefeld reported for the **Village of Elmwood Park's** recent Health fair was a success, Fall Fest had lower turn out due to rain and they are busy preparing for the Halloween activities coming up. Raleigh reported the **Hawthorne Park District's** Outdoor soccer is wrapping up their season and indoor sign ups are currently taking place. Arnold, reported the **Park District of Oak Park's** is busy preparing for the Frank Lloyd Wright run this weekend. They are also in the midst of finishing the wonderful \$250,000 collaborative with District 97 and affiliates to incorporate turf fields that are currently being installed at the two Middle School locations. The District recently opened to the public to the Environmental renovation project at the Conservatory's recent ribbon cutting. The two new afterschool sites are going smoothly and the figure skating program has over #1000 participants. Fall Fest just took place with over 3000 guests attending and Fright Fest is coming up on October 23. But, most importantly, the PDOP is proud to announce their being the winner of the NRPA's Gold medal award which includes National Accreditation. Arnold stated it could not have been done it without a great team of staff! Vallez reported the **North Berwyn Park District's** soccer season is ending, basketball is starting and they recently hosted over 5000 guests at their Back to School Fest. The Dance and Fitness Center is opened and staff are preparing for their upcoming Pumpkin Patch. Modrich reported the **Park District of Franklin Park** just completed a very successful 5k, Parade and Pumpkin Fest. Work is being finalized on the washrooms at the community center and North Park.
- XII. **Executive Director's Report-** Birko reported
- A. **Reminder on Alternate Share Payment Schedule – Birko reminded the board requests for alternate payment schedules must be submitted in writing** and be received by WSSRA by November 1, 2015. The WSSRA Board of Directors will vote on the requests at their November 10, 2015 meeting. The alternate schedules can be granted only if all of the schedules can be granted. All of the schedules must be approved by a vote of two-thirds of those members of the Board voting on the issue at a regularly convened meeting of the Board of Directors. Interest will be charged on the alternate schedules as described in IV. C. Schedule for Payment of Shares of the Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement.
- B. **Foster reported WSSRA accepted the bus sale bid for the 2009 15 passenger bus from the Park District of Oak Park** through a closed bid process to the WSSRA Partners.
- C. **Birko reported the River Forest Park District's Makin Tracks 5k Community Run/Walk A Success-** This year approximately #274 runners and walkers joined the RFPD Makin Tracks 5k Run/walk on Saturday, September 12th. Birko express a special thank you to the RFPD for the positive community awareness this event brings to WSSRA. The net proceeds that WSSRA receives from this event is an added bonus!
- D. **Birko reminded board members the WSSRF "Fallin for Our Stars" Fundraiser** Friday, October 16- It's not too late to buy your tickets or be a Star Sponsor.
- E. **Birko reminded board members to schedule Annual visits.** Those to be scheduled are:
- Berwyn Park District
 - Clyde Park District
 - Park District of Forest Park
 - Park District of Franklin Park
 - Village of Harwood Heights
 - Hawthorne Park District
 - River Forest Park District

F. Staff Report: Dennis reported

1. **Fall programs are up & running**- Fall programs started Sept. 21. So far, so good! Staff are focused on the ongoing training of the newly hired Full-time and Regular Part-time staff.
2. **Bobcats Volleyball**- The WSSRA Bobcat Volleyball brought home Gold medals from the State Qualifier Tournament. They are now on to the State Tournament in Rockford the weekend of October 24.
3. **Bobcats played Opportunity Knocks**- On September 26 the WSSRA Bobcat Softball players played as guests against the Opportunity Knocks Warriors. The game kicked-off the OK Classic annual fundraising softball tournament.
4. **Rec Staff Attend Leadership summit**- Several of the WSSRA Recreation Specialists and Managers attended the ITRS Leadership Summit. They attended informative sessions with topics on improving communication, the ADA, and leadership.

G. Staff Report: Foster reported

1. **PDRMA**- Foster reported his attendance at the PDRMA Risk management Committee's sub-committee that reviews grant applications submitted throughout the year. He noted grant winners will be announced later this month
2. **Office**- Foster extended a special thanks to the Park District of Franklin Park and the School District 84, for working cooperatively to help in beautifying the appearances of our offices. Park District of Franklin Park provided the labor and expertise for the new landscaping along the north side of our office, as well as around the updated office sign on the northwest corner of the building and School District 84 covered the expenses. It's certainly made our entrance more welcoming to our guests.
3. **NRPA**- Foster thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the NRPA conference in Las Vegas last month. Sessions were very useful and will be sharing information with other staff.

XIII. DeSalvo/Thomas **moved to adjourn** the meeting at 6:02pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Birko
Executive Director