

West Suburban Special Recreation Association

November 12, 2019

Meeting of the Board of Directors

WSSRA Office

2915 Maple Street

Franklin Park, IL 60131

MINUTES

I. Chairman Joe Modrich called the **meeting to order** at 4:03pm those present included:

Mike Sletten, River Forest Park District, 4:13
Kassica Porreca, Park District of Oak Park
Jackie Iovinelli, Park District of Forest Park
Joe Modrich, Park District of Franklin Park
Dennis Raleigh, Hawthorne Park District
Teresa Mrozik, Village of North Riverside

Michael Gianatasio, Berwyn Park District
Al Schmidt, Village of Elmwood Park
Mark Sladek, North Berwyn Park District
Victor Garcia, Clyde Park District, 4:20
Annemarie Flaherty, Norridge Park District

Not in Attendance

Village of Harwood Heights Excused Absence
Village of Riverside Excused Absence

Others in Attendance:

WSSRA staff: April Ryan, Annie Hart, Marianne Birko, WSSRF, Annemarie Casas

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

III. A. Raleigh/Flaherty **moved to approve the October 8, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes as amended. Roll call vote showed all 9 voted to approve.**

- IV. A. Raleigh/Iovinelli **moved to accept the October 2019 Financial Report. Roll call vote showed 9 yes votes the motion was approved.**
B. Flaherty/Raleigh **moved to authorize payroll, prepaid disbursements #39005 and ending with check # 39031 and authorizes payment of October 2019 payroll and disbursements debit charges and cash transfers totaling \$155,811.36 and authorizes payment of November To-Be-Paid disbursements #39032 and ending with check #39050 disbursements debit charges and cash transfers totaling \$7,079.81 pending the availability of funds. Roll call vote showed 9 yes votes and the motion was approved.**

V. **Public Comment** –None

VI. **Under the Foundation Report Casas reported,**

Birko introduced Annemarie Casas as a longtime resident of Franklin Park and parent of two boys who have enjoyed WSSRA programs. Casas reported the Foundation had a tremendously successful “Fallin For Our Stars” held on October 18th at the Cheney Mansion. 100 Guests enjoyed a Starlit Casino evening with Casino prize raffles and a Live Auction that provided our guests with a full evening of fun and raised over \$28,000. \$8,000 more than budgeted! The Foundation will once again collaborate with the Pinnacle Yacht Foundation presenting **Blues & Soul Masters “Sons of Chicago”** for a LIVE CONCERT event on Saturday, January 18 at the Wire music venue in Berwyn. This event will have WSSRF collaborating with PACTT as the beneficiary of the concert proceeds. Mark your calendar and join us. Ticket sales will go live on the Pinnacle Foundation website at the beginning of December. The Foundation will close the 2019 year with Giving Tuesday & the Holiday Appeal. The card will be mailed next week, and posters and banners will be up around town. Please take a banner with you today and support our Foundations Annual Holiday Appeal!

VII. **Under Committee Reports**

A. **Finance Committee-** Birko reported she confirmed with Chairperson Arnold to cancel the November meeting as the 2020 budget had been finalized.

B. **Other**

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

A. **Approval of the 2020 Proposed Budget** Birko reviewed highlights of the 2020 balanced budget presented by the WSSRA Finance Committee with a 0% share increase which includes the gradual payment increase per the agreement for the Village of Riverside and North Riverside for your approval. Birko also reviewed the WSSRA this year's proposed 3.0% increase includes 1.9 CPI + 1.1 merit pool. **Iovinelli/Raleigh motioned to approve the 2020 Budget as presented. Roll call vote showed 9 yes votes and Schmidt voted no. The motion was approved.**

X. **Under New Business:**

A. **No New Business**

X. **Under Correspondence-** No comments

XI. **Under Board Reports** **Porreca reported the Park District of Oak Park** went to Springfield to present on to OSLAD projects, at Rehm and Carroll Park. They are rolling out a new registration system, Amelia, in response to our residents on Dec 14. PDOP thanks VOP for the Art sculpture that was installed recently at Mills Park and looks great! The Stevenson Park renovation will be completed by Dec 1 and the ribbon cutting will take place in spring. The PDOP received \$400k from OSLAD for this project. The Carroll Center expansion which is passive house design will be completed by June 1. \$600k was donated by from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. It has 6 geothermal wells, solar, rain gardens, min of six inches of insulation inside and outside the roof and floor. Rehm tennis courts did not get acrylic before the cold, so these will reopen in spring. All fencing and ground work are complete. PDOP received \$30k grant for a tech lab at Dole Library. They also received Best of Best - Green practices from IAPD awards. Conversations continue with partners and donors in support of Community Recreation Center without raising taxes. The vision is to provide a safe space for middle school and high school students after school, free walking track, access to mental health services, affordable fitness and more. **Mrozik reported the Village of North Riverside** has filled its staff positions. Basketball registration is going well, and they are busy preparing for the upcoming holiday events. **Sladek reported North Berwyn Park District's** Halloween event was rained out and they are busy preparing for the Holiday House decorating on December 19th. They recently presented a preview of the 16th Street Theatre 2020 shows at an event at the Wire. **Iovinelli reported the Park District of Forest Park** enjoyed attending the WSSRF's Fallin For Our Stars Event. It was a great time. At the Best of the Best Commissioner Entler received the 10-year award! This weekend they will host the Holiday Craft Fair with 40 vendors. They are currently looking to hire a Full-time Marketing Manager and the project of laying 40,000 ft of new pathways is completed! **Schmidt reported the Village of Elmwood Park** hosted over 1200 guests at their Halloween festivities, they continue to make repairs to the pool and they recently replaced two HVAC systems. Basketball and Volleyball are at full capacity! **Flaherty reported the Norridge Park District** is meeting with the school districts to plan for a before and aftercare wrap around program. They are currently going through the Early Care Pre-school accreditation process. Staff did a great job. They are waiting on the Aquatics audit so they can continue their future Master Plan. **Sletten reported the River Forest Park District's** talks continue for the possible facility collaboration. The new website is due to come out after the Holidays. RFPD will be hosting a tree decorating and Holiday Trolley rides in the first week in December. The first ride will be Sensory Friendly. **Raleigh reported the Hawthorne Park District's** Indoor Soccer registration has begun. They updated their 5-year plan to pass along. The merger talks continue and hope to be finalized by April 30, 2020, the beginning of their fiscal year. His retirement is pending the completion of the merger. **Gianatasio reported the Berwyn Park District's** Freedom field turf project is delayed until next spring due to weather. Programs are going well, and interviews will take place in early December for the Executive Directors position. **Garcia reported the Clyde Park District** had no report.

Modrich reported the Park District of Franklin Park will host an Open House in a few weeks to celebrate the completion of the Community Center renovations. The Halloween Hoot festivities had record numbers due to the weather. They too recently headed to Springfield as they are looking to renovate Timber Park. They have many future OSLAD projects on the drawing board.

XII. Executive Director's Report- Birko Reported

- A. **Schedule Annual Visits** She continues with her 2019 Annual visits presenting highlights of 2018. Book your date now for your presentation this year.
- B. **Board Member Appointments Due by December 31, 2019** The Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement state that each partner should make their appointments to the WSSRA Board by December 31 of each year. We respectfully request that all the appointments be confirmed in writing using the sample letter. We will accept those appointments at our annual meeting held January 14, 2020.
- C. **Executive Director's Annual Review** Please complete the Executive Director Annual review form being sent by Joe Modrich and return to Joe by December 2. Included in the review information will be the Executive Directors goals and progress on the completion of those goals.
- D. **Discussions with Veterans Park District** Birko reported WSSRA met again with the Veterans Park District to continue the possible partnership. We discussed their non-resident participation and the share formula predictor for the Village of River Grove residents that are not currently a part of Veterans Park District. At the conclusion of the meeting Donna Peluso, the Executive Director of the Veterans Park District was very optimistic that her board will be interested in continuing with the process. The next step is scheduling a meeting with the Village of River Grove and her board sending a letter of intent to WSSRA. When this is received WSSRA will then move forward to begin the review process of the Veterans Park District.
- E. **WSSRF "Fallin for Our Stars" Fundraising Success** The WSSRF held their very successful Fallin For Our Stars event on Friday, October 18. They entertained over 100 guests with this Annual cocktail party & Starlit Casino night that was held at the lovely Cheney Mansion in Oak Park courtesy of the Park District of Oak Park. A special thanks to the Park Districts of Forest Park and Oak Park who had guests at the event as well as the Mayor of River Forest Catherine Adduci was present as well!

F. Staff Report: April Ryan, Superintendent of Recreation reported

1. **Programs** Fall programs are underway with one week left. Overall, enrollment is good. We started a new afterschool program at Lincoln School in Cicero and have 12 students registered. WSSRA staff attended several school and community events during the month of October including school open houses, Oak Park Early Childhood Resource Fair, Options Fair, Riverside Howl-O-Week event and The Answer Inc. Berwyn Powerful Parents of Autism event.
2. **Staffing** Our Staff Manager, Carla Pakenas, is hiring for program and inclusion staff. She will be recruiting staff at the East Leyden High School and Morton College Job fairs.
3. **Special Events** WSSRA is getting ready our annual Polar Express event on December 14. Thumbuddy Special will be supporting our annual Polar Express by donating money for WSSRA to purchase gifts to pass out to participants on the train. WSSRA is working in collaboration with the Park District of Oak Park on the sensory sensitive Cookies with Santa event which will take place at the Cheney Mansion on December 18.

G. Staff Report: Annie Hart, Superintendent of Safety and Operations reported

1. **Office Updates** The server was down last week and requires WSSRA move along quicker than planned to get operations into the cloud.
2. **Inclusion** We currently are serving 55 participants inclusively in 77 programs this fall season. Inclusion Manager, Chris Sturm, and Recreation Specialist, Mia will continue to help support Inclusion Aides and participants this fall while visiting program sites.
3. **Transportation** We are continuing the process of hiring a new driver, in the anticipation of Larry Feldt's retirement. The position was posted as of 9/5.
4. **Safety** I am planning to attend PDRMA's RMI conference as well as the PDRMA workshop "Your Role in

Claims Reporting” on November 20th.

H. No Other

XIII. Sletten/lovinelli **moved to adjourn** the meeting at 4:37pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Birko".

Marianne Birko
Executive Director
mb/Nov 19 minutes