

MINUTES

BOARD/COMMISSION: Recreation

DATE: May 19, 2010

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:30 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Girsch,
Commissioners
Dwyer, Cavanagh,
Schumann,

LOCATION: Village Links Maintenance Building

ABSENT: Commissioners
Gallagher, Rosley

ALSO PRESENT: Recreation Director
Matt Pekarek, Trustee
Henninger, Golf Course
Superintendent Chris Pekarek

Call to Order

Chairman Girsch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Introduction of New Commissioner Bill Schumann

Chairman Girsch introduced Commissioner Schuman and reported that Commissioner Cheryl Conley had resigned effective immediately.

Public Comments

No public comments were given.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2010 Meeting of the Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Dwyer motioned for the approval of the minutes from April 21, 2010. Commissioner Cavanagh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Reports

Manager – Matt Pekarek

Mr. Pekarek stated April was a great month, with possibly the best April weather of the past 30 years. Rounds played and revenues were up from the prior year.

Nicor has completed their abandonment of a natural gas pipeline.

Mr. Pekarek reviewed the financial performance of the golf course over the five years since the 2004 course renovation. In that period, \$2,700,000 in gross profits were generated. \$1,700,000 in debt service payments were made on schedule. \$600,000 was spent on capital equipment replacement. Cash reserves increased \$500,000, with \$2,200,000 on hand at the end of 2009. Residents received \$2,000,000 in green fee discounts. The operation of the storm water detention system was funded by the golf course, at no cost to the tax payer. The Village Links facilities, equipment and finances are all in good condition. These results contrast with the results of other publicly owned golf courses in DuPage County, most of which require government subsidy. While play at the Village Links is down 30% from the peak in 1998, it remains the busiest golf course in DuPage County.

Commissioner Schumann questioned the factors influencing the decrease in rounds played and if the Village Links than see an increase in rounds played if other golf courses close. Mr. Pekarek stated it is very difficult to close a golf course because of the resident concerns that ensue if a golf course closure is proposed.

Financial – Commissioner Rosley

Commissioner Rosley was absent. Mr. Pekarek stated that the weather helped generate increased revenue in April.. He stated Village Link’s staff has worked to cut costs and keep operating expenses as low as possible.

Trustee Liaison – Carl Henninger

Trustee Henninger stated the new fiscal year began May 1. The Village Board approved a balanced budget. The downtown plan is being implemented. A new organization is being formed to help with the downtown plan.

Presentation by Chris Pekarek

Golf Course Superintendent Chris Pekarek distributed an information packet on grounds division operations. He discussed the challenges facing the golf course. He discussed the maintenance and current state of the course equipment fleet and stated after the funds spent in the last few years the fleet is in good shape. He presented information on how the golf course has been able to produce an above average service with a smaller staff and a budget that is less than it was 5 years ago. He discussed several items that have lowered costs, totaling over \$70,000 a year.

Mr. Pekarek discussed the state of the golfing world and the subsidies that many golf courses are receiving to continue operating. He stated it is hard to compete with these types of courses but with the expense cuts implemented and large customer base the golf course is in good standing. Other items he touched on during his presentation included:

- Social media initiatives
- Backyard wildlife program
- Nicor gas pipeline
- Golf course operations

Discussion of Food Service Leasing

Chairman Girsch stated Mr. Pekarek drafted a mission statement for a proposed Facility Master Plan Steering Committee. She discussed information provided from the last meeting regarding this agenda item and stated this is a very complex issue because each sector of Village Links intertwines together and it is difficult to change one sector without affecting the other. She discussed issues that will face the Village Links if a food service were leased and also the formation of a committee to develop a Master Plan for facilities. She referenced the Steering Committee assembled during the 2004 golf course renovation and stated that such a committee would be helpful in addressing making decisions effecting the facilities at the Village Links.

Commissioner Dwyer stated he felt if a decision was not made by the deadline the Village Board placed on this topic that the Board would make a decision without any recommendation from the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Cavanagh questioned if the Village Board has discussed this item since the last meeting. Trustee Henninger stated the Village Board is still looking for any type of statement even if it is a recommendation to look at the issue in further detail. General discussion took place over the timeline and specifics that should be included in this recommendation for the Village Board.

Mission Statement Discussion

Mr. Pekarek recited the draft mission statement and asked for any questions or comments from the Commission members. Commissioner Cavanagh questioned how long this plan could take to develop. Mr. Pekarek stated depending on how the committee work evolves it could take six months to a year. Commissioner Cavanagh agreed on this time and questioned if any short term goals could be established before the committee was formed to be worked on during the off season. Mr. Pekarek stated he would rather not spend funds without a plan so that to not waste money on expenditures that could end up being in conflict with the master plan.

General discussion took place over the formation of the steering committee and what type of members will included to work on the plan as well as what information is needed for the next meeting in order to make a recommendation.

Trustee Henninger felt that such a recommendation could be discussed at a Village Board Workshop in July, but that more details need to be put together about the proposed steering committee. Mr. Pekarek suggested that he could provide an expanded description of a steering committee by June 2, which would give the Commission two weeks to consider the proposal in advance of the June meeting.

Announcements and Other Business

No announcements were made.

Next Meeting

Chairman Girsch stated the next meeting will be held Wednesday June 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Girsch asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Dwyer motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Cavanagh seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Chris Ragona

Reviewed and edited by Matt Pekarek, Recreation June 11, 2010

Approved by the Recreation Commission June 16, 2010