

Minutes

BOARD/COMMISSION: Recreation

DATE: September 15, 2010

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:31 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:29 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Girsch,
Commissioners Schumann, Rosley,
Dywer,

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

ABSENT: Commissioners Noel,
Cornwell, Cavanagh

ALSO PRESENT: Recreation Director
Pekarek, Trustee Cooper

Call to Order

Chairman Girsch called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m..

Public Comments

None.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2010 Meeting of the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Pekarek stated the minutes were still under review and would be placed on the agenda at the next scheduled meeting.

Standing Reports

Manager – Matt Pekarek

Mr. Pekarek reported that August started bad, but improved in the second half of the month. 9 hole play was down 5% from 2009 and 18 hole play was up 4%. He stated that competition among area courses continues.

Commissioner Rosley questioned if there is a particular target market to whom the Village Links advertises the 9 hole course. Mr. Pekarek stated there are many customer groups and different strategies are used for each group. Weekend play targets employed golfers, while weekday play is more geared towards seniors, juniors, and women. General discussion took place over the demand on the golf market and the role the economy has had on it. Mr. Pekarek stated the weather has also affected the number of rounds played. The condition of the Village Links is superior to most area courses because of a good maintenance program, hard work by staff, and benefits from the 2003 golf course renovation.

Mr. Pekarek reported on ways that the course renovation improvements impacted conditions in 2010. He also reported on key maintenance practices including hand watering, rolling greens to reduce mowing stress, and aerating when appropriate. General discussion took place over the maintenance of the golf course and the different strategies to use to keep the turf in good condition throughout the golfing season. Mr. Pekarek stated the Village Links will be experimenting with a new aeration pattern this year in an effort to improve the turf and hopefully garner a faster recovery. He stated he would keep the Commissioners updated on the progress of the recent aeration. Commissioner Dwyer questioned if the Village Links has sent out any information regarding the condition of the course compared to other courses in the area. Mr. Pekarek stated this has been done in the newsletter and the e-blast however he has not found a good way to mention the severity of conditions at other courses in a respectful manner.

Financial – Commissioner Rosley

Commissioner Rosley stated last month was the busiest month of the summer, and that operating profit was \$100,000 more than the previous year. The pro shop was the same when compared to the previous year. Food service was slightly better than the previous year. Year-to-date Park expenses were up nearly \$12,000 from the previous year. When asked about the increase in Parks expense Mr. Pekarek explained that most of the additional cost was due to a wetland delineation at Lambert Lake required by the County. General discussion took place regarding the operating profit and the impact of green fee discounting.

Trustee Liaison – Peter Cooper

Trustee Cooper reported that the building, zoning, and safety codes are in the process of being updated. He stated that the changes will be minor. They will include a restriction limiting the length of time holiday decorations can be left up.

Trustee Cooper provided an update regarding the COD signage concerns and stated the number one issue was to address the safety of the new construction. An intergovernmental agreement had been in place but that agreement was cancelled by the college earlier this year, leaving code enforcement in doubt.

Lastly Trustee Cooper stated the Village is working toward purchasing the old Marathon gas station property on the corner of Main and St. Charles Road for about \$590,000. The Village would revitalize the property for private redevelopment to create a functional aesthetic entry into the Village.

Chairman Girsch questioned how the new code and maintenance rules will be monitored. Trustee Cooper stated this will be monitored mostly by resident complaints and staff will issue more warnings than tickets.

Steering Committee Update

Commissioner Schuman invited any members in the Recreation Commission to be a part of the Steering Committee as the meetings progress. He provided information on the short term and long term goals that the Committee has been discussing. He asked the Recreation Commission for a motion to recommend to the Village Board that a non-binding Request for Information on Outsourcing Village Links Food Service be issued to gauge interest from potential food service contractors. He stated the Steering Committee has talked with a number of vendors. A non binding request for information will not obligate the Village in any way. Commissioner Dwyer questioned how many vendors the Steering Committee is looking to work with. General discussion took place over the difference between an RFI and an RFP. Commissioner Schumann stated the number will depend on the number of vendors that choose to contact the Village.

Mr. Pekarek stated that it is customary to include language in any Request for Bid or Request for Proposal that gives the Village the right to reject any or all submittals and to always accept the proposal that is in the best interest of the Village. Discussion took place regarding this type of request and what tool and language would be the best strategy to use. Trustee Cooper stated in order for this issue to come in front of the Trustees it must first come through with a recommendation from the Recreation Commission.

(Trustee Cooper excused himself and left the meeting while this discussion was taking place)

Commissioner Schuman moved that the Recreation Commission recommend to the Village Board that a non-binding Request for Information on Outsourcing Village Links Food Service be issued. Commissioner Rosley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dwyer questioned why this motion was before the Recreation Commission, while all of the issues that prompted the formation of the Steering Committee remain unresolved. Commissioner Schumann stated this was a short term goal and will fill into the long term plan that the Steering Committee will be working on in upcoming meetings. The Long term has not been discussed as much as the short term, the status right now is still in the research phase and Commissioner Cornwell has been researching information to bring to discussion in the future.

Commissioner Dwyer questioned the short term goals. Commissioner Schuman said that the short term goal was to increase food service profit. Commissioner Dwyer questioned if anything has changed in the last 3 months regarding this topic. Commissioner Rosley stated research has been done on golf courses that have outsourced food service to determine the feasibility that this would have at the Village Links. He also stated in addition to Taphouse Grill, the Steering Committee has talked with other food service vendors that have an interest in operating the Village Links food service. Commissioner Schumann stated the purpose of this motion was to gather more information.

Chairman Girsch said that the data reported in the Steering Committee minutes did not look very significant. She expressed her concerns with the examples provided and stated it is hard to compare these to other vendors and facilities with the Village Links own facilities.

General discussion took place regarding the information presented from the Steering Committee. Commissioner Dwyer expressed his concerns with the information presented and stated, based on the data, the amount of revenue may not outweigh the costs.

Commissioner Rosley stated this is not costing the Village any money so he was in favor of exploring more information through a RFI to see if any interest is taken from food service vendors. He stated this could not hurt the Village because currently the Village does not make any money in food service so any increase would be a good idea.

Mr. Pekarek expressed three concerns. First, he felt that the Steering Committee was at a disadvantage operating without Village Links staff. Commissioner Schuman said that staff had been invited to participate but had elected not to do so. Mr. Pekarek said that staff was eager to participate and that in June he had provided Commissioner Cornwell with a list of staff that he felt should be on the Steering Committee, but was told that Commissioner Cornwell would prefer to have the Steering Committee work for a while without staff input. He referenced the Steering Committee created for the golf course renovation and how well that went because of the involvement of staff on the committee.

Second, he said that he knows that the information on area golf course profitability reported in the Steering Committee minutes is inaccurate. He would like to see discrepancies between the information that he has and that collected by the Steering Committee be reconciled. He said that by comparing information, both the staff and the Steering Committee could develop a better understanding of the facts.

Third, he said that the Village Links business has several pressing needs that need to be resolved with the development of a facility plan. Staff would like to develop a plan and identify projects that can be implemented immediately. Projects need to be prioritized so that work can be planned and accomplished efficiently. Staff needs the help of the Steering Committee on these issues and would like to present them to the Steering Committee so the Steering Committee understands the issues involved.

Commissioner Rosley stated that the purpose of the Steering Committee was to gather proposals and present these proposals to staff and see if they could work by analyzing all of the numbers and plans presented. He stressed the need to not use other golf courses as examples but to base the proposals on formal proposals based on what the Village Links could offer. The first step was gathering proposals and the second step would be for staff to analyze the proposals.

Commissioner Rosley stated that the food service operation has not changed in many years. In the short term he was in favor of food service vendors presenting information to the Village.

Commissioner Dwyer stated that the food service sector may fit in the short term plan, but this is only one component of the many issues that face the Village Links and that the short term could be addressed in more ways than the food service benefits costs.

Chairman Girsch stated that she was surprised the Steering Committee was asking for an RFI and that it did not seem that the Steering Committee was following the mission statement drafted by Mr. Pekarek and approved by the Recreation Commission. She expressed her concerns with the short and long term goal making process and questioned if the long term goals should be formulated first and then short term goals assigned once the long term vision was created. Commissioner Schuman questioned why no input was given from other Recreation Commission members since these meetings have been conducted for over 3 months.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosley, Schuman

Nays: Commissioners Girsch, Dwyer

Motion failed 2-2.

Commissioner Schuman said that he had a written proxy from Commissioner Cornwell in favor of the motion. No one present knew if proxies should or could be considered. The motion was not on the agenda and other Commissioners had not been offered the option of voting by proxy.

Mr. Pekarek stated his opinion that the Steering Committee and Recreation Commission need to work together to reach a consensus. He said that split votes and conflicting information does not serve the Village Board well, putting the Board in the difficult position of having to decide which facts are accurate and which recommendation is best. He suggested working together to develop a consensus recommendation.

Commissioner Rosley questioned why Mr. Pekarek would not want as much information from potential food service vendors as possible. Mr. Pekarek said that in order to get good information from vendors, the Village needs to make decisions regarding the facility. Once priorities are established, vendors would be in a position to provide worthwhile information. Mr. Pekarek felt that the Steering Committee should develop recommendations on a variety of facility related issues that would significantly impact the way that food service vendors would respond.

Commissioner Dwyer was in favor of hearing more information regarding food service but he was interested in seeing how this fits into the long term plan and that other short term ideas may also need to be addressed and also questioned if this is a top priority issue.

Chairman Girsch stated that this is an issue that can be revisited and will be an ongoing discussion.

Storm Water Detention System

Mr. Pekarek stated due to time constraints he would make his presentation on the Storm Water Detention System at a future meeting.

Announcements and Other Business

Chairman Girsch stated the next scheduled meeting will be held on October 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Adjournment

Chairman Girsch asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Schumann motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Dwyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Submitted by: Chris Ragona

Reviewed and edited by Matt Pekarek, Recreation Director October 14, 2010

Approved by the Recreation Commission October 20, 2010