

**PARK RIDGE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 Sibley Avenue

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 3, 2010

7:30 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS**

**PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Jim O'Brien, President  
Richard Brandt  
David Herman  
Marty Maloney  
Stephen Vile

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Mary Wynn Ryan  
Rick Biagi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ray Ochromowicz, Executive Director  
Christine Berman, Superintendent of Business & Finance  
Lori Lovell Knouse, Superintendent of Recreation  
Terry Wolf, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds  
Kathie Hahn, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations  
Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Thomas G. Hoffman, Park District Attorney  
See Sign-in Sheet

President O'Brien called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:30 p.m. Assistant Lucarz took roll call.

**CITIZENS PRESENT WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

*Northwest Park – City Flood Issue/Future Plans*

Executive Director Ochromowicz said the City requested use of a portion of Northwest Park for storm water management. He said there are two things that are needed: 1) accommodations for the groups and users during the field construction; and 2) what would be the return and compensation for the diminished use of the park. He insists that the Park District have its own independent engineer to review all plans. Executive Director Ochromowicz said he is looking to sit down and discuss with City representatives soon and asked Commissioners if there are any other recommendations or concerns to be considered. President O'Brien mentioned that the City was thinking of using the area along Dee Road. Commissioner Vile believes that a retention pond would destroy the integrity of the fields. After some discussion, Attorney Hoffman wondered how deep the retention pond will be at any given time due to liability, safety and indemnity issues. Commissioner Brandt believes the City should consider placing storm sewers in the worst areas and does not think using Northwest Park is a solution.

### *Future of Oakton Pool*

Executive Director Ochromowicz said he understands that the future and decision of Oakton Pool has a lot of emotion attached to it and also understands this has been a topic that has been around for some time. The data suggests there is more swimming water in Park Ridge than the population of 37,000 people needs; and the demand to use that water does not support the number of pools we have right now because we can see that by the usage, costs and expense. Executive Director Ochromowicz believes the prudent thing to do is to close Oakton Pool. It is the logical pool to close because it has the most structural issues, lowest attendance, most expensive to operate and produces the least revenue. His recommendation is to close Oakton Pool after the 2010 season or earlier should the facility experience a significant mechanical or structural failure. Some discussion ensued on capital expenses.

Executive Director Ochromowicz said the second recommendation is to authorize the design and cost estimates for improvements to Centennial Pool. He reviewed his recommendation and stated that the District has the potential to have something designed and improved without going to referendum.

Park Ridge Resident Barry Dayton addressed the Park Board with his concerns on closing Oakton Pool. He believes Oakton Pool is the only water we have in Park Ridge that meets international competition standards and without a 50-meter swimming pool we are not a top ranked park district. He believes this pool attracts a large adult population, there is a need to have this pool for the athletes and the facility benefits from the community. Resident Dayton said it would be short sided to close Oakton Pool; it is a pool that gives the Park District a known identity throughout the state.

Commissioner Brandt asked what the costs are to rehabilitate Oakton Pool. Executive Director Ochromowicz said the 2005 study indicates that Oakton Pool has the most issues, but the study did not identify costs. Some discussion ensued on the pool's structural issues and past referendums. Commissioner Maloney asked if Commissioners will be voting on these two recommendations. Executive Director Ochromowicz said it his intention to list recommendation one (Oakton Pool) on the next board meeting agenda and the second recommendation is not considered as urgent but needs to be worked into the budget. After further discussion, President O'Brien said he agrees in principle on both recommendations and agrees that we need a better pool in this town and Centennial is the place, but was wondering if we should keep Oakton open while Centennial is under construction. Commissioner Maloney believes closing Oakton is the right move and would like to see a better Centennial, but questions the costs and believes the parking lot will need to be considered. After some discussion on expansion of Centennial Pool and the design process, Commissioners asked for the recommendations to be addressed at the June Regular Board Meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

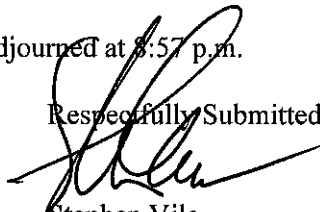
Commissioner Maloney, on behalf of the Park Ridge Soccer, thanked the Park District Parks Crew, for their assistance on the Memorial Day soccer tournament.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:57 p.m., President O'Brien moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maloney and passed by a voice vote. Motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen Vile  
Secretary

Recorded By: Maryanne Lucarz, Administrative Assistant