

River Forest Park District Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting January 11, 2016, 6:00 PM

Judith McDevitt, Observer

The meeting was held at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue.

Present: Commissioners Russ Roloff (President), Molly Hague (Vice President), Beth Dunne, and Peter Kuzmich. Executive Director Michael Sletten and 7 attendees were also present.

President Roloff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Commissioners approved: the Board Minutes of December 14, 2015; December 12-31 disbursements of \$4,955.09; December 12-31 customer disbursements of \$500; and January 1-11, 2016 disbursements of \$39,765.97.

River Forest Community Sustainability Report - Gary Cuneen, Executive Director of [Seven Generations Ahead](#), presented an update on progress toward the [2014 PlanItGreen](#) sustainability goals to support community solar power, waste reduction, and transportation initiatives for the Village. Progress highlights include District 90's grant to install solar panels on all three schools, progress on zero waste through school and residential composting programs, reductions in water use, and increased public transportation ridership.

[River Forest Sustainability Committee](#) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Proposal – Although the Park District already has implemented some recommended practices such as mulching clippings back into the grass, the Sustainability Committee recommended that the District establish a formal sustainable lawn maintenance policy. Such a policy would define responsibilities, tasks, and rules for village lawn care managers and identify IPM as the preferred strategy for pest control. Under IPM, non-chemical controls are used ahead of chemical controls. Pesticides and fertilizers are used only after proper testing and analysis, with the least toxic alternatives used first and accompanied by signage notifying the public.

Discussion - Overall, the purpose of adopting IPM would be to systematize practices and improve transparency, with the focus being on providing natural care in all general use areas. However, 75% of Park District land is athletic fields, where acceptance of weeds may be lower. Public education such as the Chicago Park Department's messaging that "dandelions tell you this park is safer for you and your kids" may be helpful. The next step will be to refer the proposal to Park Department staff to evaluate IPM feasibility and sustainability. Possibly the Village could incorporate the IPM into its operations as well.

Park Services reported that the dryers for the platform tennis courts seem to be working well. The ice rink may not be usable this winter because premature skating chopped up the liner before construction was completed. The embankment trees overhanging the tennis courts and batting cages at Keystone Park have been removed. Brush removal at the Forest and Iowa Triangle is complete in preparation for wildflower planting in the spring.

Recreation Services reported that a full winter schedule is in the offing, with ballet, tap and jazz classes for children age 3-7, Lego classes for children ages 4-7, 5-6, and 7-12, fitness classes for adults (yoga, karate, Pilates, Latin dance, basketball), and athletic programs for ages 2-3 through 8th grade (recreational basketball, girls volleyball, softball pitching clinic, basketball skills and games, multi-sports, and floor hockey). The two special events for the winter will be a Pixie tea party January 31 for children ages 4-10 and a "Rock-In" at Roosevelt Middle School January 22, 6:45-9:30. Platform tennis league play began January 10, with 1 men's and 2 women's leagues participating. On January 19th the District will hold a round table with the platform tennis groups at the Keystone Center to discuss policies with upcoming site expansion. The Platform Tennis Committee will also meet to discuss structure, roles, bylaws and upcoming socials for the leagues.

Administration and Finance reported that in December two Certificates of Deposit matured for \$102,366.96 and \$101,459.67. Both were renewed for one year at .30% APY.

The next WSSRA meeting is January 12, 2016, 5:00 PM at the WSSRA offices in Franklin Park.

The next Parks Foundation meeting is January 18, 2016, 6:30 PM at The Depot.

There were no Village Collaboration Committee or Board Reports.

Old Business

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on January 25th, 6 PM, to review qualifications and select possible architects for the platform tennis expansion so they can be interviewed at the February Board Meeting if needed. The layout and future paddle hut location needs to be determined by April if the new courts are to be ready by September. There was no report on the Depot Addition Project.

New Business

The Board Policies and Procedures Manual has not been revised in 3 years. The Board [Agenda Packet](#) for the January 11 meeting includes the ordinance code document of regulations and restrictions governing the use of the park system of the River Forest Park District with proposed update changes tracked in red. Notable among the changes is a new provision limiting public comments at Board meetings to 3 minutes.

Mike Sletten was appointed as the Board's representative to the 2016 WSSRA Board, with Ross Roloff designated the Alternate Representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting of the River Forest Park District will be on Monday, February 8, at 6:00 PM.