

The January 16, 2008 meeting of the Dundee Township Park District Board of Commissioners held at the Randall Oaks Golf Course Clubhouse was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Jim Bonkoski. Commissioners responding to roll call were: John Meschewski, Erin Peterson, Craig Rakow and Jim Bonkoski. Frank Scarpelli was absent for roll call but arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Bonkoski asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for: Approval of December 19, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes, Budget Report, Payment of Bills, and January Personnel List. Rakow made a motion with a second by Meschewski to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Citizens to be Heard

None.

Frank Scarpelli arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Director's Report

1. IPRA Conference – Executive Director Tom Mammoser stated that the IPRA conference will be held next week Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Hyatt in Chicago. Approximately 20 staff and Board members will be attending the conference. Ten staff will attend pre-conference workshops on Thursday. The regular education components of the conference will begin on Friday. He hopes staff will have a chance to visit vendors at the conference related to ADA access issues. At the last Board Meeting discussion took place relative to having an assessment done of the District's parks and facilities for ADA purposes. Mammoser also hopes staff will also talk with representatives of recreation software companies at the conference.
2. Tri-Cities Little League Meeting Review – Mammoser explained that a meeting was held last Tuesday night with the Tri-Cities Little League Board. Mammoser, Scarpelli, Meschewski, Assistant Director Jim Miller, Athletic Division Manager Hank Faulkner, and Recreation Supervisor Ken Saveley represented the District at the meeting and approximately 20 representatives from the Tri-Cities Board attended the meeting. Mammoser began the meeting by reviewing the relationship between the Little League and the Park District over the past 15 years. In 1993, the League asked the District for a 20 year lease on 20 acres of property and stated they would construct a complex and fields for an estimated cost of \$300,000. The project did not happen. In 2001 the District eliminated the original agreement and entered into a new agreement. The Park District paid for the construction of two fields and the League was responsible for completing the concession stand. The District has met annually with the League to assess their needs. The District has spent approximately \$180,000 in direct costs at the site not including labor costs. Discussion took place at the meeting regarding what the League needs to do before the District makes any decisions on further expenditures for the upcoming season. The League needs to develop a long term vision for the site. Previously, discussion took place about

possibly reducing the major league field into a smaller diamond. The League has also talked about wanting another t-ball field. The District will consider going in either direction but needs to know the League's final wishes for the site. Mammoser stated that over the years the League has expressed that they want as many of their participants as possible playing at Randall Oaks Park to create a sense of community for the participants in the program and enhance concession revenue. Discussion took place at the meeting regarding a 5th field and there were differences of opinion between the League's Board on that issue. It became evident that the Board members are not on the same page with certain issues. The League asked if the District would be installing lights and Scarpelli told them that lights are not an interest of the Park District. Scarpelli stated that the amenities at the District's fields are being compared to those of surrounding area ball field complexes. It was concluded at the meeting that one additional field at the complex would help the League's situation more than lights on all fields would help. Another point of discussion was whether a t-ball field needs to be of the same quality as the other fields. The final result of the meeting is that Tri-Cities needs to develop a plan for the Randall Oaks Park site and convey their wishes to the District. Ken Saveley is the District representative with the League and will keep in contact with the League. Mammoser stated that it was a good meeting and everyone left on a positive note. The League Board members will work on a unified approach to the future.

President's Report

Scarpelli asked Commissioners Meschewski and Peterson if they were comfortable with the District's budget process or if they felt they needed a workshop in order to gain more insight into the process. Meschewski stated that he met with Mammoser regarding the budget process right after he was elected and feels comfortable at this point. Peterson agreed that she is also comfortable with the process.

Scarpelli suggested that possibly the District should put a line item in its budget to give money to the Boys and Girls Club. Mammoser agreed and stated that the District gave \$75,000 to the Club this year which came out of the Recreation Fund. There will be a similar amount put in next year's budget. The Club needs to sustain itself and develop a donor base. The District's role in supporting the Club has been significant.

Mammoser stated that the new fitness equipment has been delivered. The Fitness Center will be closed Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. until Saturday morning to install the new equipment. The old equipment will be removed and the carpet will be cleaned, then the new equipment will be installed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Township Dial-A-Ride Agreement – Mammoser explained that a copy of the Dundee Township Dial-A-Ride Agreement was included in the Board packets. There have been some changes made to the document since then. For approximately 20 years the Park District provided a

transportation program through Pace for seniors and disabled. It was a dial-a-ride service that utilized a Pace vehicle as well as a 16 passenger van owned by the District. The District hired the staff, paid for the program and received a subsidy from Pace. The subsidy from Pace was reduced over time. Three years ago the District was subsidizing the program by \$70,000 per year. The District was attempting to shift out of the program because a transportation program is not within the scope of the District's services. The District did research and was able to get other communities in Dundee Township to assist with the cost of the program. During that investigative process, the District became aware that the District's insurance company had a concern about liability because the transportation program did not involve recreation. Because of that, the District would not have tort immunity. There could be catastrophic results to the District if there were a major lawsuit. With that knowledge, the District informed the Township that the District would cease to operate the service at the end of 2006. The Township developed a coalition of groups which included all the other municipalities along with the Park District and the Township to take over the transportation program. At that time the Township became aware of a new program that was going to be implemented by Kane County called Ride in Kane that would provide a greater amount of financial support. The Park District agreed to contribute 30,000-\$40,000 toward that program. Ride in Kane was supposed to start at the beginning of 2007. It was delayed because of issues in Springfield. The District ended up assisting with the funding of an interim program that the Township coordinated with Pace. There has not been an elimination of service during this time period. The Township gave the District an agreement for the new Ride in Kane program that was to begin the end of January, 2008. The District was informed last night that the program has again been delayed. So the need for the District to act on this agreement tonight is not urgent. Also, in reviewing the agreement Scarpelli has expressed concern that by signing the agreement for transportation with the other municipalities, the District may become party to a lawsuit that would still have the same potential impact as before. The District can still contribute money to fund the program but should not sign an agreement unless the District will be indemnified against liability. The Township wants to execute another six month extension with the municipalities to continue the program as it currently exists in order to give Kane County time to implement its new program. Mammoser recommended that the District continue to fund the dial-a-ride program at approximately the same level as 2007 with a maximum of \$40,000. He would not move ahead with the agreement because of the potential liability. Scarpelli suggested that the Dundee Township Park District be removed from any future transportation service agreement. Mammoser agreed and stated that we should ask the Township to come to the Park District on an annual basis and ask for financial support for the program. The District will continue to put money in its budget for this cost.

Executive Session

At 7:48 p.m., Rakow made a motion with a second by Meschewski to move that the Board convene into Executive Session under sections 2(c)(1), 2(c)(5), 2(c)(11), and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meeting Act for the purpose of discussing personnel, land acquisition, litigation, and reviewing prior meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 to 0.

At 8:28 p.m., Meschewski made a motion with a second by Bonkoski to move that the Board reconvene into regular session. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Additional New Business

Meschewski made a motion with a second by Peterson that the Dundee Township Park District will support the Dial-A-Ride Service and the Ride in Kane Program for the year 2008 with a financial contribution not to exceed \$30,000 when invoiced by the Dundee Township, but only if the Dundee Township Park District's name is removed from the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Dial-A-Ride and the Ride in Kane Program for Dundee Township and it is understood that the Dundee Township Park District is not a party to said Agreement. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Bonkoski made a motion with a second by Meschewski to approve the Executive Session Minutes from December 19, 2007. The motion passed 4 to 0 with Rakow abstaining.

Adjourn Meeting

Meschewski made a motion with a second by Bonkoski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.