

**Fox Valley Special Recreation Association
Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
September 25, 2006
7:00pm
Oswegoland Park District
Boulder Point
0 Boulder Hill Pass
Montgomery, IL**

CALL TO

ORDER: Chairman Rose Smilgys called the meeting to order at 6:55pm and directed the Executive Director to call roll.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Rose Smilgys, Chairman	Fox Valley Park District
Sheavoun Lambillotte, Vice Chairman	Geneva Park District
Robert Thomson, Secretary	St. Charles Park District
William McAdam, Asst. Sec'y	Oswegoland Park District
Carolyn J. Nagle, Treasurer	Fox Valley Special Recreation Association
Michael Clark	Batavia Park District
Linda Cole	Fox Valley Park District
William Conner	St. Charles Park District
Alan Leard	Batavia Park District
Karen Pritchard	Alternate, Sugar Grove Park District
Eleanor Rzeminski	Sugar Grove Park District
Linda Wilson	Alternate, Oswegoland Park District
Susan Vander Veen	Alternate, Geneva Park District

*arrived after roll call was taken

Absent:

Greg Repede	Sugar Grove Park District
Mark Slover	Oswegoland Park District
Steve Messerli	Fox Valley Park District
Charles Emma	Geneva Park District

Others present:

Peter Pope	FVSRA Superintendent of Recreation
Sarah Reinert	FVSRA, Camp/Special Event Coordinator
Justin Martincic	FVSRA Intern, University of St. Francis
Jennifer Lunz	FVSRA Intern, Illinois State University
Ginny Pavesich	FVSRA Office Manager

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Sarah Reinert	FVSRA, Camp/Special Event Coordinator
Justin Martincic	FVSRA Intern, University of St. Francis
Jennifer Lunz	FVSRA Intern, Illinois State University

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Clark made a motion to approve Consent Agenda, Items A through K, with two amendments to the minutes as follows:

“Board Member Clark pointed ~~out~~^{out} that there have been interpretations, throughout the state, of 5-8 funding uses for anything related to ADA including services outside the boundaries of FVSRA; however, the statute is written for funds use, via programming and services through FVSRA special recreation associations. 5-8 funding is not an individual park district allocation for tax relief, but is been use for such purposes by park districts and that was not the original intention of the legislation; and

a correction to the roll call vote on the approval of the FVSRA and West Aurora School District Agreement to reflect that Board Member Messerli abstained from voting. William Conner seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Executive Director provided an informational flyer on the documentary film "You're Not Alone," airing on WTTW Channel 11 on Sunday, October 22, at 6pm. This documentary presents three families from the Chicago area who have a family member with special needs.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Special 5-8 Funding Policy Status

The Executive Director reported that she received responses regarding the FVSRA Use of the Special Recreation Levy Policy (dated August 28, 2006) from Board Member Repede, Board Member Mike Clark, St. Charles Park District Executive Director James Breen, and Geneva Park District Executive Director Steve Persinger. The Executive Director is not looking for a decision regarding the policy at this time, but rather a review of the comments received.

Compilation of comments received:

- 1) Does the language in "Generally Eligible Expenditures" #8, and the language in "Points to help clarify the application of the Section 5-8 levy" #3 allow for funds to be used even if FVSRA has no immediate or long-range plans to use the facility(ies)?
- 2) A policy which requests a three-year plan for proposed use of SRA levy funds is believed to be excessive and it was recommended to request an annual plan for proposed use of SRA levy funds.
- 3) Remove items #2, #4, and #5 in "Points to help clarify the application of the Section 5-8 levy" because those items are a matter of opinion.
- 4) "Generally Eligible Expenditures" should read "Generally Eligible Expenditures included, but are not limited to".
- 5) Deletion of section "Expenditures Suggesting Legal Review" which should be the responsibility of the participating agency not FVSRA. The Executive Director commented that was what was intended.
- 6) It was suggested that Item 1 under Policy Guidelines include any and all ADA structural improvements that will benefit the Park Districts' resident taxpayers.
- 7) It was suggested that Item 3 under Policy Guidelines include any and all ADA structural improvements that will benefit the Park District's resident taxpayers.
- 8) It was suggested that the Member Park District provide its own letter to document its project using 5-8 funds, rather than using the sample letter FVSRA provided in the policy.
- 9) 5-8 funds are, in theory, the "property" of the SRA because such funding is available to park districts that are a member of an SRA.
- 10) It was suggested that the policy include a system of checks and balances and an interpretation through a formal documented process to include expert opinion by trained/educated individual(s) in the special recreation field. With each Member Park District being accountable to its levy and with final authority on how it spends its funds, the documents would allow the Member Park District Board to make an informed decision on the project.

Other comments made during the Board Meeting:

- 1) Was part of the intent of the legislation to provide for ADA items in parks and facilities, without knowing if it would be used by an individual with disabilities, and one who does not participate as an FVSRA participant?
- 2) Can a Member Park District have a 5-8 funded project in a park facility which FVSRA does not currently use as a program site, or without it particularly benefiting FVSRA?
- 3) 5-8 funding was to offer some relief to Member Park Districts who are part of an SRA, but inclusion services to an individual is very tuned to that person, rather than receiving services from an FVSRA program.
- 4) An example of appropriate use of 5-8 funding was a park swing installed in Geneva Park District that was beneficial to a specific person, but is also beneficial to the community of Geneva. This particular project involved the FVSRA staff for recommendations on equipment.

- 5) The sample letters in the Policy seem to indicate an approval process and Geneva Park District does not want FVSRA Board approval on its decisions for 5-8 funded projects. The FVSRA Executive Director commented that the sample letters were included in the policy from a “review and file” awareness perspective, not as an approval process.
- 6) Ultimately, each Member Park District is responsible for how it spends 5-8 money.
- 7) There were comments made regarding Member Park District facilities and their availability for FVSRA use. FVSRA Executive Director takes issue when FVSRA requests are not met due to time constraints, based on the philosophy that FVSRA is the Park District, and the Park District is FVSRA; FVSRA participants are Member Park District residents. Alternate Board Member Vander Veen commented that park districts juggle user requests and needs and space allocations. Board Member McAdam commented that Oswegoland Park District has requested facilities and incurred expense on behalf of FVSRA. Board Member Leard stated that if FVSRA is not getting the times/facilities it needs, then FVSRA should provide the data showing that, so the issue can be addressed. Board Member Lambillotte does not see the needs/requests of FVSRA not being met in the Geneva Park District.
- 8) The reading of the 5-8 Policy does not seem to reflect the intent of the legislation. The *revised* Policy seems to be more detailed than the direction taken initially.
- 9) Board Member Clark stated that due to the variety of requests, it would be good to go to the experts, ie FVSRA, to get input, then go back to Member Park District Boards. This provides a checks and balance approach. The funding is secured because of a levy, but the reason it can be levied is that a park district is a member of an SRA. Board Member Clark desires a policy because in the long run, legislators and tax objectors could scrutinize the spending and its purposes.
- 10) Board Chairman Smilgys believes that the Policy Guidelines section of the Policy, detailing four steps, is quite clear.
- 11) Board Member McAdam believes that FVSRA needs to set a policy, based on membership in the FVSRA Joint Agreement; and the policy should be decided as a group, for the benefit of all residents in the Member Park Districts who have special needs.
- 12) Board Member Clark commented that the Member Park Districts of FVSRA need to come together through the joint agreement that ‘we are one.’
- 13) Alternate Board Member Pritchard questioned that if there is no consensus on a project, why does there need to be an approval?
- 14) Board Member McAdam would like the FVSRA Board to be comfortable with the 5-8 funding of projects and policy, prior to needing to deal with a “burning” issue.
- 15) Board Member Lambillotte stated that Geneva Park District is not expecting to not come within the expectations of the policy, but that in the future, perhaps in years, the Policy could be interpreted differently by a Member Park District.
- 16) Board Chairman Smilgys stated that just as the law has been interpreted differently, the Policy has been interpreted differently, and the policy can be revised.
- 17) It was decided to create a committee which purpose will be to write a policy which is agreed upon by all Member Park Districts. Chairman Smilgys asked the following individuals to be on the committee: Board Member Clark, Board Member Conner, Board Member McAdam, Board Member Lambillotte, and Board Member Repede. Also asked to join the committee will be Geneva Park District Executive Director Steve Persinger and Chairman Smilgys will also be on the committee.
- 18) The committee will meet on October 23, at 6pm, just prior to the FVSRA Board Meeting.

B. Strategic Planning Proposal Update

The Executive Director provided information on two groups as possibilities to be hired to do strategic planning for FVSRA. One group is Leisure Vision (Ron Vine, President) and the other is University of St. Francis (Dr. S. Sklar) in partnership with Solutions Resource Center (Bonnie Covelli, Director). The Executive Director reported that Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) has been pleased with the work done thus far by Leisure Vision. The final report will be provided to NWSRA in November. This was the first project Leisure Vision provided to an SRA. Leisure Vision has two components to its process, which are quoted separately. The Executive Director stated that there are two issues to consider. One is the time frame availability and while FVSRA has needed this done for some time, if Leisure Vision would be selected, the money is not available in the FY06-07 Budget for the whole process to be completed. Options could be to move ahead with the whole process, stretch out the process over

more time, or do a portion of the process with the money budgeted in FY06-07 and the balance of the project in the FY07-08. The Executive Director is not making a recommendation at this time.

Board Member comments/questions included:

- 1) obtain comparable costs from both sources;
- 2) What will be provided in the final report FVSRA would receive? What will it tell the FVSRA Board/FVSRA?
- 3) It was suggested to complete the entire process with one provider.

B. FVSRA and West Aurora School District Agreement

Board Member Clark made a motion to approve the FVSRA and West Aurora School District Agreement. Linda Cole seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2007-2008 Member Contribution Request

The Executive Director reported while securing EAVs of FVSRA Member Park Districts in order to prepare the FY07-08 Member Contribution Request, it was discovered that some Member Park Districts use "Rate Setting EAVs" and others use "Total EAVs." The Total EAV figure of each Member Park District will determine its percentage of Contribution against all Member Park Districts' Total EAVs combined. The Contribution Request for FY07-08 is a 10% increase, compared to an 18% increase in last year's request. The 10% increase includes a \$60,000 contribution to the Capital Fund. Areas of impact are the salary pool, evaluation of medical health care benefits to consider HMOs, PPOs and PDRMA coverages, increase in hours of operation to include evenings and some Saturdays, and part-time staff to assist with front office duties. Prior to the roll call vote being taken, Board Member Leard asked why the FVSRA Board would approve revenue without first approving expenses. Board Member Conner explained that the Member Park Districts ask FVSRA to make the request in order that each Member Park District can include the FVSRA request in its levy.

Board Member Lambillotte made a motion to approve the request for FY07-08 Member Contribution Request. Linda Cole seconded. Roll Call Vote was taken, as follows:

Rose Smilgys	Yes
Sheavoun Lambillotte,	Yes
Robert Thomson	Yes
William McAdam	Yes
Michael Clark	Yes
Linda Cole	Yes
William Conner	Yes
Alan Leard	Yes
Steve Messerli	Absent
GregRepede	Absent
Karen Pritchard	Yes
Eleanor Rzeminski	Yes
Mark Slover	Absent
Linda Wilson	Yes
Charles Emma	Absent
Susan VanderVeen	Yes

Motion passed.

B. Dental, Life, Long Term Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Renewals

The Executive Director recommended that the FVSRA Board of Directors approve the Principal Life Insurance Company as the provider for Life, Long Term Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Dental insurance effective October 1, 2006. **Board Member Conner made a motion to approve Principal Life Insurance Company as the provider for Life, Long Term Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Dental insurance effective October 1, 2006. Board Member McAdam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Annual Recognition Banquet

The Executive Director reported that the Annual Recognition Banquet was a delightful evening including social hour, dinner, awards presentations, and dancing.

B. 30th Anniversary Celebration

"Island Getaway" is scheduled for Saturday, November 11th at the Vaughan Athletic Center. This celebration will include current and past participants, families, friends, Board Members, staff and volunteers.

C. Staff Retreat

The Executive Director announced that all FVSRA fulltime staff and interns will be participating in a retreat with the Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership Synergies affiliated with the George Williams Campus of Aurora University in Williams Bay, Wisconsin on September 27 and 28th. The focus of the retreat will be team building, personality assessment and team relationships.

D. Personnel Update

Justin Martincic from the University of St. Francis and Jennifer Lutz from Illinois State University began Therapeutic Recreation internships with FVSRA in September.

E. FY2005-06 Audit Process

Brian LeFevre, auditor with Sikich Group LLC, has requested the return of outstanding documents from several Board Members in order to finalize the audit for FY05-06. The audit presentation is currently scheduled for the FVSRA October 23, 2006 Board Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report is as presented in the Board Packet.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Staff Program Reports were included in the Board packet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Reinert, Camp/Special Event Coordinator, presented an overview of the 2006 "Shoot for the Stars" Summer Day Camp Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Sheavoun Lambillotte made a motion to adjourn. Robert Thomson seconded and motion passed unanimously. Chairman Smilgys adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.