

MINUTES

Carbondale Park District

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE CARBONDALE PARK DISTRICT HELD MONDAY, JULY 17, 2019 AT 5:30 PM AT THE CARBONDALE CIVIC CENTER

ROLL CALL: Upon Roll Call, the following commissioners were Present: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Suarez and Sergeev. Commissioner Absent: None. Staff present: Renfro, Childers, Day, Burns, Melzer and Legal Counsel, Mike Twomey. Staff Absent: Montgomery. Guests Present: Some guests were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by President Flowers to add approval to item VII (A). It was then moved by Commissioner Sergeev and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the amended agenda. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voting aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Sergeev and Suarez. Commissioner Absent: None. President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

ACTION TAKEN: The Agenda was approved

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Director Renfro announced there will be a Sunset Concert on Thursday July 18 at Turley Park.

CITIZENS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: Sandy Litecky, 603 W. Walnut owns 3 homes in Carbondale and asks that the Board vote to approve the Footprint refunding but is not in favor of the 5 year extension; Adams Loos 19 year resident of Carbondale urges the Board not to approve the 5 year extension calling it the "wrong cause of action"; Larry Weatherford 35 year business owner in Carbondale asks that the Board vote for the Footprint but against the 5 year extension; Dee Gordon, 606 W. Elm shares he is not in favor of the 5 year extension and urges the Board to vote against it; Chuck Paprocki of Carbondale shares, My name is Chuck Paprocki, I represent Carbondale Spring, a movement created by the people of Carbondale to promote a sustainable and self-reliant future. We want to address the issue of the merger of the Carbondale Park District and the City of Carbondale. We know that there are serious fiscal and legal matters at stake but we are not primarily concerned about that. Our mission is of vision and values. Carbondale for all its virtues, is one of the poorest towns in one of the poorest counties in Illinois. Given the macro issues of climate change and economic centralization, we need a plan for the city which is environmentally-sound and based on principles of self-reliance concerning food, shelter energy and healthcare. There are many local jobs that can be created industries if we are willing to make this happen. Carbondale Spring is developing a comprehensive plan to address these issues head-on. Therefore, as you continue your deliberations about a merger, I would like the Board and the City Council to consider the following: It appears to us that the current administration of the City of Carbondale and the Carbondale Park District are driven by two different visions of Carbondale's future and this difference can clearly be seen by their two different approaches on the northeast side of Carbondale. The City's vision seems to be limited to encouraging

more fast food restaurants and more policing. Conversely, the Park District holds up an example of much better ways to build community there. It provides the residents of the northeast side with what is arguably the most beautiful part in the city and it uses the park to provide a multitude of services. Carbondale Spring has approached the Park District about a plan to plant a fruit and nut tree food forest in Attucks Park and provide training to people about planting and harvesting food and learning how to prepare meals using whole foods. We found a willing and excited partner in Kathy Renfro who shared our values. Under her leadership, the Park District is dedicated to expanding and maintaining green space throughout the city. It is a willing partner with community groups who seek to preserve our natural environment. It also creates attractive spaces for children and families of Carbondale to enjoy and relax. The people of Carbondale can build a great future on such a vision. As such, the members of the Carbondale Spring encourage the members of the Park District Board and City Council to consider the best vision and values to support an environmentally sustainable and self-reliant future for our city. We are happy with what the Park District has been doing and we encourage you to do more of it. The Park District's service and vision of a better life is greatly appreciated by the people of Carbondale and we want to be sure that this vision is maintained whether or not the Park District remains independent or is merged with the City. Thank you for allowing us to address this important matter.

REPORTS OF PARK DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Administration and Finance Advisory Committee - - Director Renfro reported that the committee had met on June 17. Minutes included in the board packet.

Aquatic Center Advisory Committee - - This report to be given along with the Recreation Superintendents Report. No recent meetings were held.

Child Care Advisory Committee - - This report will be given during the Childcare Superintendent's report. No recent meetings were held

Golf Advisory Committee - - Golf Committee met on June 4, Minutes included in the board packet.

Grounds, Facilities & Recreation Advisory Committee - - This report to be given along with the Park Operations Superintendent Report. No recent meetings were held.

Treasurer's Report: No Report.

Directors Report: Director Renfro reports that the joint meeting between the Carbondale Park District and the City of Carbondale will be held Monday, August 12 at the regularly scheduled Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting. Please let me know if there are items you would like to be considered for the agenda. The Lights Fantastic Committee has begun to meet, the parade is set for December 7, 2019. Work continues on the Evergreen model; program curriculum and scheduling are being developed for Fall. We are also working with Unity Point School to try and enhance curriculum and English as a second language.

Staff is working to create a Food Forest planting plan. A community group is assisting with the renovation of the basketball and tennis courts at Attucks Park. Plans are underway to repaint the courts. The Super Splash Park was prepared for the season, big thanks to the Carbondale Fire Department for their assistance in filling the pool. The Director addressed the Leadership Carbondale Class on June 21, 2019. Staff is also working to secure a date and facilitator for a strategic planning workshop in early fall. Also interviews for the Golf Course Superintendent were held in June. The Park District is still seeking applications for this position.

Superintendent's Reports:

SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION: Jane Childers, Rec Superintendent, reported on the Aquatic and Recreation revenue during June. She also reported on the June Programming and Learn to Swim classes. Cyclones Swim Team continue practice Monday-Friday 7:30-10:00am, with dual meets June 18 & 25. Invitational June 29 and Championships July 27. We also were contacted by Coreen McDaniel asking for our assistance in updating Santa's House for the upcoming Holiday Season.

SUPERINTENDENT OF CHILDCARE: Superintendent Burns reports that there are currently 32 children enrolled at AWECC for June. AWECC held their Father's Day Party June 13 with 14 Dad's in attendance. AWECC Graduation took place at Hickory Ridge Golf Course on June 17. Swim Lessons also continue for the Month of June. Over at Kids Korner there are currently 57 children enrolled. Kids Korner Around the World Summer Program began June 3. When the children arrive in the morning they start Learning Zone which provides different curriculum each day to keep minds learning throughout the summer. There are also clubs available such as Cook A Munga, Let it Grow, Little Picassos, Just 4 Kix. Children learn about other countries through instruction and hands on activities and also take weekly fieldtrips, ending the week with Friday Swimming. Kids Korner also enjoyed their "Party at Turley" on June 7 where children and staff had ice cream and barbequed, then headed down to the Life Center for their first water play day.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARK MAINTENANCE: Randy Montgomery reports that mowing and trash pickup is being done as weather permits. At the Super Splash Park the ditch in the back of the berm on the south side has been extended to drain and a biological parricide has been applied to the ditch. Bleachers and tables were set-up in the park for the Cyclone's Invitational on June 29. Light bulbs were replaced in the locker rooms at the Life Center and toilet seats were replaced at AWECC. At Evergreen staff have been rewiring and placing lights on the light poles for JC Field, The poles were installed by Egyptian Electric Co-Op. At Attucks Park the splash pad is being cleaned and maintained routinely. The Mechanic continues to repair equipment when it comes through the shop. Superblock Baseball and Softball fields were dragged and lined for Carbondale Junior Sports Ballgames.

SUPERINTENDENT OF GOLF MAINTENANCE: Tyler Stierwalt reports June was filled with a total of 10 outings, which we were fortunate enough to squeeze in between the rain. June's excessive rainfall has made regular mowing a challenge. On June 12 the greens were sprayed with a fungicide and wetting agent mix.

SUPERINTENDENT OF GOLF OPERATIONS: Mike Day reported on Golf Operations revenue and rounds of golf comparisons for June. The video gaming machines and signage have arrived, all health department inspections/certifications have been completed and Men, Women, and Seniors league play continues. Lots of rain at one point in June 17 of the 25 days had rain but numbers were surprisingly good given the weather.

After all reports were given and all questions asked and answered it was moved by Commissioner Suarez and seconded by Commissioner Trimble to accept and place the reports on file. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioner voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Sergeev and Suarez. Commissioners Absent: None. President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

ACTION TAKEN: Reports to be placed on file.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was then moved by Commissioner Sergeev and seconded by Commissioner Suarez to approve the consent agenda as presented. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioner voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Sergeev and Suarez. Commissioners Absent: None. President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

ACTION TAKEN: The consent agenda was approved as printed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL SPEER FINANCIAL REFUNDING PARK BOND SERIES 2010: After long discussion and all questions regarding the 2010 Park Bond Series were addressed, it was moved by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Trimble to approve the footprint only without the 5 year extension. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioners voted aye: Adams and Trimble. Motion is lost.

It was then moved by Commissioner Suarez and seconded by Commissioner Sergeev to approve the foot print refunding to include the 5 year extension. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: Flowers, Suarez, Sergeev. Motion carries, President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL PARK CLOSING TIMES: Valerie Muhammad who lives across the street from Attucks Park expresses growing concern over late night patrons using the Park, her fear is that there are some illegal activities taking place after dark and urges the Board to close it's Parks earlier than the current closing time of 11:00 pm to combat this situation. Director Renfro suggests possibly new signage to add a visual deterrent. This item will be Discussed again at the August 12 Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: After reviewing Committee lists, Director Renfro verbalized a few additions to the

Grounds Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Suarez and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Advisory Committee list with said additions. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioners voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Sergeev, and Suarez. President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL FRIENDS OF CARBONDALE DOG PARK'S RAFFLE: After brief discussion and all questions were answered, It was moved by Commissioner Sergeev and seconded by Commissioner Suarez to approve the Friends of Carbondale Dog Park's Raffle. Upon Roll call vote, the following Commissioners voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Sergeev, and Suarez. President Flowers ordered the motion passed.

DISCUSSION/ UPCOMING AUGUST 12 MEETING WITH THE CITY OF CARBONDALE: Board Commissioners will meet August 12 at 5:30 to discuss regular business immediately followed by the joint meeting at 6:00. Items for the August 12 meeting to include Park Leases and discussion of merging operations.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Park Closing Times
2. 2020 Pay Plan

BOARD COMMENTS: Commissioner Suarez shares with the Board a few remarks she presented at the City Council Meeting on June 25:

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Dr. Carmen Suarez, a resident of Carbondale and recently appointed to the Carbondale Park District Board of Commissioners. I have also returned home this past year after an absence of several years for career opportunities. I raised my daughter here and now she also has returned, with my grandchild, happy also to return home. Home is where the heart is, and Carbondale is where my heart is. As I returned, I read with interest about meetings the Park District and The City Governmental Leadership were having about how to partner effectively, and then as elections approached, read with interest about the ballot measure. And the recent article in the Southern Illinoisan regarding the discussion by the City Council at it's recent retreat has prompted me to come this evening and share some thoughts. I do not represent the CPKD Board of Commissioners, only myself. There are 10 properties under the ownership and maintenance of the Carbondale Park District-READ. Then there are 4 properties owned by the City that the Park District has been maintaining for the City under a lease arrangement. They are....READ. Two of these leases have expired. Those of Turley Park and Tatum Heights Park. The Superblock Athletic Fields lease will expire in 2021 and Evergreen Park in 2066. It is important to note that the Park District for each of the terms of the leases has maintained these properties free of charge to the City. Second, as I understand it, the discussion of a

possible merger did not originate with the Park District. If the quote in the recent article of the Council Retreat is accurate, it is a mistaken statement---That the Park District approached the City with a possible merger discussion. Rather, as I understand it, my predecessors directed the Executive Director to approach her counterpart of the City to see if the City might be interested in renewing the leases and assisting with costs. Requested in that initial conversation was 150,000 annually. The City declined and together, both governmental units formed together Citizen Advisory Committee's to discuss options of how to best work together on behalf of our citizenry to best effect a collaborative partnership regarding management of the parks and assistance we might provide each other. These meetings were public meetings as I understand it, and were held from approximately spring to fall of 2018---last year. Many ideas were brainstormed during these meetings as I understand it, and one member of an Advisory Committee suggested exploring avenues of intergovernmental agreements, and used the term merger. I also understand that this idea has come up from time to time. The article also quotes my Commissioner Colleague who was present as saying that some are concerned that the City is attempting something that appears like a hostile-takeover. I believe I am one of the people to have provided that impression. At our last CPKD Board of Commissioners Meeting, when a general discussion of how to proceed with exploring the referendum question arose, I shared some concerns I had about how to frame and structure the discussions. The term I used was "unilateral". That we were not proceeding---yet---as cooperating and collegial partners, two separate and mutually respectful government entities, united in our efforts to continuously improve this great City we call home. What made me share this opinion are several things, and again reinforced by the article regarding the Council Retreat merger and discussion. First and foremost was the unilateral placement of the question on the ballot with no discussion with the leadership of the Park District and Board of Commissioners? Second, and important to me, was the unwillingness of City Leadership to participate in a League of Women Voters forum regarding the ballot measure prior to the election and ballot vote? Other issues of concern to me are the direct public statements that the Park District doesn't maintain the parks well, does not do programming well, that the City can do it better, etc. Further, both during candidate forums prior to the election, and if accurate in the recent article about the retreat comments, statements that a merger would lead to a reduction in staff either by layoff/termination and/or attrition were made. Additionally, there have been comments by leadership on the radio that one possibility is that the City would take over park and recreational facility maintenance and the Park District would pay the City to do so. What in particular stuck me about this idea, is, if I have understood correctly, that is precisely what the Park District approached the City about originally- to share the cost of the maintenance of the 4 City owned properties we currently maintain. And we currently continue to maintain 2 with no lease agreement in place. At this last CPKD Board Meeting, I then said I could lament what has gone on before, but that was unproductive. However, it was important to note the unilateral steps of the City and to request that henceforth, we approach the discussions as partners, as collaborators, and as colleagues. I wish to work to find common ground, and that action items be decided together and enacted together. For me, ideally, going forward hopefully looks like this:

1. That we not continue to do what amounts to as "bashing"- That we end the "Park District" doesn't do things right. We see so much negative governmental discourse at the federal and sometimes state level, we ought to model better communications and behaviors here at home.

I want my grandchild to see his home leadership model finding common ground through positive communications, ideas, and general civility. Case in point and one of the reasons I came here this evening, was, again if quoted accurately, the issue of implied double booking of the Super Block Fields. I did some research and we had scheduled one baseball tournament, bringing in out of town folks, something we all want I assume, plus had our home soccer teams holding regularly scheduled games. A request was made that the soccer games be moved, and staff felt that that was unnecessary as there is ample parking available to hold both. If in particular for the tournament, if an issue was walking the distances from one parking lot to another, with coolers, chairs, etc. Staff offered to set up drop off points near the relevant fields. The offer was declined. As a Commissioner, I consider it an appropriate and effective use of staff resources and the Superblock Fields to hold two sets of events as there is indeed plenty of space, plenty of parking, bathroom facilities, concession areas, etc. I would have liked to have seen a quick call to CPKD staff sharing that a concern had come to the City leadership, and giving the courtesy to CPKD staff to explain their decision making, the offer of the drop off set-up etc. What is the point of assuming mismanagement and sharing it in public without discussion with CPKD first?

2. As we go forward, I hope we do so as partners.

3. I agree, that discussions occur in public.

4. I really hope that we can all agree that we have short, medium, and long term relations and the discussion of how we might share resources, etc., the broader ballot question, is not our only business. We must do something about the expired leases and the upcoming lease ending in 2021 of the Superblock Fields currently maintained by CPKD. At our last meeting we directed our ED to contact her counterpart to set a meeting, including the CPKD attorney, to discuss the expired leases. This is a business matter that needs resolution.

I think the expired leases present us both with an excellent path forward- the ability to do a beta test of what it might look like for the City to manage established parks, in addition to other public lands it already does. And from my perspective, our 10 CPKD properties and in particular the relatively new Splash Park,--we can better use our limited resources, better serve our taxpayers, use their dollars more effectively, by redirecting our financial and staff resources used on leased properties towards what we own and start to address some of our fiscal needs and deferred maintenance. I look forward to working together with the goal we all share of making our home always better for us all and the citizens we all serve. Thank you for your time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: It is requested that the Board recess the meeting at 7:36 to go to Executive Session in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) regarding litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) regarding discussion of minutes

of meetings lawfully closed under this act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06.

MOTION TO RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: It was then moved by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Trimble to return to open session. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Flowers, Suarez, and Sergeev. President Flowers ordered the motion passed at 7:56.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business it was moved by Commissioner Suarez and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call, the following commissioners voted aye: Adams, Trimble, Sergeev, Flowers and Suarez. Commissioners Absent: None. President Flowers ordered the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.