

**DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2004**

The Des Plaines Park District Board of Commissioners convened into Executive Session on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at 9:45 p.m. in accordance with the Park District Code 70 ILCS 1205 Paragraph 120 Section 2 ©, subsection 1, 5 and 11 of the Open Meetings Act. Commissioners present were: President Yates, Haas, Grady and Brookman and Rosedale. Also present was Executive Director Hecker, Attorney Mac Donald, Superintendent of Recreation Mountcastle, Superintendent of Parks Cathey and Superintendent of Finance Miletic.

SEMINOLE BILLBOARD

The Executive Director updated the Board on efforts to seek a C-2 zoning change from R-1 with assistance from Windsor Outdoor. The property needs to be re-zoned in order to get a permit for the Billboard from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Windsor is assisting with the zoning change application (including paying for the survey work) that is planned to be submitted to the City of Des Plaines Zoning Board by March 26, 2004 with a public hearing then scheduled for April 26. Hecker indicated that he plans to coordinate this effort with Sixth Ward Alderman Tom Becker. Commissioners and staff reviewed the current approved billboard locations on the city map. Hecker reviewed the current proposal submitted by Windsor Outdoor and asked if there was interest in placing two signs at Seminole Park. Security issues and lighting concerns were discussed. The Executive Director requested a consensus to proceed with attempts for a zoning change. It was agreed by the Board to proceed to have the property re-zoned from R-1 to C-2.

Commissioner Brookman requested further information relative to the Park District owning and managing the billboard structure and marketing in an effort to maximize the revenue possibilities, thus possibly reducing the need for additional tax dollars. The Executive Director indicated that he would attempt to outline the pros and cons of owning the Billboard vs. only signing a lease or license agreement. It was suggested that if indeed the District did ultimately decide to own and manage the billboard ourselves any costs incurred by Windsor prior to constructing the sign should be reimbursed to Windsor by the Park District.

NEVE PROPERTY

Since approximately 1987, the Des Plaines Park District has expressed interest in purchasing the 2.7 acre tract of property directly east of Sesquicentennial Park, known as the Neve property. An 1883 farmhouse is located on the center of the property at 280 Hawthorne Lane in Des Plaines. The seller back in April 1992, Helen Neve offered to sell the property to the Park District for \$425,000. The offer included allowing Helen Neve to live in the property for the rest of her life and the Park District maintaining the grounds. Because of the financing and construction of Prairie Lakes Community Center, the Park District declined. The property continues to be a very desirable piece of property due to the proximity to Sesquicentennial Park. The possibility of an eminent domain approach was discussed, but it was felt that a more personal approach might be appropriate. The Corland and IDNR grant programs were discussed as possible funding sources. The Executive Director will attempt to determine whom the current owner is make a contact if able and follow up with a letter of interest.

2004/2005 SALARIES

The Executive Director indicated that he is suggesting a pool of 4% to be made available for 2004/2005 Salary Adjustments and a 1% increase for those employees that are within the first quartile of their salary range. The overall ranges would be adjusted at May 1, 2004 by the 2003 CPI which was 2.4%.

Hecker also indicated that Health Insurance premiums are proposed to be approved at the March Meeting with increase projected to be approximately 15%. Staff will present a recommendation that includes asking the employees to pay a larger percentage of the premium (they are currently paying 5% of the premium) as a method to control costs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW

Due to the lateness of the hour, the results of the Mid-Year Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director were not discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grady and seconded by
Commissioner Brookman to return to Regular Session at 10:10 p.m.
All Commissioners present voting AYE.

APPROVED 5-0

William J. Grady
President

John P. Healy
Secretary