

Lan-Oak Park District
Planning Committee
July 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 7:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Committee Members: Kelly, Long (arrived at 7:35pm), Guests: Commissioners Flanagin, Leck (arrived at 7:10pm), Gaffney (arrived at 7:38pm), Mike Fish, Denise Cox, Laurie Crosby, Pat Gulotta, Ira Smith, Mikal Stole. Mark Bewley, Doris Archer, Pamela Smith, Charles Stevenson, Staff Liaison: Wilson.

Kelly provided a background for the meeting and discussed the meeting format with the guests. Wilson reviewed the various financial obstacles facing the Park District ranging from tax caps, cap on assessments, foreclosures, unfunded State and Federal mandates, and TIF Districts. Flanagin provided comments about the EAV, tax rate, and debt service extension. Wilson continued to review the various charts present in an informational packet. After the presentation Kelly questioned the audience on the content of the message to gauge if a resident would be able to understand the financial message the District would be giving during a marketing campaign for a referendum. There was a discussion on the financing obstacles.

Wilson continued to review with the audience the various areas the District has cut costs in its operations to show the residents that there is an effort to trim back the operation before voters are asked to increase their taxes to the Park District. Long mentioned the cost saving with the reduction of contractual mowing services of two entities within the Lansing community. Not only did the District save money but increased maintenance staff time that could be focused on other improvement projects in the parks. A discussion ensued about cost savings in the District. Wilson also showed where the District has saved labor costs.

Kelly initiated a conversation about the image of the Park District. It was determined that there were several myths about the Park District going around the community. In the discussion it was discovered that there is still a lot of confusion about the roles of the different governmental entities in the Village. After the discussion it was clear that the Park District does receive negative publicity because many of the residents are not informed about what we do. It was felt that there needs to be a push to get the word out more about the positive programs being offered and the positive benefits of the District. Suggestions were using the internet, emails, town hall meeting, articles in the Village Vision, and getting a Facebook page. In the end, the residents felt that whatever we do, the message needs to be kept simple, but there needs to be an education process before any proposed referendum.

Kelly and the Board Members present thanked the individuals for their time and input. There will be another meeting in the near future and the Long encourage the guests to come to the next meeting and bringing at least three other individuals – no matter if they would favor or not favor a referendum issue.

There being no further business Long made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Kelly. Upon roll call all present voted “aye”. No nays.

Adjourned at 9:24pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Wilson, Secretary
Park Board of Commissioners