

Lan-Oak Park District
Board Meeting
September 21, 2009

Vice-President Gaffney called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Gaffney, Flanagan, Leck, and Kelly. Also present: Primack, Wilson, Celmer. Guests: Thomas Holba, Jim Banasiak, and Denise Cox. Absent: Commissioner Long and Treasurer Kuniej.

Motion made by Commissioner Flanagan to accept the Consent Agenda items A-C which include: Board meeting minutes from August 17, Executive Session meeting minutes from August 17 and AP Selection Reports; Refunds & Payroll W/H 8/20/09, 9/3/09, 9/17/09 and AP Invoices 9/21/09. Second by Kelly. Upon roll call the following voted “aye”-Flanagan, Kelly, Leck, Gaffney. No “nays”. Motion passed.

Director Wilson presented his report. Flanagan stated to Wilson that he felt it was appropriate to invite the Mayor to attend the Friday luncheon at the IAPD/IPRA annual conference. Wilson stated that he needed to know if everyone would be at the luncheon on Friday so that when he registers he can reserve a table. Commissioners Leck, Flanagan and Gaffney stated that they would all be there. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would have to confirm his attendance later.

Leck explained to the board that the Schultz Park meeting minutes had a mistake in regards to the statement that the Lan-Oak Park Foundation would match the funds raised and that it should state Lan-Oak Park District instead. Wilson agreed that it is the Park District that would be matching the funds, not the Foundation. Kelly asked Wilson to explain to the guests in the audience what the Schultz Park group is about. Wilson proceeded to explain the workings of the Schultz Park Neighborhood group.

Gaffney discussed with the board the Recreation committee meeting that was held on September 14. He explained that one of the issues brought up by Superintendent Desjardins was the room rental security deposit fee and that the Eisenhower Center was losing rentals because that fee is so high. Gaffney explained that after the discussion the committee recommended changing the fees to a \$75.00 flat-rate charge. Wilson updated the Board with additional information after Desjardins brought to his attention of a possible problem with the flat rate

charge for a security deposit on a one-time rental use. This same \$75.00 would not be enough to cover long-term rentals. Wilson explained that the charge for long term should go back to the way it originally with the security deposit cost of ½ of the rental fee. Flanagan asked how that would be changed if it is based on a fee schedule with Kelly explaining that on a single rental there would be a flat fee of \$75.00 for the security deposit and for long term rentals would be charged a security deposit fee of ½ the rental fee. Gaffney stated that they are looking for a way to make it more equitable to bring in the revenue that the park district is used to and that they had even looked into the option of just holding a credit card but was told that by law, hotels are the only businesses allowed to do so.

Motion made by Kelly to accept the change for the room rental security deposit policy to a one-time use flat rate fee of \$75.00 and that for long-term rentals the security deposit would be ½ of the rental cost. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted “aye”-Kelly, Leck, Flanagan, Gaffney. No “nays”. Motion passed.

Gaffney asked when the room rental policy was changed with it being stated that it was in January 2009. Gaffney explained after looking through the old policy and after a discussion the committee decided that they liked the old policy and that they would like to take it back to the old room rental policy. Primack explained that the only revision in the policy was the room rental fee schedule. Wilson stated that there had been some other tweaking but he was not sure as to what with Primack stating that the only change was the schedule. Primack also stated that he had recommended a policy change in one of his prior reports and that he had passed it around for the board members to look at 3 or 4 months earlier. He explained that his concern regarding the room rental policy is the list of organizations and how it is decided who gets charged and who doesn't. Primack explained that the park district does not want to be regulating or charging based on what that group is doing because that would be regulating speech. Primack stated that the new policy should categorize and classify organizations and how we charge them. Wilson stated that the pricing is the same for everyone except for 501C3 groups who use Room 105. Primack asked Wilson to show it to him in writing with Wilson stating that the policy was approved by the Board after his review. Gaffney stated that Primack brought up a very valid point and that before any recommendations are made the board would need to take a look at it. Primack stated that they could keep the old policy but that they just need to tweak the prices and classifications. The room rental policy will be tabled for further review by the Recreation Committee.

Leck explained that all of the turf mowing bids/proposals came in and that after reviewing proposals received for contractual mowing, the park district will keep the turf mowing in house. Leck explained that the bid results for the mowers were as follows: 3 bids came in for the triple deck mower with the lowest being Reinders, Inc. at \$69,600. Two proposals came in for the trim mowers with the lowest being Lansing Engine Works at \$16,952. Leck stated that these two items will be on the October board meeting for the Board to consider purchasing.

Commissioner Kelly explained to the board that the Planning committee did not have a meeting this month but that there will be one before the October board meeting.

Flanagin presented the Treasurer's Report. Flanagin explained to the board that the Finance and Personnel committee had had a meeting and received updated information referencing the draft audit.

Motion made by Flanagin to accept the Treasurer's Report ending date of August 31, 2009 as information. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Kelly, Leck, Flanagin, Gaffney. No "nays". Motion passed.

Flanagin discussed with the board the proposed Personnel Policy update. Flanagin stated that sections 3 & 4 still needed to be reviewed and that the commissioners can come back to the board with any questions or comments they might have. Flanagin stated that action will be taken in October for those draft items being reviewed. Gaffney asked when Flanagin wanted to have the comments back to him with Flanagin stating that he would like to have them back before the October 8th Finance and Personnel committee meeting. Gaffney asked if October 6 would be a good date with Flanagin stating that all comments/questions should be given to Director Wilson so that it is all in a central location. Flanagin explained that the auditor was at the Finance and Personnel meeting and they went through the items in the draft audit. He stated that they would be getting the final report for the October meeting.

Primack presented his report. Primack discussed the Yatsko Exchange Ordinance with the board.

Motion made by Flanagin to accept the Yatsko Exchange Ordinance as presented by the Attorney. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Leck, Flanagin, Kelly, Gaffney. No "nays". Motion passed.

Primack discussed with the board the draft Affiliate Group Agreement between the Lansing Old Timers and the Park District. Primack explained that he has taken the draft

agreement about as far as he could and that the board would need to look it over and get back to him. Gaffney explained to the board that since he is an active member on the Old Timer's board he would like to take the agreement to the Old Timer's board to sit down and review it with them. He stated that the goal would be to have a working agreement; an affiliate agreement with is mutually beneficial to both parties. Gaffney explained that he had already been in contact with Dan Podgorski the President of the Lansing Old Timers and that he is all for an affiliated agreement. Gaffney stated that he felt it could be worked through before opening season next year. Gaffney asked for interested individuals to sit on a committee to establish an agreement between the Old Timers and the Park District. Flanagin said he would be willing to meet and Wilson indicated he would like to serve on the committee. Gaffney will proceed to arrange the meeting.

Primack discussed with the board the Certificate of Errors between Conrail and Lansing. Primack stated that the Certificate of Errors has been granted but that there are still several that are missing and that those should be coming shortly. Commissioner Kelly asked Primack where it stands with the clean-up with Primack stating that it is very close to the end, and that he has one more round with Wentworth Storage. Primack stated that he had filed all of the petitions and would be having a meeting next week with the County.

Primack discussed with the board the annual bond and tax levy. Primack explained that the bond matures on December 1, 2009 and that the amount to be paid off is \$358,315. He stated that the goal is to close the bond issue by paying off the current bond on or before December 1, 2009. Primack stated that the BINA Hearing would be on October 21, 2009. At the October 21, 2009 meeting there will be a solicitation for bids for the annual bond. Bids will be due by November 6, 2009 and action on the bids would be on November 16, 2009. Based upon the action relating to the bids received, a Bond Ordinance will be available for the Board's consideration on November 16, 2009. Projecting the approval of the Board on this matter, the bond issue will be closed on or before December 21, 2009.

Discussion ensued on the tax levy. The preliminary dollars for the tax levy will need to be established by October 21. Anticipating that the tax levy will exceed 105% a Truth in Taxation Hearing will be held on November 16, 2009. Passage of the tax levy would then be on the agenda for December 21, 2009.

Gaffney discussed with the board that the referendum was talked about in length at the committee meeting. Flanagin stated that the board needed to talk about the logistics of the referendum and stated that they needed to have a meeting to talk just about the referendum. Primack stated that they would need to pass the ordinance by November 30, 2009, so by the November 16th meeting they would need to have a decision or they would have to have a special meeting. Gaffney stated that they should hold off on the discussion until the October 21, 2009 meeting. Gaffney mentioned that a decision needed to be made soon so that it would give Director Wilson enough time to get information out to the public about the referendum and the needs of the park district. Discussion ensued about the proposed referendum. Primack explained that the referendum ordinance would call for funding to become effective in 2009/2010 and that they would see revenue at the second installment of 2009 taxes payable in 2010.

Gaffney asked the board about volunteers for the Recognition dinner. Leck asked if they had any volunteers in mind. Gaffney asked Leck when the nomination would be due by with Leck stating that they meet on September 29th. Gaffney asked if there was anyone in mind with Kelly stating that he did not have enough history with the park district to know of any volunteers. Wilson stated that there was discussion from the Staff to nominate the T.F. South Drama group. Leck stated that they could nominate the teacher. Gaffney explained that President Long had wanted to nominate Commissioner Flanagin with Leck stating that he had declined. Leck stated that it might be nice to recognize the teacher. Leck also asked the board if any of them wanted to attend the Recognition dinner please do, and that the cost was \$25.00.

Leck stated that the Lan-Oak Park Foundation would be having a car show on Saturday, October 26th, from 10-4 and that they would be having a Foundation meeting at the Eisenhower Center.

Gaffney welcomed guests in the audience to speak. Thomas Holba of discussed Erfert Park with the board and stated that he spends 95% of his time fishing there. He stated that he is very disappointed with the upkeep up the park and that it has turned into a garbage dump and that the water level had dropped down dramatically. Mr. Holba stated that the maintenance crew does a fine job of cutting the grass, that they don't pick up the garbage they just mow over garbage and it flies all over. Mr. Holba stated that he felt that the only time the park receives any extra service is on the weekends since there are parties there and asked the board where the supervision is. Mr. Holba asked the board to take a ride over to Erfert Park and take a look for

themselves. Commissioner Gaffney stated that he would take a ride out there tomorrow to take a look. Flanagin explained to Mr. Holba that the water comes from the Lincoln-Lansing Drainage Ditch Authority and that it comes from the south and flows to the north. Mr. Holba asked if any of the water comes from the Lansing Country Club with Flanagin saying yes the overflow from the storm sewer system. The garbage floats from south to north. Mr. Holba stated that many people use the park everyday and that in the last year and a half it has gone way down.

Jim Banasiak from the audience asked the board what happened to the baby swings from Kiwanis Park. Gaffney explained that a number of other parks have had to have their swings removed also due to federal safety guidelines. Gaffney stated that is why the park district is going to go out for another referendum for additional funds for capital improvements. Mr. Banasiak stated that he just goes to other parks now. Gaffney thanked Mr. Banasiak for his comments.

Denise Cox from the audience discussed with the board the Lan-Oak pool and stated that when she drove by there today the pump room door was open and the fence was down. Ms. Cox stated that she felt that this was a very dangerous situation and that even though it is closed down, the park district should still have to abide by the village codes and that it needs to be cleaned up. Ms. Cox stated that the taxpayers of Lansing need to know that the park board is working on it so that they can go out and tell people. She asked what the board was going to do with the pool stating that there is water in the bottom and also stating that she is worried about the legal liability. Primack asked if there was water in the pool bottom. Wilson explained that there is water in the bottom because there is no drain for the pool and that the maintenance staff does pump it out occasionally. Wilson also explained that there are "no trespassing" signs posted around the pool at the recommendation of PDRMA. Ms. Cox asked what the plans were for the pool. Flanagin explained to Ms. Cox that it would cost over \$40,000 to fill in the pool and that they only have an annual capital improvement budget of \$135,000. Commissioner Flanagin explained that the problem is living under a tax cap and that the board members do care and that they too pay taxes. Flanagin stated that the last time a park district referendum was passed was 50 years ago when the pool was built. He went on to explain that it takes community spirit and dollars to fix things and that it comes down to every one of us. Flanagin stated that next year the park district is allowed a tax increase of 1/10th of 1 %. Flanagin also explained that the pool was subsidized on the average of \$75,000 a year and the Park District couldn't do it anymore. Mr.

Banasiak asked if there is Federal grants for local parks with Flanagan stating that yes there are and that last year the board had been approved for a grant from the IDNR for a new development. Ms. Cox stated that there was a nice article in the paper asking for people to come to a board meeting. Leck stated that they could volunteer to come together to clean up parks and also ask other service organizations to help, especially the ones with their names on the parks. Flanagan stated that as far as what the park district is going to do with the pool, the board has not settled on or approved anything. The Commissioners thanked the guests in the audience for their comments.

Wilson inquired about Flanagan, Leck and Gaffney attending the Foundation meeting together and if they do, is there a need for a public notice of the foundation meetings. Primack stated that with all three commissioners in attendance, a public notice of the meetings would be required. Wilson requested that he be provided a list of all meetings of the park foundation.

Motion made by Flanagan to adjourn the meeting. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted “aye”-Flanagan, Kelly, Leck, Gaffney. No “nays”. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Sincerely,

John W. Wilson, CPRP
Secretary to the Park Board