

Lan-Oak Park District  
Committee Meeting  
May 11, 2009

President Flanagin called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:13pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Flanagin, Beymer, Leck. Staff present: Desjardins, Havran, Davenport. Also present: Wilson, Primack, Kuniej, Celmer. Guests: Mike Gaffney, John Kelly. Absent: Reynolds. Long arrived at 7:40pm.

Desjardins presented her report. Beymer asked Desjardins how the May fitness special was going. Desjardins stated that she did not have any numbers but that the special is going well. Beymer stated that he had a friend who lives 6 months out of the year in Florida and that he was very excited to hear about the \$60.00 off of a 6-month Lansing resident membership. Flanagin stated that the cover of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure looked great. Leck stated that maybe they could do something at the Park Plaza for the people who had been on the cover. Beymer asked Desjardins if the summer camp information was online with Desjardins stating yes, it is online, but that right now registration is slow and that registration is late this year due to snow days for the public schools.

Leck asked Desjardins how the open gym has been going. Desjardins stated that they have not had any problems on a Saturday since they security has been provided, but that they had a problem on the most recent school holiday. Desjardins also explained how she had cut down the amount of people allowed in the gym from 40 down to 20 and that there are still problems. Wilson stated that they have hired a Lansing police officer, who watches over the gym on Saturdays from 10am-3pm. Wilson also stated that it would stop at the end of May.

Beymer asked Desjardins about the Land-O-Frost not being a corporate sponsor this year. Desjardins explained that they had been a sponsor last year and that it was because it was their anniversary.

Desjardins discussed the men's steam unit and that it was going to be expensive to replace. She stated that it was going to be \$9,342.00 to replace it but that the figure may go down because of a flushing unit that may not be needed. Beymer asked how long a

new unit would last with Wilson stating that the last unit was put in around was either 1986 or 1987, based upon his knowledge of equipment being replaced. Desjardins stated that the company providing preventive maintenance for the unit did not seem to be doing what they said they were doing because of the condition of the unit's water/steam lines. Desjardins stated that the men's steam room is used all day, every day. Beymer asked how long the unit had been out with Havran explaining that it had been about a week. Wilson explained to the board that the cost would be split between the fitness and recreation fund balance and the capital improvement fund. Desjardins stated that it is not something that should be taken out because it is very popular and that there is no choice but to replace the unit.

Leck commented on the nice letter that the park district had received from Patti Evans and stated that it was a good day for the Little Run. Wilson stated that the family was very appreciative. Leck asked if they had shirts for the family with Desjardins stating yes, they had gotten their shirt sizes and that they would be mailing them out.

Havran presented her report. Flanagin asked Havran how the fitness equipment was doing with Havran explaining that everything was fine but that the Dectron unit is very touchy this time of year due to the weather. Beymer asked what the cost would be to replace the Dectron unit with Desjardins stating that it was around \$250,000 and does not include the cost of dismantling the unit to get it out of the building. Desjardins also explained that it had far exceeded its lifetime.

Flanagin asked Havran about the membership numbers with summer coming. Havran stated that the numbers have gone up a little bit; with Leck commenting that the special is a good one. Havran agreed, stating that yes, it is a good special.

Davenport presented her report. Leck asked Davenport about the upcoming Farmer's Market. Davenport provided an update on this program indicating all things with the event were going well. Davenport explained that she would put the Farmer's Market signs up around Lansing. Wilson explained to the board that they had purchased 15 sandwich signs that the staff would be putting around town on Wednesdays advertising the Market. Davenport stated the Farmer's Market would be advertised in the Chicago Tribune and that she had received email verification from them. Wilson explained that he and Davenport had went to the Department of Agriculture conference

which was for owners, operators and managers of farmer's markets and they learned that you don't need a lot of vendors for the market to be a success. Wilson explained to the Board that he and Davenport would be meeting with the village because they have no rules or regulations about a Farmer's Market. Davenport explained that having 6 or 7 vendors is good. Davenport explained that she would like to get more vendors of produce, plants and meat. Wilson stated that just by getting the 6 to 7 vendors with diversity is the first big step to a successful market.

Desjardins, Havran and Davenport left the meeting at 7:27pm.

Wilson presented his report. Wilson stated that under the Planning Committee section in regards to Monaldi Manor, all items were discussed, it would be put in writing and that they would go from there. The Vince Award was discussed. From the April Board meeting Wilson understood that it would be held at the Volunteer dinner. Leck stated no, that it will not be given out at the Volunteer dinner. Leck explained that they had brought it up to their Board and that it was voted on and it was a no. Wilson stated that he would not send out the news release until all aspects of the award are confirmed.

Wilson updated the board about the break in at the Eisenhower Center on May 4. He indicated that the person has been apprehended by the Lansing Police Department. Wilson stated that the door repair and staff time will cost over \$800 to fix and that he would be giving that information to the police.

Leck discussed the grant that the park district had received in the amount of \$68,700 for building a new park from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Wilson explained that out of 105 grant applications this year that the park district was one of 59 agencies to receive a grant. Wilson provided a report to the Board of Commissioners that over the 10 years he has been with the park district he has authored and received over 4.7 million dollars in grants from federal, state and/or private agencies. Leck stated that it was a job well done, with Beymer agreeing by saying that it was quite an accomplishment. Wilson commented that people asked park representatives during the referendum why the Park District couldn't get grants for the work. Wilson pointed out that out of 105 grants submitted only 59 were funded. He also explained that the grants were given for new developments or acquisitions, not for renovations. Wilson explained

that renovations usually come third on the list when it comes to grant funding priority and grants are not 100% guaranteed on a yearly basis.

Wilson explained that no work would be started at the Meekma property until the Project Agreement was received from the State and executed by the Park District and State. Flanagin asked if it was a timeline of about 2 to 3 years with Wilson stating that it is an 18-month timeline.

Kuniej presented her report. Flanagin stated that Leck, Wilson, Kuniej, and himself had all attended the Finance and Personnel meeting. Kuniej explained that they would be changing the wording on the Museum Fund and that it was different than what it was in the board packet. Kuniej explained that instead of stating specific projects it would be changed to say Park Plaza Improvements and Maintenance which falls more into the definition of Museum fund.

Commissioner Long arrived at 7:40pm.

Primack presented his report. Primack discussed the County's request to purchase a small portion of the right of way at Wentworth and the Pennsy Greenway. Primack stated that the Department of Natural Resources had give their blessing and that the park district just needs replacement the land that is being purchased elsewhere in the district. Wilson stated that the area was 1300 square feet. Wilson explained his idea of managing this land exchange with the current acquisition of the right of way by the County along Wentworth Avenue.

Leck asked Wilson about setting a new date for the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting due to the NRPA Congress. Wilson stated that it was up to the board. Flanagin asked Wilson about moving the October 19<sup>th</sup> to October 21, and the February 1, 2010 meeting to February 8<sup>th</sup>. Wilson stated that it was up to the board. Flanagin asked Wilson if he had the summer board meeting schedule laid out with Wilson stating yes.

Motion made by Beymer to go into Executive Session for the discussion of land acquisition, personnel, probable litigation and/or other subject matters as allowed by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS, Par. 120/2.(c)(1) – 22.(e). Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted "aye"-Beymer, Leck, Long, Flanagin. No "nays". Motion passed.

Executive Session at 7:45pm.

President Flanagin called the regular Committee Meeting back to order at 8:00pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Commissioners Long, Beymer, Leck, Flanagin. Also present were: Primack and Wilson, newly elected Park Commissioners Gaffney and Kelly.

Motion by Beymer to adjourn the meeting. Second by Leck. Upon roll call the following voted “aye” – Leck, Long, Beymer, Flanagin. No “nays”.

Adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Wilson, CPRP  
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners