

**SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR
SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION**

Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
held February 19, 2008, in Downers Grove, Illinois

Call to Order: Jerry Yoksoulian called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:	Village of Brookfield	Rick Ginex
	Clarendon Hills Park District	Steve Thomas
	Darien Park District/Treasurer	Stephanie Gurgone
	*Village of Indian Head Park	Joan Pieri
	Community Park District of LaGrange Park	Ron Lorenzo
	Westmont Park District	Chad Dyson
	*Woodridge Park District	Mike Adams
	Downers Grove Park District	Jerry Yoksoulian
	Director	Susan Friend
	Superintendent	Catherine A. Morava
	Assistant Superintendent	Matthew Corso
	SEASPAR Recording Secretary	Georgia Weber
Absent:	Park District of LaGrange	Dean Bissias
	Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
	Village of Western Springs	Ray Jasica
Visitors:	*Downers Grove Park District	Robert Gelwicks
	*The Lodge at McDonald's	Tony Manata
	SEASPAR Coordinator	Anne Cosentino

Open Forum and Correspondence:

Cathy Morava introduced Tony Manata, Fitness Director from The Lodge at McDonald's in Oak Brook. SEASPAR learned about the Lodge from Milestones for Kids' Success. SEASPAR nominated The Lodge for an IAPD/IPRA Community Service Award. The Lodge provides space free of charge for their therapeutic hot tub and swimming pool.

*Mike Adams entered the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Anne Cosentino reported that SEASPAR's swimming program is designed for individuals with physical disabilities due to the warm water temperature and there is always a lifeguard on duty at the Lodge as with all SEASPAR lessons.

Cathy Morava presented the IPRA Community Service Award to Tony Manata.

Tony Manata thanked SEASPAR for the award and stated that it was nice to see the pool at the Lodge being used.

Cathy Morava reported that the location of the Lodge is centrally located and easily accessible by all residents. SEASPAR hopes to continue this good relationship with The Lodge.

*Tony Manata exited the meeting at 3:09 pm.

Susan Friend introduced Robert Gelwicks, President of the Downers Grove Park District Board of Park Commissioners.

Susan Friend introduced Anne Cosentino, SEASPAR Coordinator.

Anne Cosentino reported that she is the Coordinator responsible for Part-time Staff, Volunteers, Vehicles, and Interns.

Anne Cosentino reported that the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, January 17, at the Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center. Sixty-five staff and guests enjoyed a catered dinner of pastatinis served in martini glasses and created their own desserts of ice cream sundaes. It was decided to present milestone awards to staff rather than the traditional tokens of appreciation to all.

Anne Cosentino reported that volunteer Hallie Naberhaus of Woodridge and part-time staff Sue Potter of Westmont received awards in recognition of their twenty years of service. Sue Potter began her work as a volunteer and later became a part-time staff. The Naberhaus family is very active at SEASPAR with Hallie and her son Gary, and her husband, Bob, also volunteering.

Anne Cosentino reported that six part-time staff and one volunteer have served SEASPAR for sixteen to nineteen years, nine part-time staff and two volunteers have served for eleven to fifteen years, sixteen part-time staff and four volunteers have served for six to ten years, and three part-time staff and two volunteers have served for five years.

Anne Cosentino reported that SEASPAR would not be able to provide its high standard of programming without the help of the part-time staff and volunteers. Special awards were given in three areas. Criteria for the awards require the staff to exchange creative ideas with fellow staff (part-time or full-time); demonstrate punctuality, dependability, and flexibility; ensure the safety of participants; motivate and initiate success among fellow staff members; follow directions and activity guidelines as set by the program supervisor/coordinator; initiate activity and demonstrate a comprehension of program goals, create a positive recreation environment for participants and fellow part-time staff/volunteers; go above and beyond the "call of duty" without expecting extra recognition. The Super Star Award is for someone who has worked for more than three years went to Sharmaine Nardone of Downers Grove. Sharmaine Nardone has worked children, adult, and Special Olympics programs for fifteen years. Sharmaine Nardone is exemplary due to her attention to detail, donation of all of her involved program preparation time, and willingness to adapt her work schedule.

Anne Cosentino reported that Mindy Jack of Carol Stream received the Leading Light Award which is presented to a staff who has worked less than three years. Mindy Jack has worked for SEASPAR for one and one-half years, works for NEDSRA, teaches at LADSE, and works practically every night of the week for SEASPAR. Mindy Jack brought a one-hour weekly dancing class from one session to three sessions.

Anne Cosentino reported that John Coll of Western Springs received the Virtuous Volunteer Award which is given to someone who has volunteered for SEASPAR for a minimum of one year. John Coll has volunteered at SEASPAR for more than 16 years. He is swim coach for the

Swim Team, and also coaches Snow Shoe, Cross-Country Skiing, and assists at Track and Field. Recently SEASPAR received a donation from a parent of a Swim Team member from Darien directly due to his outstanding coaching.

Anne Cosentino reported that SEASPAR currently has 110 support staff made up of part-time staff and volunteers. Of those staff, 33 are volunteers and 18 have volunteered for more than one year. There is an average of four support staff members per SEASPAR program. The average support staff works ten hours per week. Volunteers saved SEASPAR almost \$19,000 in payroll for 2006. Not all figures are in yet for 2007, but SEASPAR anticipates a similar savings. SEASPAR has more than 730 combined years of service from part-time staff and volunteers. Almost 70% of these staff have worked for SEASPAR for more than one year. The three types of volunteers are a one-time special event volunteer such as Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, or Girl Scout members; those who volunteer for a season or more such as confirmation students; the regular volunteers who have been with SEASPAR for more than one year.

Susan Friend reported that Anne Cosentino has a very demanding job. Anne Cosentino is responsible to replace any staff who may be unable to attend a program. Such ability is critical to the success of programs.

Jerry Yoksoulian thanked Anne Cosentino for her report.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Joan Pieri moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled January 15, 2008, SEASPAR Board Meeting; minutes of the January 15, 2008, Executive Session of January 15, 2008; and Cash Disbursements for February 2008 in the amount of \$55,865.08 as presented. Ron Lorenzo seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Indian Head Park, LaGrange Park, Brookfield, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Westmont, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: LaGrange, Lisle, Western Springs

Motion Carried Unanimously

Susan Friend reported that the Investment Statement shows a drop in interest from 4.5% to 2.9%.

Joan Pieri inquired if the change of ownership from Mid America Bank to National City Bank will affect Community Banking donations to SEASPAR and requested SEASPAR check investment rates for SEASPAR at National City Bank.

Susan Friend reported that we were assured that the Community Banking program would continue in spite of the changes in/at the bank and will look into investment opportunities and rates.

Recreation Reports:

Cathy Morava reported that weekly programs are running smoothly in spite of the snow and some because of the snow. In January, SEASPAR participants cannot wait for the new season to begin. Bowling, cooking, dance classes, exercise, and Friday Night Social Club are the most popular programs for this season. For the next ten weeks, more than 85 participants will be out

in the community on Friday evenings. The Valentine Dance was held at the Westmont Park District Fitness Club on February 15. The location for the annual dance was moved there because there is no charge vs. paying for the other site.

Cathy Morava reported an increased interest in Actor's Guild has created an all-time high registration of 12 teens and adults due to the success of the Holiday Spectacular in December.

Cathy Morava reported that Brian Houzenga, SEASPAR Coordinator, is very busy providing many Leisure Education programs with member entity schools.

Cathy Morava reported that a Snooze Party was held in Brookfield February 8 and 9. A trip through the Morton Arboretum was held on February 17 and was adapted due to snow. Horseback riding took place on President's Day, a school holiday, and was greatly enjoyed inside the facility at Hanson Center and young teens went bowling at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont.

Cathy Morava reported that the first draft of the summer brochure is nearly finalized.

Matt Corso invited the Board to take a tour of SEASPAR's newest 15-passenger lift-equipped vehicle, the Burgundy Bus. The new bus is on a 2008 Chevy chassis and, has state-of-the-art wheelchair tie-downs that are retractable and store easily; heated power operated exterior mirrors; an energy absorbing rear bumper, and six integrated child restraint seats.

Matt Corso reported that four SEASPAR athletes and three coaches went to the 2008 Special Olympics Illinois Winter Games in Galena from February 5 through 7. Jonathan Glenney of Westmont received Fourth Place in the 100M snowshoe race and the Gold Medal in the 100M race; Randy Naberhaus of Woodridge received Gold Medals in both the 100M and 50M snowshoe races; William Porch of Westmont received Silver Medals in the 200M and 50M cross-country skiing races; and Molly Sosnowski of Lisle won a Gold Medal in downhill skiing and a Silver Medal in the giant slalom. The athletes and coaches enjoyed the opening ceremonies in downtown Galena, a dance, plenty of food and snacks, and an abundance of snow.

Matt Corso reported that the basketball season is nearing its conclusion and it is tournament time. The High School Team competed at the NEISO tournament in Bartlett on January 27 and earned Third Place. The Junior Team took Third Place at its NEISO tournament on February 2 in Aurora, the White Team took Second Place, and the Blue Team took First Place. The Blue Team travels to Bloomington-Normal the weekend of March 15 to compete at the 2008 Special Olympics Illinois State Basketball Tournament due to their Gold Medal win.

Matt Corso reported that the High School Team took First Place and the Junior Team took Second Place on February 10 at the ITRS Tournament in Addison and the White Team took Third Place at the Tournament in Libertyville that day. The Blue Team competed at the ITRS Tournament in Oak Brook on February 17 and won First Place.

Matt Corso reported that the SEASPAR Swim Team competed at the WDSRA Swim Meet on February 16. Results of the meet are not yet available.

Jerry Yoksoulian thanked Cathy Morava and Matt Corso for their reports.

Director's Report:

Susan Friend thanked Mike Adams of the Woodridge Park District for his assistance in seating arrangements at the Friday Lunch with Legislators at the IPR Conference where Susan Friend and Matt Corso sat with Representative Bellock and Representative Meyer.

Susan Friend reported that SEASPAR staff were very involved with the IPR Conference held January 24-26. Cathy Morava was Conference Program Co-Chair and incoming IPRA Conference Chairperson; Matt Corso was installed as the Director of the Therapeutic Section (ITRS) of IPRA; Anne Cosentino was recognized as the Education and Training Chairperson for ITRS; Dayell Muchowicz was recognized as the New Professionals Chairperson for ITRS; and Susan Friend was a presenter at a session for approximately 20 students: "Ready or Not, Here Comes the Real World."

Susan Friend reported that she will attend a meeting of the Village of Western Springs Board when they will recognize John Coll for his dedicated volunteer service to SEASPAR. She will also provide the annual SEASPAR update at that meeting.

Susan Friend reported that SEASPAR has been selected as one of three finalists in the Downers Grove Chamber and Downers Grove National Bank Chamber Choice Awards program.

Susan Friend reported that she will be attending meetings at the Villages of Indian Head Park and Brookfield and the Lisle Park District in the near future.

Susan Friend reviewed correspondence regarding Brookfield Attorney Vaselopulos regarding levying the SRA tax without going to referendum.

Susan Friend reported that Garry Vacarro is meeting with individual SEASPAR staff members on Monday, February 25, to discuss staff's needs regarding a registration program package. After reviewing the input, Garry Vacarro will make recommendations.

Susan Friend reported that Dean Bissias is now the SEASPAR Board Member representing the Park District of LaGrange.

Susan Friend Stated that the IMRF actuarial report was just received and will be reviewed.

Unfinished Business:

Susan Friend reported that she attended the November 1, 2007, Downers Grove Park District Board of Park Commissioners Meeting. Discussion ensued.

Robert Gelwicks reviewed concerns of the Downers Grove Park District Board of Commissioners regarding a change to the SEASPAR Joint Agreement.

*Robert Gelwicks exited the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

Steve Thomas moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled February 19, 2008, SEASPAR Board meeting at 4:03 p.m. Mike Adams seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Clarendon Hills, Woodridge, Brookfield, Darien, Indian Head Park,
LaGrange Park, Westmont, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: LaGrange, Lisle, Western Springs

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Pieri, Secretary
South East Association for
Special Parks And Recreation

Georgia Weber, Recording Secretary