

**SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR  
SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION**  
Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting  
held October 19, 2010, in Downers Grove, Illinois

**Call to Order:** Dan Garvy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Village of Brookfield	Rick Ginex
	Clarendon Hills Park District	Steve Thomas
	Darien Park District/Treasurer	Stephanie Gurgone
	Downers Grove Park District	Janet Barr
	Village of Indian Head Park	Joan Pieri
	Park District of LaGrange	Dean Bissias
	Community Park District of LaGrange Park	Roy Cripe
	Village of Western Springs	Ray Jasica
	Westmont Park District	Ron Gunter
	Woodridge Park District	Mike Adams
	Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
	Director	Susan Friend
	Superintendent	Catherine Morava
	Superintendent	Matthew Corso
	Coordinator	Lisa Rasin
	SEASPAR Recording Secretary	Georgia Weber
Absent:	None	
Visitors:	*Westmont Resident.	Jan Maresh
	*Westmont Participant	Patrick Maresh
	*Westmont Service Canine	Mary Lou

**Open Forum and Correspondence:**

Jan Maresh, mother of participant Patrick Maresh, informed the Board of how their family obtained a canine assistance dog for their son. Patrick Maresh first became active in SEASPAR programs at the age of five. Lisa White was instrumental in introducing Patrick Maresh to the SEASPAR Rainbow Therapy Dogs program. Through this program, they discovered his great love for dogs. It was suggested the Maresh family apply to Canine Assistance, which has its headquarters in Georgia, to obtain a dog for Patrick. The Maresh family needed letters of recommendation to apply for an assist dog. Sharmaine Nardone, part-time staff supervisor of the Rainbow Therapy Dogs program, wrote such a letter. There is a four-year wait after being accepted as a recipient to get a dog. The entire Maresh family attended a two-week training session in Georgia to learn how to work with Mary Lou before they could bring her home. Mr. and Mrs. Maresh are certified handlers now.

The Maresh family acquired Mary Lou in July of 2010. Patrick Maresh takes Mary Lou to school and Jill Friend, part-time staff swim instructor, recommended Patrick bring the dog to SEASPAR programs to further incorporate Mary Lou into that part of Patrick's life. Patrick

Maresh does not communicate verbally, so he wears a command box with picture symbols to vocalize tasks for Mary Lou.

Mary Lou was acquired through the sponsorship of Ultra Foods and Milk Bone Dog Biscuits. The Ultra Food Store in Downers Grove held a big party at their store to celebrate Patrick's acceptance into the program.

Catherine Morava reported that Mr. Maresh produced the SEASPAR Believe & Achieve DVD.

\*Jan Maresh, Patrick Maresh, and Mary Lou exited the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Susan Friend reported that Matt Corso has a therapy dog, Ollie, who is used at SEASPAR programs. The EAGLES program has a visiting service dog, Cooper, who is read to by the participants.

Matt Corso reported that he has considered requesting a facility dog that would come to EAGLES on a regular basis.

Dan Garvy reviewed the September 16-22, 2010, TribLocal article regarding SEASPAR awards.

Dan Garvy reviewed the September 16-22, 2010, TribLocal article regarding the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Dean Bissias moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of September 21, 2010; Bank Reconciliation for September 2010; and Cash Disbursements for October in the amount of \$41,930.17 as presented. Joan Pieri seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Recreation Reports:**

Matt Corso reported that staff had met with Rick Ginex regarding the new EAGLES site. The program begins January 10, 2011. Currently, enrollment is low, but the program will be promoted to encourage participation.

Matt Corso reviewed the evaluations of the summer's Self Advocacy Academy program which were completed by the participants.

Matt Corso thanked the Darien Park District which recently honored their Special Olympics SEASPAR participants who currently competed in State Games and two founding participants of SEASPAR programs.

Matt Corso invited the Board and their families and staff to participate in the Max & Erma's fundraiser on October 21, 2010.

Ray Jasica inquired as to the naming of EAGLES, EAGLES II, and EAGLES III.

Matt Corso explained that the initial EAGLES group was for ages 18 – 35 who could use help with transition from high school to adult life in the community. Group II is for ages 30 and older with developmental disabilities. Group III is for ages 18 to 35 with developmental disabilities who need more assistance than those participating in the original EAGLES program. Matt Corso reported that EAGLES II and III will be at the Village of Brookfield. Matt Corso reported that the programs were grouped by ability and not location.

Joan Pieri inquired if SEASPAR was going to have Ability Awareness Days at more schools. Matt Corso reported that SEASPAR is considering more such programs.

Catherine Morava reported that the Tuesday night Culinary Creations program at SEASPAR has grown from three to seven participants in one season.

Catherine Morava reported that the IGI gymnastics program in Westmont is going well.

Catherine Morava reported that Greg Pavesich took a group of 12 participants to Galena for the weekend of October 15 to 16, 2010. They stayed in an all-inclusive resort and enjoyed some of the finer amenities of Chestnut Mountain Resort.

Catherine Morava reported that the woodworking program at Woodcraft in Woodridge has been a great success.

Catherine Morava reported that the winter-spring brochure is in its beginning stages and the first draft is due back on October 22, 2010, for further fine tuning before going to print.

### **Fund Development**

Lisa Rasin reported that she will provide a written report every month.

Lisa Rasin reported that she met with Dan Garvy to brainstorm ways to include the Board in fundraising activities.

Lisa Rasin reported that she would like to brainstorm with each of the Board members for 20 minutes.

Lisa Rasin reported that the second Annual Appeal is going to be mailed soon.

Lisa Rasin reported that she would like to ask each of the Board members to donate \$50 toward the annual appeal.

Lisa Rasin requested Board members call her if they know of any person or business that may be willing to make a donation to SEASPAR.

Dan Garvy stated he realized all of the Board members are quite busy, but requested the Board attempt to improve entity participation at SEASPAR events. Dan Garvy suggested the Board alternate or an entity staff member be urged to attend a SEASPAR event.

Lisa Rasin thanked Dan Garvy for his support.

Lisa Rasin reported that Ed Rensi of Tom & Eddie's at Yorktown, sponsored by the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce, will speak on November 2, 2010, at Marriott Suites in Downers Grove. Please let Lisa Rasin know if you would like to attend.

**Director's Report:**

Susan Friend reported that the ABC Channel 7 interview regarding SEASPAR and Goalball will be aired on October 22, 2010, at 11:35 a.m.

Susan Friend reported that the happy occasion of a participant's uncle's marriage was used to request donations to SEASPAR in lieu of gifts to the newlyweds.

Susan Friend thanked Steve Thomas for attending the Monday, October 18, 2010, Aktion Club dinner.

Susan Friend reported that Aktion Club member Bridget Brown won first prize in the international speech contest and that the SEASPAR Aktion Club Scrapbook came in first in the Illinois/Eastern Iowa District.

Susan Friend reported that SEASPAR and the Board sent congratulations to Larry Reiner, Executive Director of NEDSRA, on his retirement.

Susan Friend reported that SEASPAR is holding PIE days (Planning, Inservice, leads to Excellence) for the entire staff to meet, hold various discussions, and inservices. On November 11, 2010, the meeting will be to discuss individual strengths.

Susan Friend reported that there have been participant parent issues recently. Some parents of Special Olympics athletes have been inappropriately vocal at competitions. The issues are being dealt with by SEASPAR staff and Special Olympics and all hope there will be no recurrences of such behavior. A parent of a former SEASPAR participant has been attending programs and verbally interfering with some participants. This parent has been dealt with and the staff of the facility have also taken steps to warn the parent that her behavior is not to be tolerated.

Susan Friend reported that a participant's parents have complained of inappropriate behavior of another participant. The parents of both participants have spoken to Susan Friend and the offending participant is being observed at programs and behavior is being monitored.

Susan Friend reviewed program statistics for the past year. SEASPAR is still working with Vermont Systems to improve our current program to provide the needed and wanted statistics to complete the annual report.

Susan Friend reviewed information from Mark Trieglaff regarding his services. Discussion ensued.

The Board decided to seek Mark Trieglaff on an individual basis. The Board would like to have billing for such services go through SEASPAR. If a member entity is interested in pooling their needs with the Lisle Park District, they should contact Dan Garvy.

Susan Friend reviewed the updated Board and Staff List.

Susan Friend reported that the Audit is currently being finalized.

Susan Friend reported that she will soon be sending an RFP for audit services.

**Unfinished Business:**

Susan Friend reviewed the SEASPAR Levy Request for FY2011-2012 and presented member contribution information based on the known DuPage County EAVs and preliminary Cook County EAVs. Cook County EAV numbers are not yet final. Discussion ensued.

Mike Adams moved to approve to maintain the current levy rate of .01486% for FY2011-2012. Ron Gunter seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

None

**New Business:**

None.

**Member Entity Projects and Events:**

Nothing current.

**Adjournment:**

Steve Thomas moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled October 19, 2010, SEASPAR Board meeting at 4:55 p.m. Mike Adams seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

---

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

---

Georgia Weber, Recording Secretary