

**SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR
SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION**
Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
held September 20, 2011, in Brookfield, 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	Stephanie Gurgone
	Downers Grove Park District	Mark Roman
	Village of Indian Head Park	Debbie Anselmo
	Park District of LaGrange	Laura Gallagher
	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 A. Morava
	Superintendent	Matt Corso
	Coordinator	Lisa Rasin
	SEASPAR Recording Secretary	Georgia Weber
Absent:	Community Park District of LaGrange Park	Roy Cripe
Visitors:	*Coordinator	Laura Christensen
	Recreation Specialist	Aaron Hirthe

Public Comment and Correspondence:

The Board and staff introduced themselves.

Matt Corso reported that Aaron Hirthe began his employment with SEASPAR on July 5, 2011. Aaron Hirthe is responsible for Special Olympics, Aquatics, and Cooperative Day Camp programs. Aaron Hirthe originally resided in Wisconsin before moving to the Chicago area.

Aaron Hirthe stated that he is looking forward to working with the SEASPAR staff. Aaron Hirthe stated that he has plans to expand SEASPAR's Special Olympic services.

Laura Christenson reported that she is the coordinator of the two EAGLES sites. Laura Christensen thanked Rick Ginex and the Village of Brookfield for welcoming the EAGLES II program to their facility with open arms. Laura Christensen reported that EAGLES II began in January 2011 with four participants. Laura Christensen suggested the Board and staff look at the pictures being displayed on the television to see the progression of events that brought the new site into fruition.

Laura Christensen reported that the participants will utilize the renovated kitchen space for preparing daily lunches and other life skills. After taking the summer off to complete the renovation, the EAGLES II program began its season on September 12, 2011, with the maximum of 11 participants registered for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Laura Christensen reported that the EAGLES program in Darien is celebrating its third anniversary on September 22, 2011.

Laura Christensen thanked Rick Ginex, the Brookfield recreation staff, and the IT staff, and Bubba, for their daily help in preparing for the program. Laura Christensen reported that there have been inquiries about the Tuesday/Thursday program and there are hopes to have the program running by January 2012 when there is interest from at least five individuals. Residents of the Village of Brookfield have been very generous. A resident has volunteered to bring her therapy dog on Mondays.

Laura Christensen reported that SEASPAR is one of few SRAs with a full day program for the after high school/22years and older population. The EAGLES Nest in Darien has 100% return of their 17 participants daily; 29 individuals total.

Laura Christensen reported that the Self Advocacy Academy was held again this summer at the Darien Sportsplex for a full five days. It was so successful that it is planned to continue the program through LADSE once on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and once on Tuesday and Thursday each month. The EAGLES have also been taking free classes with Parents Alliance. Topics include What job is right for me?, Interviewing Skills, and How to keep a job.

Laura Christensen reported that the EAGLES staff have created SOAR Classes (Successful Opportunities Achieved through Reinforcement). These classes include such topics as hygiene, germs, following directions, and listening.

Laura Christensen reported that the EAGLES often go out into the community. They frequently have outings led by the DuPage County Forest Preserve such as archery, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing.

Laura Christensen reported that EAGLES and EAGLES II serve 40 individuals. There is a representative from each member community except Indian Head Park in the programs. Laura Christensen reported that five or six EAGLES participants have never been in a SEASPAR program before.

Ron Gunter inquired if there was a waiting list for EAGLES.

Laura Christensen reported that the EAGLES II site provided space so there is no waiting list. Laura Christensen reported that SEASPAR hopes to create a program for participants ages 30 and older because the need is out there.

Mike Adams reported that the Woodridge Park District is planning a new recreation center and inquired if the location would be suitable for an EAGLES program. The new center would be located near Cypress Cove in a TIF district.

Susan Friend responded that Woodridge, or another community on the western border, would be an ideal location for an EAGLES site. The need for such a location might eliminate the requirement of providing transportation for the participants.

Discussion ensued regarding the usage of space for an EAGLES program.

Matt Corso reported that the WDSRA day program does not provide transportation.

Susan Friend reported that originally the EAGLES II program did not take place during the three months of summer. Brookfield Recreation Department staff discovered this summer that there was no reason why the recreation space could not be shared year-round. Now the EAGLES II program will run the full calendar year.

Matt Corso reported that SEASPAR is happy that both programs have filled. Parents greatly appreciate the programs.

Matt Corso reported that EAGLES has created quite a name for itself. It was recently brought up at a Therapeutic Recreation Summit. It has become a model in the state of Illinois.

Dan Garvy reviewed recent TribLocal articles regarding SEASPAR.

Dan Garvy reviewed correspondence from Genetta Douglas.

Matt Corso reported that this participant was granted a scholarship and funds from the Subat Trust.

Mike Adams reported that the Woodridge Rotary provides \$200 to families who qualify for financial assistance. Mike Adams reported that the needed forms were online through the Woodridge Rotary.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Mike Adams moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of July 19, 2011; Bank Reconciliation for August 2011; and Cash Disbursements for August 2011 in the amount of \$67,791.30, and Cash Disbursements for September 2011 in the amount of \$108,074.23 as presented. Ray Jasica seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: LaGrange Park

Motion Carried Unanimously

Recreation Reports:

Catherine Morava reported that registration for the fall season is looking good. More registrations have arrived since she wrote her report.

Catherine Morava reported that Afterschool Adventures at Prentiss Creek Apartments in Downers Grove does not have use of the resource center this season. Greg Pavesich persevered and was able to obtain signed registrations for a group of participants to be able to attend the after school program this season. They were able to spend their first day of the season at a local park since the weather was so beautiful.

Catherine Morava reported that the Woodridge Resource Center is hoping to have SEASPAR provide a program twice a week.

Catherine Morava reported that Greg Pavesich is working to locate more participants for the Drop In Center. Some time adjustments to the program may be made to accommodate a group from Indian Head Park.

Catherine Morava reported that Paralympic Bocce and Youth Goalball are up and running. Sled Hockey takes place at the Darien Sportsplex and has grown from 6 to 8 participants.

Catherine Morava reported that recreation programs are being held for SEASPAR participants through workshops in our communities. The Spectrum and Little Friends participants have Splash Into Tuesdays, a swimming program at Indian Head Boundary YMCA, and outings are planned to go to out into the community, including a trip to the Morton Arboretum.

Catherine Morava reported that the winter/spring brochure is currently being planned.

Catherine Morava reported that copies of facility request letters will be sent to Board members.

Matt Corso reported that Prince, the Pro from Village Greens Golf Course, attended the Special Olympics Golf Tournament in Bartlett in August. Prince was the only pro golfer who came to watch his own golfers compete.

Matt Corso reported that both of the SEASPAR's Spikers Volleyball teams were competing at the Special Olympics Volleyball Tournament to be held at the Park District of LaGrange on Sunday, September 25, 2011.

Mike Adams inquired if SEASPAR was aware of the Woodridge Lions Beeper Baseball event that week.

Fund Development:

Lisa Rasin thanked everyone who was instrumental in helping SEASPAR raise close to \$9,000 at the SEASPAR Golf Classic in July. Lisa Rasin reported that she hopes to raise \$15,000 next year.

Lisa Rasin thanked Mike Adams for the use of the Woodridge Park District's Village Greens and the support and assistance of the manager, Brandon.

Lisa Rasin reported that she is meeting with officials at River Bend Golf Course.

Lisa Rasin reported that she is pursuing ads for the winter/spring SEASPAR program brochure and looking into pricing.

Lisa Rasin reported that she is pursuing a Technology Grant. Lisa Rasin reported that the grant will be used for SmartBoards.

Laura Gallagher inquired as to the financial outcome of this year's Golf Classic in comparison to last year's.

Lisa Rasin reported that SEASPAR made approximately \$1,000 more last year.

Director's Report:

Susan Friend reported that SEASPAR is awaiting confirmation of the Vehicle Maintenance Agreement with the Village of Downers Grove.

Susan Friend reported that the audit is done and she has received final numbers. Susan Friend reported that a representative from Lauterbach and Amen will be at the October 2011 Board meeting. Susan Friend reported that she is very pleased with the results of their work.

Susan Friend congratulated the Lisle Park District on their new recreation center. Susan Friend reported that the Meadows Center will be returned to the Lisle School District. The new community center is located in a former industrial park manufacturing facility.

Dan Garvy reported that the Lisle Park District still has 20,000 square feet of the building yet to be put to use.

*Laura Christensen exited the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Susan Friend reviewed the draft of the Levy Request for FY2011-2012.

Discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of the Board to use the member contribution figures created by the .155% rate. Final action will be taken in October.

Susan Friend reported that the Strategic Plan Committee had good meetings with consultants representing four companies. The consultants provided an overview of their approach to SEASPAR's project and how they were qualified.

Discussion ensued.

Mike Adams moved that SEASPAR select Heller and Heller and Leisure Vision to facilitate the Strategic Plan process at an amount not to exceed \$21,500. Rick Ginex seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: LaGrange Park

Motion Carried Unanimously

Susan Friend reported that the process will begin with focus groups. The survey will be sent in late fall or early winter.

Member Entity Projects and Events:

None reported.

Adjournment:

Rick Ginex moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Steve Thomas seconded the motion.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: LaGrange Park

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Thomas, Secretary
South East Association for Special Parks
And Recreation

Georgia Weber, Recording Secretary