

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

Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Held  
February 20, 2018, at the Park District of LaGrange,  
536 East Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525

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

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Village of Brookfield	Mary Pezdek
	Clarendon Hills Park District	Kelly Smith
	Darien Park District	Stephanie Gurgone
	Downers Grove Park District	Bill McAdam
	Park District of LaGrange	Dean Bissias
	Community Park District of LaGrange Park	Aleks Briedis
	Lemont Park District	Louise Egofske
	Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
	Village of Western Springs	Ray Jasica
	Westmont Park District	Bob Fleck
	Woodridge Park District	Mike Adams
	Executive Director	Matt Corso
	Superintendent	Catherine Morava
	Superintendent	Karen Lesniak
	Fund Development Coordinator	Lisa Rasin
	Marketing Coordinator	Morgan Drdak
	Recording Secretary	Carol Kocek
Absent:	Village of Indian Head Park	Brenda O'Laughlin
Visitors:	Inclusion Manager	Lisa Barrera
	Support Staff Manager	Shannon Tovey
	SEASPAR Intern	Tara Scott
	Lisle Intern	Trevor Brodeur
	Administrative Assistant	Nicole Guzior
	Village of Brookfield	Arlene Rovner

**Public Comment and Correspondence:**

Dan Garvy introduced Lisle Park District Intern Student, Trevor Brodeur. He attends the University of St. Francis.

Lisa Barrera presented a review of her program area including adult weekly programs and inclusion. She reported continuing interest in adult weekly programs such as Alley Cats, Diners Delight, and At the Movies, and the increased interest in Aqua Exercise and Healthy Snack. She

stated that not only are the programs beneficial for the participants, but they also provide respite support for families.

Lisa stated that inclusion requires working together. She has observed over 30 participants and noted the increase in preschoolers with language and cultural needs. Inclusion is facing new challenges such as undiagnosed children making it difficult to create behavior plans that will be successful.

SEASPAR employed 68 aides last summer and Lisa anticipates that number to increase to 75 to accommodate the growing requests. Currently SEASPAR has 18-20 dedicated staff. Lisa commented how well they work with the participants and their willingness to help.

Kelly Smith added that Lisa was a great resource and help in a particular setting to provide a positive outcome for an individual.

Lisa's upcoming focus is training. She believes park staff need be trained in special needs care and is looking for additional training resources. She provided staff training for eight entities last year and felt the training was successful and well received. Overall Lisa feels the inclusion partnership with the member entities has been strong and that everyone is working together as a team.

Inclusion services were provided for 150 children in 2017 compared to 105 in 2016. Currently one in 68 children is diagnosed with Autism and as many as one in seven have a mental health condition. Lisa would like to do more research and training on mental health in order to find better ways to help these children be successful in programs.

Lisa is also interested in pursuing resources through Early Choices, a professional learning resource for preschool training, a referral system through the school districts, and behavior management training such as Handle with Care, for park district staff.

Lisa shared an email from a parent on the success of her child in a program.

Dan Garvy thanked Lisa for all she has done with Lisle inclusion placements.

In response to Bob Fleck's question about summer employee's backgrounds, Lisa shared that staff are a mix of college students studying special recreation and high school students who have previous experience with special needs participants.

Shannon Tovey introduced intern student, Tara Scott. Tara attends the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, where she majored in Therapeutic Recreation. Her home is Waukesha but she is temporarily living in Oak Lawn.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Dean Bissias moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes from the January 16, 2018 Board Meeting; the Cash Disbursements in the amount of \$50,215.90; and the Bank Reconciliation from January 2018 as presented. Kelly Smith seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: LaGrange, Clarendon Hills, Brookfield, Darien, Downers Grove,  
LaGrange Park, Lemont, Western Springs, Westmont, Woodirdge,  
Lisle  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent, Not Voting: Indian Head Park  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**Recreation Reports:**

Cathy Morava had nothing to add to her report.

**Administrative Services Report:**

Karen Lesniak thanked Dan Garvy and the Lisle Park District staff for the referral of an audio visual consultant to install cameras at Lisle EAGLES.

**Fund Development Report:**

Lisa Rasin announced that the fish fry had been cancelled due to the blizzard and was rescheduled for Thursday, March 15.

Lisa stated that she has contracted with The Four C Notes, a Frankie Valli tribute band, for the concert on Thursday, April 19.

**Marketing Report:**

Morgan Drdak provided background on Facebook's algorithm changes. She explained that in Facebook's attempt to improve the user experience, they are showing users more posts in their newsfeeds from people and less from pages liked. As SEASPAR is a page people can like, our posts will not be shown in newsfeeds as often unless we have engaging posts; posts that followers are sharing, liking, or commenting on. Morgan believes this change is a way to generate more revenue for Facebook advertising, as you can pay to have your posts seen. Morgan plans to spend more money on Facebook advertising this year. Matt added he believes Facebook is still very economical; you can reach a lot of people for little expense.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Matt Corso thanked Bill McAdam and the Downers Grove Park District staff including Michelle Pusateri, Kevin Rosell, Geoff Penman for their help with a water leak in the SEASPAR kitchen, on the evening and the day of the blizzard.

Matt stated that he had been contacted by the Village of Riverside regarding information and membership questions. A concerned resident called and another stopped in to inquire more about SEASPAR. Matt stated the village had compared SEASPAR and two other SRAs with inaccurate information. Dan Garvy asked what Riverside could provide if they were a partner. Mary Pezdek replied they did not have any pools, community centers, or recreation centers. It was the Board consensus not to pursue further discussion.

Matt Corso and Louise Egofske updated the Board on the status of the use of the Lemont Safety Village building.



Louise summarized that the building and land are owned by the Village of Lemont and the land north of the building is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The Lemont Park District would take over operations of the building and dedicate space to SEASPAR for an EAGLES site and program space. An upcoming meeting with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is next week. The district had a concern the facility would be used for profit.

Matt Corso stated there are 12 participants on the waitlist who live in the western communities and would consider enrolling at Lemont. Matt also mentioned current participants might consider moving to the Lemont location. At a recent Lemont High School Transition meeting, Dawn Krawiec was questioned about the possibility of a new EAGLES program in Lemont. Matt stated he was confident we would have participants ready to enroll. He also added that NWSRA added a third day program site and WDSRA just started their sixth site. Adult Day Programs are a growing trend in SRAs and he believes this is positive growth for SEASPAR.

\*Tara Scott left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Louise Egofske stated Lemont would provide \$50,000 to \$60,000 for immediate repairs and upgrades. There would be a long range plan for further repairs including the roof replacement.

Stephanie Gurgone questioned the timeline for this project. Matt stated he was planning to incorporate SEASPAR anticipated costs in the preliminary budget to be presented in March.

Mike Adams questioned ownership of the building and Louise stated that they would negotiate a long term lease.

Matt commented SEASPAR would have approximately 700 sq.ft. of dedicated, secure space for the EAGLES and use of a larger activity room for evening programs when available. Louise stated the park district would also have activities in the building.

Matt asked and the Board was in agreement to pursue the site. Members requested additional information regarding participation numbers and detailed budget figures for the FY18-19 Budget. Stephanie Gurgone recommended a long term lease be established similar to the Darien site.

Lemont stated they were ready to roll with the site.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Matt Corso requested clarification regarding recommended expenditures presented in November to offset the fund balance. Discussion ensued. Board members directed Matt Corso to include the proposed expenditures item to the March agenda and to build these figures in the FY18-19 budget. They also directed Matt to include projected costs for an additional EAGLES site.

The Board concurred with Matt's plan for the development of financial guidelines. Ray Jasica reminded the Board of the need to fund the IMRF liability. Dan Garvy suggested a line item be added to the budget for a voluntary IMRF payment.

**New Business:**

Karen Lesniak reviewed the January 19, 2018 bid opening for a new bus. Four companies presented eight bids. Matt stated this was the most bids ever. After review and discussion, Karen Lesniak recommended the Starcraft with Freedman Driver Seat for \$62,750 from Midwest Transit. Matt expressed confidence with Midwest and felt they would provide a quality vehicle and noted the convenience of being located in Des Plaines.

Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the bid for the Starcraft with Freedman Driver Seat 15 passenger bus. The motion was seconded by Aleks Briedis.

Voting Aye: Clarendon Hills, LaGrange Park, Brookfield, Darien, Downers Grove,  
LaGrange, Lemont, Western Springs, Westmont, Woodridge, Lisle  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent, Not Voting: Indian Head Park  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**Member Entity Projects and Events:**

Mary Pezdek introduced Arlene Rovner to the Board. Arlene will be replacing her on the SEASPAR Board. Mary stated that she is retiring from the Village of Brookfield on Thursday, March 15. Mary expressed how much she enjoyed being part of SEASPAR, getting to know the EAGLES, and getting to know the Board. She wished the Board best in their future endeavors.

Matt Corso thanked Mary for her years of service to SEASPAR.

Board members thanked Dean Bissias for the tour of the new fitness center and the park district facilities.

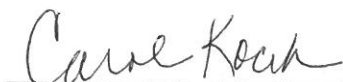
**Adjournment:**

Dean Bissias moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled February 20, 2018 SEASPAR Board Meeting at 5:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Bob Fleck. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean Bissias, Secretary  
South East Association for  
Special Parks And Recreation



Carol Kocek, Recording Secretary

