

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

Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Held
March 20, 2018 at the SEASPAR Office,
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Call to Order: Dan Garvy called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:	Darien Park District	Stephanie Gurgone
	Downers Grove Park District	Bill McAdam
	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
	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 Brookfield	Arlene Rovner
	Clarendon Hills Park District	Kelly Smith
	Village of Indian Head Park	Brenda O'Laughlin
	Park District of LaGrange	Dean Bissias
	Woodridge Park District	Mike Adams
Visitors:	Administrative Assistant	Nicole Guzior
	Recreation Coordinator	Greg Pavesich

Public Comment and Correspondence:

Recreation Coordinator Greg Pavesich outlined his program area. He reported SEASPAR hosted 43 athletes from all over the country at the recent two-day Chicago Regional Boccia Tournament held at the Park District of La Grange. He thanked Chris Finn and the Park District for their help hosting the event.

Greg stated he continues to offer programs with the Center For Independence (CFI) in Countryside. CFI is a conductive education school with four locations. This past year's programs included 18 students with physical disabilities on 13 outings including indoor skydiving at iFly and a biathlon using Nerf guns.

The Drop In Center was recently restructured and meets once a month. Once again Briar Place residents are attending. Greg noted the new activity director at Briar Place is open to cooperative programming.

Greg reported that currently Home Front Health has 18 members in Downers Grove and 23 in Lemont. He encouraged other member entities to consider partnering with the Home Front Health program.

Greg stated Camp Carefree is a cooperative day camp with NEDSRA for participants with physical disabilities held at SEASPAR. This is a popular camp with many returning participants each summer. A highlight from last summer was a trip to see competition at the Warrior Games in Chicago.

Greg reported Serena's Song totaled 2,522 flyers with 90 individuals in 2017.

He expressed his sincere gratification working with participants in an ongoing relationship helping them to advance in their skills including winter sports and new musical talents emerging in adapted music at Wonders. Greg showed a video of a participant creating music with the adaptive equipment.

Matt Corso stated Greg would be taking on several community outreach events that he did while he was Superintendent. Greg commented he is looking forward to it.

Greg also commented he would be joining Kim Huggins on the annual invitation-only vacation trip. This year's venue is an Alaskan Cruise.

Dan Garvy commended Greg and all the SEASPAR staff for what they do for our participants.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Ray Jasica moved to approve the Minutes from the February 20, 2018 Board Meeting; the Cash Disbursements in the amount of \$59,318.70; and the Bank Reconciliation for February as presented. Bob Fleck seconded the motion.

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

Recreation Report:

Cathy Morava stated our new music instructor is skilled in teaching drums and participant interest in lessons was requested this season. She brought attention to the newly purchased drum set in the multi-purpose room for Thursday music lessons.

Cathy reported last minute registrations are coming in for the upcoming spring break camp and Shannon is busy securing additional staff.

Administrative Services Report:

Karen Lesniak stated the DuPage County Forest Preserve requested assistance to improve their employee interaction with people with disabilities, with special education class field trips, and scouting organizations. SEASPAR staff provided Ability Awareness training similar to what is provided for area schools.

Fund Development Report:

Lisa Rasin shared the rescheduled Fish Fry was a success and those who were unable to attend made donations. She reported The Four C Notes will be performing at the Tivoli on April 19.

Marketing Report:

Morgan Drdak reported that she would deliver day camp and summer brochures to member district facilities in early April.

Executive Director Report:

Matt Corso reported Special Olympic Skier, William Porch, was honored at the Westmont Park District Board Meeting last week. Ron Gunter requested that William attend a Village Board Meeting as well.

Matt reported he stopped providing information to the Village of Riverside. He declined an invitation to a meeting on March 1 and has not heard anything further from the village staff.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Matt Corso reviewed a few typographical errors in the preliminary budget and noted the omission of \$2,500 allocated from the restricted scholarship line item. He explained he requested full-time staff input for their program areas in hopes of their understanding and tracking of expenses leading to a better comprehension of their budgets.

He noted some expenses were allocated to different accounts such as overnight trips previously included in special events, now are budgeted from their direct program area. Matt reminded the Board the FY2017-18 numbers were just a projection as three months remain in the fiscal year.

The budget includes a voluntary payment to IMRF and the addition of the Lemont EAGLES site beginning in October with six participants.

Matt stated the EAGLES revenue continues to grow and help to offset program fees. He stated that we have managed a slow growth and have efficiently staffed the program to control costs.

Ray Jasica questioned if another full-time staff would be needed in order to handle the workload with an additional EAGLES location. Matt commented Dawn was confident she can manage the additional site. He also stated only regular part-time employees staff each site and part-time employees do not receive benefits provided to SEASPAR salaried staff.

Ray pointed out that program growth has only been EAGLES. He didn't feel we should be afraid to charge more. He is sympathetic to the costs of having a child with a disability, but the alternatives are much more expensive. Having a child at Misericordia, for instance, is much more expensive than EAGLES. If families do not want to pay the EAGLES fee, they have other options they can consider.

Dan Garvy questioned the costs of a facility such as Misericordia. Matt Corso approximated similar programs were double to triple an EAGLES fee. However, he noted most are Medicaid waiver approved; so they can be funded by state funds. Ray responded the costs are \$60,000 - \$75,000 per year, plus hours required volunteering that does not result in a reduced financial obligation.

Bill McAdam stated the goal of our SRA is to provide and/or give another option, at a reasonable rate, to families who may not be able to afford and/or whom are not looking for a residential facility. Dan Garvy concurred with Bill's comment.

Matt stated scholarships are not given nor do we admit out-of-district residents to EAGLES.

Dan Garvy interjected that 12 participants are currently on the waiting list and there are potentially 15 more interested.

Bill McAdam stated he thinks our number estimates are low. South Downers Grove is underserved and it is an area with monetary constraints to afford private options. He added discussions in Lemont indicate families are looking forward to having a day program option available to them. Louise Egofske agreed.

Matt Corso stated the EAGLES program likely affects traditional program enrollments as families need to pick and choose what they do and some choose to do EAGLES versus traditional brochure programs.

Bob Fleck stated there is a need and this program matters. EAGLES is a proven success and Lemont would be easier than the first site to get up and running. He felt while other programs might have a little less interest, they were more for social fun; this was a need in the community.

Dan Garvy asked again if Dawn was confident she could run Lemont without adding additional full-time staff. Matt responded yes. Dawn has done a great job of empowering her site directors to lead their own sites. Dawn will need to be present and give more oversight to the Lemont site in the first year, but she also plans to utilize a veteran staff from another site to help with the Lemont startup.

Cathy Morava stated Dawn has done a great job of hiring and training her staff.

Dan Garvy asked for additional Board questions or comments about EAGLES or the budget as presented.

Bill McAdam suggested SEASPAR revisit the IMRF payment each year to make sure it is right at the time. He also commented the new budget layout was much easier to read.

Dan Garvy commended Matt for including staff in the budget process, giving them ownership and accountability of their program areas.

Ray Jasica inquired about a Lemont/SEASPAR agreement. Louise Egofske indicated it was in the works.

Louise made a correction to the ownership of the parcel at the previous meeting. The whole plot of land is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, not just the property behind the building. The Park District is working on an agreement to be a cotenant of the building with the Village of Lemont. Once completed, the Village will agree to turn over the building to Lemont Park District and the Park District can finalize a contract with SEASPAR for dedicated space.

Member Entity Projects and Events:

Dan Garvy indicated he would abdicate the throne in June to other interested parties.

Adjournment:

Bob Fleck moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled March 20, 2018 SEASPAR Board Meeting at 4:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Aleks Briedis. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Carol Kocek, Recording Secretary

