

SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held
June 18, 2024, at the SEASPAR Office
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Call to Order: Bill McAdam called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:

Clarendon Hills Park District	Kathy Forzley
Downers Grove Park District	Bill McAdam
Village of Indian Head Park	Amy Eckert
Park District of La Grange	Jenny Bechtold
Lemont Park District	Louise Egofske
Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
Village of Western Springs	Aleks Briedis
Woodridge Park District	Jenny Knitter
Executive Director	Matt Corso
Superintendent	Karen Lesniak
Recording Secretary	Morgan Mason

Absent:

Village of Brookfield	Luke Gundersen
Darien Park District	Stephanie Gurgone
Community Park District of La Grange Park	Jessica Cannaday
Westmont Park District	Bob Fleck

Visitors:

Downers Grove Park District	Sarah Bestwina
Recreation Coordinator	Matt Gorecki

Public Comment and Correspondence:

Introduction of Downers Grove Park District Intern Sarah Bestwina

Bill McAdam introduced Sarah Bestwina, Intern for the Downers Grove Park District. Sarah is a Recreation Management student at Illinois State University.

Presentation by Recreation Coordinator Matt Gorecki, CPRP

Matt Corso introduced SEASPAR's Recreation Coordinator for Athletics and Aquatics, Matt Gorecki, CPRP, who recently celebrated his fourth anniversary with SEASPAR.

Matt Gorecki presented highlights and data from his program area of Athletics and Aquatics. Matt noted that Athletics has seen an 11% increase in the number of participants from 2023-2024, with an increase specifically in the number of young and female athletes. SEASPAR participates in twelve of the eighteen Special Olympics sports, having added Rhythmic Gymnastics in the fall of 2023. SEASPAR's oldest Special Olympics athlete is a 73-year-old resident of Downers Grove, who competes in Bocce.

Matt noted that Athletics has seen significant growth over the last few years. The popularity of team sports has led to having two to three basketball teams and two flag football teams. Current

enrollment in Spartans Bowling is the highest ever, and Spartans Powerlifting, which historically had two or three participants, now has eight enrolled. The Steel Power Soccer program is full with eight enrolled, which is the number of power soccer chairs that SEASPAR has. Matt thanked the Board for approving the recent purchase of two chairs. Additionally, swim lessons are running five days a week and are nearly full every season.

Matt provided highlights from the recent Special Olympics Illinois State Summer Games. Thirty-one athletes qualified and 27 competed in five sports. A total of 43 medals were earned, including 15 gold. The athletes dedicated their medals to the late Randy Naberhaus, brother of volunteer Gary, who was a fixture in track and field at the Summer Games each year. Eight staff and volunteers accompanied the athletes for the weekend.

Matt also discussed the rebranding of Athletics, which included a new Athletics logo, redesign of the Special Olympics Spartans logo, and development of logos for the athletics events that SEASPAR hosts. Uniforms are being replaced with the rebranded Spartans logo, and grant funds are being sought for this project.

Matt gave an overview of the athletics events that SEASPAR hosts, which include a TR Section Volleyball Tournament, a Bowling Tournament in its 42nd year, and a Swim Meet which is the longest ongoing SRA event in Illinois at 44 years. A new event for 2024 will be the Wiffle Ball Classic in Willowbrook on September 14, which will serve as a welcome event for Willowbrook and a ribbon cutting for Midway Park. Other events in which SEASPAR athletes have recently participated include the Special Olympics North America National Golf Tournament in New Jersey in October 2023, where athlete Wayne Neumann earned gold. The Steel Power Soccer team also participated in the Turnstone Power Soccer Tournament in March, winning three of their four games.

The Board thanked Matt for his work.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Aleks Briedis moved to approve the Minutes from the May 21, 2024, Board Meeting; Minutes from the May 21, 2024, Executive Session; Payment of Bills in the amount of \$75,340.17; the Bank Reconciliation ending May 31, 2024; the Income Statement from May 2024; and Current Investments for May 2024 as presented. Louise Egofske seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Western Springs, Lemont, Clarendon Hills, Indian Head Park, La Grange, Lisle, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Darien, La Grange Park, Westmont

Motion Carried Unanimously

Recreation Report:

In Dawn Krawiec's absence, Matt Corso added to her report that SEASPAR's summer day camps are at capacity with 92 children enrolled in camps at six sites.

Administrative Services Report:

Karen Lesniak noted from her report that preparation for the summer season included presenting safety in-services to six different groups of staff. The trainings focused not only on safety but also respect for participants and families, confidentiality, and crisis management. She noted that she has been using interactive activities to engage staff at trainings.

Marketing Report:

In Laura Pulido's absence, Morgan Mason had nothing to add to her report.

Executive Director's Report:

Matt Corso added to his report that the Sips for SEASPAR fundraiser was a success, with \$639 raised. The staff at Alter Brewing reported that this was one of their larger events, and another will be planned for September.

Matt added to his report that SEASPAR participant Daniel Smrokowski has been selected for Team Coca-Cola for the Paris Olympics to promote inclusion as the representative of Special Olympics. He was one of only two team members chosen from the United States. Daniel is a resident of both La Grange Park and Westmont.

Matt added to his report that the IRS has cleared all late tax filing penalties.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

SEASPAR Chain of Command

Bill McAdam presented SEASPAR's chain of command for Board awareness.

Approval of Vehicle Bid

Karen Lesniak presented the two bids received for the replacement of Ruby, a 15-passenger bus with a wheelchair lift. Karen noted that the bid from Midwest Transit did not meet the specifications in the bid. Specifically, customized graphics for the vehicle are not included, and transportation is not provided for all repairs, including those out of warranty. Discussion ensued, and the Board also noted that the Glaval bus is the preferred model. Therefore, the bid from Best Bus would be selected. The Board directed staff to share the vehicle specifications with the Board for direction with future bids.

Dan Garvy moved to approve the bid from Best Bus Sales of Des Plaines for the purchase of a 2025 Ford E450 Glaval Universal vehicle for \$139,425.00. Louise Egofske seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Lisle, Lemont, Clarendon Hills, Indian Head Park, La Grange, Western Springs, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Darien, La Grange Park, Westmont

Motion Carried Unanimously

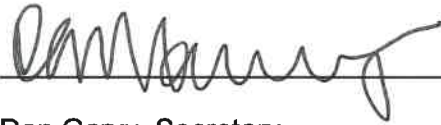
Member Entity Projects and Events:

Board members discussed recent and upcoming events. Matt Corso thanked the Woodridge Park District for welcoming SEASPAR participants to the Woodridge Jubilee.

Adjournment

Dan Garvy moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of June 18, 2024, at 4:02 p.m. Jenny Knitter seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Garvy, Secretary
South East Association for
Special Parks And Recreation



Morgan Mason, Recording Secretary