

South Suburban Legislative Initiative Group
Minutes of February 9, 2009 meeting
Tinley Park - Park District
Bettenhausen Recreation Center

I. Call to Order

Chairman Curran called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Introductions

In attendance:

John Curran, Tinley Park - Park District	Sandy Chevalier, Tinley Park-Park District
Chuck Szoke, Channahon Park District	Carlo Capalbo, Worth Park District
Evelyn Gleason, Midlothian Park District	Jennifer Menard, Hickory Hills Park District
John Wilson, Lan-Oak Park District	Maddie Kelly, Oak Lawn Park District
Lori Chesna, SWSRA	Dean Bissias, Park District of La Grange
Greg Lewis, New Lenox Park District	Jeff Boubelik, Frankfort Park District
Debbie Kopas, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District	
Greg Bates, Matteson Parks and Recreation Dept.	
Mike Leonard, Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Dept.	
Sue Micklevitz, Lockport Township Park District	
Jim Romanek, Kankakee Valley Park District	

III. Approval of January 5, minutes

Curran asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion by Kelly and seconded by Menard to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

IV. Issues/News Review

A. Legislative Bills and New Laws

A sheet titled Advocacy Alert pertaining to the Economic Recovery Act was passed out to members. Boubelik suggested that members submit a list of projects (to legislators) that are ready to be built.

B. CPI and Unfunded Mandates

Information regarding the PTELL and CPI was passed out to members. Peter Murphy is including a proposed CPI change as part of the legislative platform with a suggested 2% floor. The change would affect schools, libraries, and all non – home rule communities. Unfunded mandates mentioned: criminal background checks, the potential ban of aluminum baseball bats for youth leagues, legislation regarding municipal park and recreation agencies placing AED units at all outdoor recreation facilities, and the Virginia Graeme-Baker pool act.

C. NELB

‘Kelly and Micklevitz are on the committee. They stressed that an agencies’ best asset is its employees. Information on the Health and Wellness program is on the IPRA website. Information includes an application, toolkit and workbook.

D. Legislator’s Breakfast

The date is set for March 9, 2009@ 7:30 a.m. Tinley Park Bettenhausen Center. Discussion followed on a potential separate meeting for some agencies in order to allow greater opportunity for legislators to attend that live outside the immediate South Suburban area. The determination was made that all would meet at Tinley Park March 9.

V. Joint Legislative Committee Report

A memo from John McGovern, Co-Chair of the JLC research committee titled *Suggested 2009 Legislative Platform* was passed out to attendees. The platform listed ten items as the 2009 platform and discussed four issues that were deferred to further research and discussion. Curran asked that committee representatives speak at the Legislative Breakfast and explain problems with Prevailing Wage documentation. It was noted that Jan Buchs, Director of the Wheeling Park District, is a new member of JLC.

VI. IAPD/IPRA News

-T. Flickinger announced his retirement effective January 31, 2010. Curran is unsure as to the succession plan.

-IPRA costs are escalating and the organization is running a deficit. Kopas reported that IPRA has a \$200,000 budget deficit. Wilson suggested that the membership have a more direct role in decision making.

VII. Tasks and Timelines

A. JLC Platform - no additional report.

B. Parks Day/Legislative Reception and Conference - no report.

C. Community Leader Banquet

A letter will be sent to agencies announcing the details of the banquet. Huber and Chesna said that awards will be mentioned at the banquet.

D. SSPRPA Salary Survey

All agencies were emailed the results with twenty-five agencies participating in the survey. Based upon a positive response to including agency names, next year the names of participating agencies will be included in the survey.

D. Suggestions for Research Work

Micklevitz asked if ADA audits might be a topic of relevance. Members discussed J. McGovern's company and the audit recently performed for the Schaumburg Park District. Chesna suggested that a checklist from the Dept. of Justice can be used as a template. Szoke wondered if PDRMA would take on a project. Kopas will check with PDRMA.

E. Pre-School and After School Programs –no additional comments

VIII. Other News and Notes

-Leonard said the he is looking for interested persons to partner with a bike transportation grant.

-Szoke mentioned the upcoming Feb. 12 mentoring workshop.

-The NRPA Legislative Conference is March 17-20

-IAPD is still looking for key legislative contacts. The IAPD website contains registration information.

Having no additional business to discuss Chairman Curran called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Bissias and seconded by Szoke. On a voice vote there were all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

