

Regular Meeting
June 22, 2015

At the call of President Glen Marcum, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015 at the Presence Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 5:00pm.

Pledge to the Flag

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Mutz.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Marcum, Schultz, Broderick, Gulas, Mutz

Commissioners Absent: None

President Marcum led a moment of silence in memory of Joliet Park District employee, Donna Gale's father, John Davis and past employee of the golf courses, Tony Fazio.

A. Approval of the minutes of Regular Meeting of May 26, 2015

A motion was made by Vice President Schultz, seconded by Commissioner Gulas, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2015. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

B. Approval of the bills and payroll for the month of May 2015

Vice President Schultz made a motion to approve the bills and payroll for the month of May 2015. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Broderick and it carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

C. Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2015

Director of Finance Matt Pehle presented the Treasurer's report for the month of May 2015 as follows:

Cash on hand beginning of month:	\$ 228,586.47
Total Receipts during month:	\$ 2,543,673.51
Total Disbursements during month:	\$ 2,488,959.91
Cash on hand end of month:	\$ 283,300.07
Total Investments:	\$15,176,155.91
Total Cash and Investments:	\$15,459,455.98

Mr. Pehle noted that the operating fund balance of \$667,618.80 was down from last year's \$1,031,775.70 due to tax payments coming in later. Ticket sales for this year's Taste of Joliet are down about \$20,000 compared to last year's sales possibly due to the bad weather. Ticket sales are expected to increase this week prior to the event.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gulas, seconded by Commissioner Mutz, to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2015. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

D. Opportunity For The Public To Speak - 3 minute time limit

Traci Jungles stated that she is bringing forth a matter to the Commissioners regarding the current ice rink policies. Currently, Inwood does not allow non-staff coaches to coach students during the freestyle. Ms. Jungles said that this is unlike any other policy in Chicagoland and said she has a list of 24 rinks, 11 of which are park districts, that are allowing any coaches to come in and coach as the rinks realize the benefits and quality this adds to the programs, be it recreational or competitive. Many families have had to leave Inwood because of the current policies if they wanted to find better coaching. As taxpayers, the families should be allowed the full use and benefits of our local home rink. Ms. Jungles continued to state that allowing outside higher level coaching would only enhance and enrich the existing program. Ms. Jungles has spoken with several families that tell her they are currently on a waiting list to get in with some of the Inwood coaches because there are just not enough high level coaches at Inwood. The families settle for a coach that is available rather than select one that is best for their skater. Allowing outside coaches to teach skaters at Inwood would create a healthy competition among the coaches, stimulating the coaches to improve thus improving the overall quality of the program. Families would also save on transportation costs by not having to drive to other rinks and those families could come back and spend their money at the Joliet Park District. Ms. Jungles noted that she has heard many concerns as to what ill effects this change might have, but in fact she has seen the policy in effect at many other rinks without any of the problems that are being predicted. Ms. Jungles feels that it is an easy change that can happen at the Inwood Ice Rink, and if the experience at other rinks is any indication, a new policy will be beneficial for Inwood and the skate school employees and parents. Ms. Jungles said that both of her daughters are currently competitive skaters and her family lives three stoplights away. Inwood is the only rink in Chicago her daughters can't come to for a private lesson. Her daughters had to leave all of their friends and are no longer eligible for ice show solos in front of their hometown crowd. Her daughters' coaches would gladly come to Inwood and help out with the skate school, but like many competitive coaches, cannot commit to being on staff full time because they coach at many rinks. Rather than seeing this as a threat to the status quo, the Joliet Park District should look at the enrichment this would add to the existing program. Ms. Jungles requested that the Board make a motion and change the coaching policy and bring back all of the families that have had to leave as result of the current policy. The open policy that Ms. Jungles and others are recommending is the normal way of operating at each of the 24 Chicago area rinks (list provided to Board) and the policy brings benefits to those rinks, their coaches and their customers and would benefit the Inwood program too.

Dawn Smith stated that she is here tonight to support a policy in favor of outside coaching and to share her family's experience with the Inwood figure skating program. Ms. Smith's daughter, Ashlyn, took private lessons at Inwood for two and one half years. While her daughter had many positive experiences and made many friends, Ms. Smith said that she was a parent that felt stuck in a less than ideal coaching situation. Due to the closed door policy at Inwood, Ms. Smith stated that it was impossible for her daughter to get the coach she needed. Ms. Smith's family had to make a choice between traveling to another rink and incurring additional costs to the family or leaving the sport altogether. Ms. Smith stated that her family could no longer justify

paying the extra costs so her daughter was forced to stop skating altogether. The outcome was completely unnecessary because there were Inwood coaches that would be a good match for her daughter but due to the closed door policy, these coaches were fully booked. Figure skating is both an elite and very expensive sport, even at a recreational level, the closed door policy at Inwood added substantially to that cost in terms of both time and money. Ms. Smith stated that if there had been an open coaching policy in place, her daughter would have remained an active participant in the Inwood program. There seems to be no solid reason why there are currently waiting lists for certain coaches when plenty of coaches are more than willing to come to Inwood and both strengthen the program and generate revenue. The outcome of Ms. Smith family's experience could have been very different and her daughter could have continued to skate here with all of her friends. Ms. Smith requested that the Board consider welcoming all coaches to Inwood and bolster this program to be the best recreational skating program in the Chicago area. Other rinks have discovered there are no downsides of allowing parents and students options and choices. A new open door policy would help make Inwood a destination program where parents, students and taxpayers can all stay right in Joliet to experience what all of the other rinks have to offer.

Faith Gould approached the Board to express her opinion that contrary to current policy, Inwood should allow non-staff coaches to coach students during the freestyle ice time. Ms. Gould believes that a new policy would make for a stronger skate school program, with benefits for parents, skaters and Inwood alike. Ms. Gould shared the experience her family had at the Inwood ice arena under the current policy. Her daughter had worked with one Inwood coach for ten years, but after there was a disagreement with this coach over an ice show policy that was suddenly changed at the last minute, Ms. Gould's daughter was told by the coach that she would no longer coach her. When Ms. Gould and her daughter found a coach whose style suited her daughter, they had to switch rinks because of Inwood's closed door policy. This meant that Ms. Gould's daughter had to leave all of her friends and could no longer participate in the ice show as a soloist. Her new coach was very willing to come to Inwood and coach and help out with the skate school so that her daughter could still participate in Inwood's program, but since she could not commit to being on staff full time, it was not allowed. Ms. Gould stated not only did Inwood cause unnecessary disruption in a young skaters training, but Ms. Gould feels that there was a missed opportunity for the Inwood program to have another coach available for lessons and to assist the skate school. An open door policy would have allowed her daughter and the many other students that left to come back and be a part of both Inwood's ISI competitive team and the ice show. Ms. Gould noted that after becoming involved at another rink they realized that the other rinks are all operating with open coaching policies with much success and have been for many years. Ms. Gould does not understand why open coaching is not embraced by the Inwood program. Many families that have left due to similar situations to Ms. Gould's family would still be here today. Ms. Gould stated that skating is about the kids. It should be about having fun. Ice shows should be a fun reward for all of the time, money and hard work these kids and parents put into skating. The children should always come first, not coaching policies and arbitrary rules that serve no purpose to the benefit of the students. Ms. Gould requested the Board to make a motion to change this coaching policy and allow parents to be empowered with choices. Ultimately the winners here will be everyone involved in the program, including coaches, parents, taxpayers and most importantly the students you are trying to serve.

Lawrence Jungles stated that he would like to reiterate, that the outside coaching rule is unique only to Inwood and gives coaches too much power over parents when combined with the ever-changing ice show rules. This is morally and ethically wrong. Especially at a public rink. Mr. Lawrence continued to state that one of the biggest concerns we have heard from staff is that if coaches became independent contractors like the other rinks, Inwood would not have enough coaches to teach the skate school. Since this is not a problem at other rinks, Mr. Jungles wonders why it would be a problem at Inwood? On the plus side, actively fostering relationships, building networks and bringing in new coaches and techniques would be beneficial for the overall quality of the Inwood program. Mr. Jungles noted that Park Ridge Park District is an ISI rink just like Inwood and has two-time Olympian and World Silver medalist David Santee running the program and all coaches are welcome. Their Park District program is a perfect example of how competitive skating, open coaching and recreational programming can all co-exist to the betterment of the students and they do it on one sheet of ice. Mr. Jungles said that another concern he has heard is that independent contractors would be paid directly. Mr. Jungles stated that yes they would, just like all of the other surrounding park districts. As a result, the Joliet Park District's accounting costs would decrease. The Joliet Park District would only be responsible for the coach's pay for teaching group classes. Mr. Jungles also heard the excuse that Inwood is a small rink and it would get too crowded. This is a problem that is very unlikely and, in any event, could be easily managed if it arose. Mr. Jungles asked, wouldn't you want your freestyle ice time to be full and generating much needed revenue? Mr. Jungles noted that nearby rinks such as Canlan and Rocket allow Inwood coaches to come to their rinks on a regular basis with their private lessons and those rinks benefit financially from doing so. Even the Inwood skate school director has occasionally taken advantage of these opportunities at other rinks. Since none of the hypothetical concerns have resulted in actuality at other rinks, why does the Joliet Park District not reciprocate? There just does not seem to be any good reason not to show good faith and have a fruitful relationship with our colleagues in the sport. Mr. Jungles continued to state that other park districts are aware that figure skating is a completely separate industry and should be treated as such. Even though this is a recreational program, Inwood has 40 students attending a national level competition this summer, and those parents should have access to the best coaches suited for their skaters. Opening the rink to outside coaches will invigorate the program by increasing the use of the facility, by giving parents more options while encouraging them to continue bringing their skaters to Inwood, and by encouraging a dynamic exchange of ideas on managing and coaching young skaters with other professionals.

E. Communications

1. Chief Executive Officer's Correspondence

Mr. Egizio stated that the staff has been working hard and putting in many hours to prepare for the Taste of Joliet. Mr. Egizio thanked the staff for making the Taste of Joliet a great event.

Mr. Egizio noted that the Lazy River at Splash Station has been repaired although there is still some water leaking and this will be addressed after the season is over.

Mr. Egizio informed the Board that there was a break-in at the Nature Center. Unfortunately, turtles were stolen. The Nature Center does have an alarm but will need to look at adding additional security.

2. Sale of Benton Street Park

Mr. Egizio stated that Pastor Ramirez, from Iglesia Pentecostal Cristo es La Roca, approached the Joliet Park District about purchasing the Benton Street Park. A Public Notice was posted in the park about the possible sale of the park. No one from the public has approach the staff. Mr. Egizio stated that the staff's advice would be to approve the sale of the Benton Street Park.

Pastor Ramirez and a church representative stated that the church is looking to increase the size of the building but was told by the City of Joliet that a larger parking lot would be needed. The purchase of the park would help with the additional parking spaces. The church has been helping to improve the community by eliminating gangs and drugs in the area. Pastor Ramirez stated that it would be helpful to the church if the Joliet Park District would accept payments for the park or lower the purchase price of the park.

Marji Swanson, Joliet Park District Counsel, stated that if there was a decision made to sell the park, the court would need to approve the sale of the Benton Street Park because it will not be used for park district purposes. The court would also need to approve a lower purchase price because it would be below the appraisal amount.

The Board gave direction to Mr. Egizio to meet with the City of Joliet to discuss options on how the City of Joliet could help Pastor Ramirez and his church.

F. Action Items

1. Old Business

No Old Business was brought to the Board for consideration.

2. New Business

a. License Agreement for a New Cell Tower – Inwood Sports Complex

Mr. Egizio stated that Eric Lennington, Ton 80 Realty Services, Inc. is here to present a possible cell tower at the Inwood Sports Complex. Mr. Egizio noted that if the Board was open to a cell tower the staff would recommend the northern location at the Inwood Sports Complex.

Eric Lennington, stated that he is here representing SBA Communications, the original plan was to have the cell tower across the street from the Joliet Memorial Stadium but was not passed by the Joliet City Council. Mr. Lennington presented the Board with location ideas for the tower. There was brief discussion about location, lease agreement and rent. There was some concern about the location being close to the Joliet Regional Airport.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mutz, seconded by Vice President Schultz, to approve staff to continue the possible concept and location of the cell tower at the Inwood Sports Complex. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Marcum, Schultz, Gulas, Mutz

Nays: Broderick

b. Request for Waiver of Pavilion Fees – Will County Humane Society
Mr. Egizio advised that the Will County Humane Society uses Pilcher Park annually and has received approval from the Board over the past several years for a fee waiver. The Humane Society is asked to keep the animals on a leash. Mr. Egizio recommended approving the request pending a certificate of insurance naming the Park District as additional insured.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gulas, seconded by Commissioner Broderick, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor
Nays: None

c. Ordinance #798 – Prevailing Wage
Mr. Egizio advised that this ordinance is done annually and states that when the Park District requests bids for construction, it will comply with the prevailing wage rates for Will and Kendall Counties.

A motion was made by Vice President Schultz, seconded by Commissioner Mutz, to adopt Ordinance #798. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor
Nays: None

3. Quotes

- a. 2015 Playground Equipment Purchase – Crombie Park, Gottschalg Park, Legion Park, Mayor Art Schultz Park, Paul E. Briese Park and Rockdale School

Mr. Egizio stated that the Joliet Park District received quotes from Parkreation for Crombie Park, Mayor Art Schultz Park and Paul E. Briese Park in the amount of \$197,218.26 and GameTime for Gottschalg Park, Legion Park, and Rockdale School for \$251,234.00. Parkreation Inc. pricing is based on a contract acceptance and award from National Joint Powers Alliances (NJPA) which the Joliet Park District is a member. GameTime pricing is based on a contract acceptance and award from U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance which the Joliet Park District is a member. National Joint Powers Alliances and U.S. Government Purchasing Alliance go out to bid publicly for the members to get the best rates. Mr. Egizio noted that the Joliet Park District will go out to bid locally for the installation of the playground equipment.

It is staff's recommendation to accept the proposal from Parkreation Inc. for \$197,218.26 and GameTime for \$251,234.00.

Commissioner Gulas inquired about the timeframe for the completion of the parks. Mr. Egizio informed the Board that the equipment should be installed during the fall. President Marcum expressed his concern with the fall installation for Rockdale School playground because the children will be in school.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broderick, seconded by Commissioner Gulas, to approve staff's recommendation to accept the quote from Parkreation Inc. and GameTime. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

Mr. Egizio informed the Board that designs are being developed for Heggie Field and Garnsey Park.

G. Board Comment

Vice President Schultz stated that there was a wedding & reception at the Inwood Cart Barn and that the Inwood staff did a great job with the event. Vice President Schultz expressed that he would like to see the Cart Barn advertised in the Joliet Park District catalog as a rental facility for different events.

President Marcum thanked the residents who came out to express their concerns about the Inwood skate policy.

President Marcum extended best wishes for a successful Taste of Joliet and thanked the staff for all their work.

1. Committee Report

a. Joliet Park Foundation

President Marcum informed the Board that the Joliet Park Foundation will be conducting a 50/50 raffle at the Taste of Joliet and that the Foundation's Moonlight Golf Outing is on August 1st.

b. Joliet Regional Airport

Commissioner Broderick stated that on September 13, 2015, the Joliet Regional Airport will host the Annual Airport Festival.

H. Adjournment

At 5:50pm with all agenda items discussed, a motion was made by Commissioner Gulas, seconded by Vice President Schultz, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dominic P. Egizio, Jr.
Board Secretary