

Minutes of the Tri Annual Meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Parks-Maintenance Department Shop, 455 North Marley Road, New Lenox, IL.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

Call to order Commissioner Larson - called the December 5, 2016 meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Roll Call In attendance Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek, President Brian Fischer, Commissioner Dale Larson, Parks-Maintenance Foreman Ken Stephens, Chris Vektor and Brian Watta of NLBA, Sean Scanlon and Shawn Kurtch of NLGSA, Lynn Plarski NL Mustangs, Jim Willis and Mike Malito of NLYFA, Kevin Shannon NLSA, and Kimberly Pohrte Recording Secretary.

Associations Report Shawn Kurth - NLGSA

Ms. Kurth reported the season went well. Registration begins January 21 and January 28, 2017. Mrs. Kurth further noted no projects in the works. There has been a change in Board members. Ms. Kurth reported the new board will meet and discuss practice field needs including Ron Rob Field, which they do not currently use. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek explained the water issues that Ron Rob Field has incurred in the past due to the creek levels.

Lynn Plarski - NL Mustangs

Ms. Plarski reported on the success of the football season. The season ended with three division champs. Mrs. Plarski reported on the varsity Gatlinburg tournament trip expressing how great the experience was for the boys and the families. They finished in third place and were able to get out before the fires began. The Mustangs ended the year with five squads of cheer. In addition, the light project is complete and the Association is hoping to get the turf in line for the spring. Ms. Plarski further commented on the Gatlinburg tournament regarding the difference in the size of the lines. Mustang's line was average of 150 lbs. playing against boys weighing 180-200 lbs. Ms. Plarski reported it was a great growth experience for the boys proving technique over size matters.

Chris Vektor - NL Rebels Baseball

Mr. Vektor reported that they finished fall ball with no issues, plus field clean-up is complete. Mr. Vektor reported they are still trying to resolve the electric bills, trying to investigate how they can reduce the bills. The concessions have been closed up and they will have a new concession leader next season. They have had board turnover this year. The new VP is Jeff Swallow. Spring registration is open, but moving slowly. Mr. Vektor reported number one issue is complaints about out of district fees. Association is trying to implement new software with all the resident boundaries, but experiencing some difficulties. Projects for 2017 - invest in 4 fields, fields with lights 8, 9, 14 currently have water drainage problems. Mr. Vektor stated the Association is going out for bid to fix those fields. The Association will pay as they go, will not take out a line of credit. Mr. Vektor indicated the other goals are to repair the existing fields and to keep people off the fields in the spring. Currently no major projects were reported. Mr. Vektor indicated the Association continues to discuss permanent bathrooms; this has been an ongoing discussion. Last year's number were a little over a 1,000. Currently seeing a decline in travel which is fine because of growth over the last few years. Mr. Vektor reported no concerns with the new board.

Mike Malito - NLYFA

Mr. Malito reported on a good season, numbers were up. Mr. Malito reported the 8-year-old program is low, believes parents are shying away from football due to all the concussion studies. Kids are currently coming into the program later. Mr. Malito further reported four teams made it to the championship; the 8-year-old team lost; the two 10 years old teams played each other; and the varsity team won. Registration is slated to begin late February or early March. On-line registration will begin after the first of the year. Mr. Malito indicated ongoing projects include fixing up Francis Field. The issue is to decide how much money the Association is willing to put into the field knowing it is used by the horses. The plan going forward is to keep the younger kids at Francis and older boys at the high schools. Mr. Malito reported the 8-year-old team numbers are down because of concussion awareness. Mr. Malito stated the concussion studies are usually done on professional athletes; they are not studying high school, D2, D3 football players. Mr. Malito stated kids are more likely at 10 years old to get a concussion riding a bike. Mr. Watta explained how the techniques are changing making the sport safer. Mr. Watta explained there is a need to bring awareness to the game explaining the game of football is changing and there is an effort to make sure safety is the first priority. Mr. Watta explained everyone now has to be certified.

Kevin Shannon - NLSA

Mr. Shannon reported on a great season. Mr. Shannon reported the field changes helped the parking issues that they had in the past. Mr. Shannon reported numbers were down this season and he believes this has to do with not advertising in the Park District Catalog. Mr. Shannon is resigning and Tim Donovan will be the new President. Mr. Donovan is a current board member and is quite familiar with all the board issues. This will result in some movement on the Board. Mr. Shannon expressed pleasure working with the Park District. Mr. Shannon reported no major projects just normal sod and turf repairs. Mr. Shannon stated they changed up fields this year to give them a chance to rest and grow. They will relocate some fields in the summer, will flop fields to get a different wear pattern. Mr. Shannon reported there were some reports that La Crosse players were throwing La Crosse balls into the nets on Nelson campus. This can damage the nets and Mr. Shannon made a phone call to explain the situation.

Park District

Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicsek reported on the upcoming Park District Holiday Party and extended an invitation to the Associations and their spouses.

Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicsek reported on the accessible paths and viewing areas for fields 1, 2, 5 and 6 at Bentley. A path at Spencer is also being reviewed and waiting approval. Mr. Vektor inquired about replacing the parking signs at Tyler due to fading. Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicsek reported any new signage needs to be approved by Bob Nelson. Mr. Nelson also needs to approve the new paths. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicsek reported an erosion issue on the slope by 1-2 which began this year indicating the erosion will need further investigation. In addition, he is recommending pouring concrete on 4 to alleviate the current drainage issues.

Association requirements are included in the handout provided by Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicsek, directing all to page 14 which outlines the documents

required from the Associations. In addition, School District 122 has requested copies of all documents required by the Park District for their records and they want those documents as soon as possible. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek explained the School District wants anyone who uses their property to submit the required documents. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek requested all Associations submit any board changes in writing including current mailing addresses. The Park District is requesting all bills need to be paid in a timely matter. Mr. Vektor expressed interest in opening up the discussion regarding highly punitive fees for out of district athletes. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek referred to a prepared handout outlining in district and out of district numbers for each Association noting soccer as the only association that went over the 25% when spring, summer, fall season were combined. NLCPD requesting roster information in the format as attached. Mr. Vektor indicated they use Excel stating Excel is the only way they are able to provide the information. Format requested by NLCPD may not be attainable; cannot reformat the current software.

Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek opened discussion regarding out of district fees. Mr. Scanlon indicated he is willing to assist with the field preparation to cut cost. Commission Larson inquired if the Soccer Association would still request the Park District to lay out the fields and stripe the fields. Mr. Scanlon would like the Park District to continue and appreciates all that they do for the Association. Ms. Plarski expressed her understanding in the concept of taking care of the New Lenox residents first, but figuring out who lives in the Park District boundaries is not an easy task due to the complicated boundaries. Ms. Plarski reported she did not look at the boundaries when figuring out her resident/non-resident numbers. Ms. Plarski assumed New Lenox addresses were residents. She further indicated her figures could be unintentionally inaccurate. President Fischer inquired if we did not have the out of district fee, how would we ensure everyone was complying with the 75/25 rule. Ms. Plarski noted she turned in her rosters and relied on the Park District to determine who was in and who was out of district and they paid the fees based on those figures. Mr. Scanlon indicated soccer had not followed the 75/25 in the past, but they have changed that now that they understand the boundaries better. Mr. Scanlon indicated the Soccer Association would rather work off the amount owed for out of district fees. He questioned whether that is possible. Mr. Scanlon declared it is a lot of money they are required to pay and they have not passed the cost onto their players. Ms. Plarski inquired if the expendables were proportionate to income? President Fischer explained that the Lemont Park District budgets \$50,000 for athletics, once they hit that number the Associations incur the remainder of fees 100%. President Fischer noted New Lenox Park District spends a lot more than \$50,000 a year on the athletic programs noting the Park District spends twice as much on the Associations. President Fischer indicated "working it off" is not a viable option citing an accounting nightmare for Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek to track. Mr. Scanlon agrees they would not be able to pay what is due with volunteer labor. President Fischer further inquired if the software used by the Association enables them to charge the appropriate out of district fees. Mr. Vektor noted they are volunteers and they do not have paid employees to figure out and track the out of district registrations. President Fischer inquired what procedure was followed in the past to figure out who was in district and who was out of district to assess the fees accurately. Mr. Vektor indicated the map/zone are so complicated it does not allow for out of district

fees to accurately charge the residents. Mr. Vetor indicated he gets emails on a daily basis voicing complaints regarding the fees. Mr. Vetor further believes there has never been a dialogue regarding out of district fees and his biggest concern is that we have a very substantial population that is not satisfied with the Park District. President Fischer strongly disagreed with Mr. Vetor indicating he receives numerous compliments from people in the community regarding the job the Park District does for the residents. Mr. Scanlon voiced his concern for the \$20.00 out of district fee for programs that are \$40.00 programs. President Fischer noted that those programs were to pay an out of district fee of \$5.00, because those programs were deemed instructional. President Fischer noted it would be helpful to write down options to resolve the out of district issues stating there has been several meetings about the issue and President Fischer does not agree with the premise that the current policy was forced upon the Associations. Ms. Plarski indicated she has no problem paying the out of district fees and believes the Park District goes above and beyond to help out the Associations. Ms. Plarski is not, however, currently passing charges onto her players. The Mustangs do not want to change their software system instead they pass the costs on across the board. Mr. Scanlon reported that all soccer registration is online and handled by a 3rd party vendor. Mr. Vetor indicated the \$40.00 penalty charge for going over the out of district max of 25% is what he is objecting to. President Fischer noted it is not meant to be a penalty charge it is meant to be a deterrent. President Fischer noted the 75/25 was a compromise, the original policy was 80/20. President Fischer indicated without a fee there would be no incentive to service the residents of New Lenox first. Mr. Vetor reported the competitive ball leagues comply with the policy, noting they are not the issue. Mr. Vetor believes the \$60.00 fee (\$20.00 for out of district and an additional \$40.00 fee for kids 26% and over) is unfair. President Fischer indicated there was a concern that most of the competitive ball is pulling in out of district kids. Mr. Vetor indicated in-house programs have more out of district kids than travel. Travel has guidelines for in/out and the program is able to manage travel better than in-house. Mr. Vetor indicated there are over 700 families involved in in-house ball. Mr. Vetor reported when Manhattan closed down their programs New Lenox saw a big increase in out of district numbers. President Fischer explained the \$60 fee was originally implemented to ensure the competitive leagues do not recruit out of district athletes. Commissioner Larson noted the goal is to have New Lenox residents using the parks and playing on the New Lenox fields. Commissioner Larson explained that in the past when kids don't make their hometown competitive teams they branch out and parents start their own teams, the goal is to avoid New Lenox kids going somewhere else. Mr. Scanlon noted soccer does not turn away any kids. President Fischer inquired how can we ensure the Associations are complying with 75/25% policy. President Fischer expressed his concern with the Boards changing and with that sometimes attitudes change. Mr. Vetor indicated his Association is not experiencing problems with too many out of district fees, they are experiencing problems with the \$60.00 fee on a \$175 registration. Mr. Vetor feels that amount is exorbitant. President Fischer responded - for the sake of the conversation if the additional \$40.00 fee goes away what is the feeling about the current \$20.00 out of district fee? Ms. Plarski noted the Mustang's accept the fee, they do not pass it on to their families instead they charge a flat fee for everyone. President Fischer's concern is when boards change there needs to be parameters in place. President Fischer further commented if the referendum had passed we would not be feeling all these financial pains.

Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek went over the breakdown on the handouts provided to the Association regarding costs incurred by NLCPD explaining fees and labor costs. As outlined, the Park District is spending over \$100,000 a year on park upkeep and projects highlighting the breakdown of completed projects with costs totaling over \$84,000 in projects for the year. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek hopes the breakdown gives the Associations an idea of where the money is going to service all the athletic fields.

Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek reported on the purchase of a new piece of equipment which will result in 30% saving of paint for striping. In addition, Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek indicated the Park District is looking for a new striper to cut down on labor time. He further explained the costs to cut around the schools is not included, it is a separate cost. The Park District picks up those costs to offset times allotted to use the gyms in the School District buildings. President Fischer explained we are not allowed to use all nine gyms; we are allowed to use only five. The gyms are currently being used for Park District programs, but the cost for cutting the grass is not completely recouped by the allotted gym time. President Fischer reported it is hard to get gym time from the schools. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek explained the schools do not want their buildings open on Saturday because it causes their staff additional labor time before school on Monday. President Fischer explained with North closing it has become a domino effect, and expressed frustration in the lack of gym time available for use. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek reported no parking problems with fall leagues. He did not receive any complaints. Mr. Vetor requested additional striping at Bentley in conjunction with the new signage. Mr. Vetor indicated the Association is happy to share the costs. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek reported the porta johns and turf mowing are going out to bid this year, they go out for bid every three years. In addition, all forms must be filled out for project requests. The latest black-out dates were also handed out, noting the school district will be updating this list again in February.

Mr. Watta asked what the Park District is doing to reduce their expenses. Mr. Watta reported seeing kids standing around at West and Central when they are working. Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek indicated those employees are from a different department not Parks noting he could not speak for another department. Commissioner Larson inquired if the implication is if we reduce expenses in other areas we in turn can reduce fees? Mr. Watta commented if expenses are reduced we can reduce equipment costs for athletics. Commission Larson indicated he did not follow the question. Mr. Watta inquired again, what is the Park District doing to reduce expenditures? President Fischer responded that it is hard to reduce expenditures when the Park District is growing. President Fischer further commented the Park District has over 1100 programs, 35 parks, 40-50 full time staff, 300 part timers and a tax levy that has been frozen. President Fischer noted the current budget is based on two forms of revenue; tax levy and user fees. The only way to cut expenses is to cut services and programs. President Fischer further commented on the kids working at the high schools. President Fischer pointed out they are 16-year-old kids, working their first jobs. President Fischer commented not all kids are balls of fire and we are servicing our community by giving these kids their first job. In addition, most part time jobs at the Park District pay minimum wage. President Fischer warned don't come to the Park

District if you want to make a lot of money. President Fischer further reported if the referendum had passed, we would have had a dome so there would not be concerns with gym space. Ms. Plarski wondered if we are watching the internal programs at the Park District to ensure the 75/25 policy. President Fischer noted the in-district residents receive priority registration, and out of district has not been an issue. President Fischer indicated impact fees are cut in half and there is no grant money from the state noting the Park District is not hiding anything, the audit is released every spring and can be reviewed by the public. Ms. Plarski voiced her concerns with the School District requiring additional documentation from the Associations warning the School District in the future will request money from the Associations for the use of the land, tapping into money the Associations have slotted for other projects and expenses. President Fischer indicated he will go back to the Board and further discuss the \$40.00 additional out of district fee that seems to be a concern.

Adjournment

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek thanked everyone for attending. Director of Parks-Maintenance, George Travnicek adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Pohrte
Recording Secretary