

MINUTES of the Regular Board Meeting of the Northbrook Park District Board of Commissioners held Wednesday, March 21, 2007 in the Leisure Center Building located at 3323 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER

President Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On a roll call by the Secretary, the following members were in attendance:

Commissioners Present: President Hall; Vice-President Cloh; Meses. Chambers, Randel; Mr. Dahl

Commissioners Absent: Messrs. Simon, Taksin

Officers Present: Secretary Harvey, Assistant Secretary Jones, Treasurer Eppelheimer

Staff Present: Directors Fischer, Miller, Yoder; other Park District staff Gail Baritz, Greg Baron, George Baumgardt, Lynette Bearer, Megan Hadler, Tony Korzyniewski, Michael Siefken, Jan Springer

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

In attendance was Commissioner Candidate Michael Ziering; Ted Flickinger and Peter Murphy, IAPD, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Don Jessen, Addison Park District; Fred Hohnke, Woodridge Park District; Dave Mason, DeKalb Park District; Mike Rink, Corporate Construction Services, Downers Grove; Hank Hojnacki, 906 Meadow Road; Joseph Smith, Greenview Road and other friends of Commissioner Dahl from Northbrook and surrounding communities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Hall called for any changes or deletions to the Agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Dahl moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Cloh and unanimously approved on voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2007 were previously distributed and reviewed. President Hall called for any changes or deletions to the Minutes. Hearing none, Commissioner Dahl moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Cloh and unanimously approved on a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS—None.

BOARD NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT—2007-2008 BOARD OFFICERS

President Hall called for a report from the Board Nomination Committee. The Committee consisting of Commissioners Chambers and Dahl reported there were a number of Commissioners wishing to serve. The Nomination Committee recommends to slate the current President David Hall for President and current Vice-President Steve Cloh for Vice-President. The Election of Board Officers for 2007-2008 will be on the Agenda at the April 25, 2007 Board Meeting for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

- 8a. **Approval of February 2007 Vouchers**—Commissioner Dahl moved to approve the February 2007 Vouchers in the amount of \$714,832.56 along with the wire transfers in the amount of \$308,893.24 for a Grand Total of \$1,023,725.80. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chambers and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.
- 8b. **Adoption of Ordinance 07-O-3, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 81-O-5, as Amended, to Establish Seven Group Picnic Sites in the Park System**—Commissioner Dahl moved to adopt Ordinance 07-O-3, an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 81-O-5, as amended, to establish seven Group Picnic Sites in the Park System. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chambers and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.
- 8c. **Approval of Resolution 07-R-2, A Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2 to the Contract with Schaeffges Brothers, Inc. for Work at the Meadowhill Aquatic Center Project, Phase II**—Commissioner Dahl moved to adopt Resolution 07-R-2, a resolution approving Change Order No. 2 to the contract with Schaeffges Brothers, Inc. for work at the Meadowhill Aquatic Center Project, Phase II. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Randel and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.
- 8d. **Approval of Executive Director Employment Agreement**—Commissioner Dahl moved to approve the Executive Director's Employment Agreement effective April 1, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chambers and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.
- 8e. **Approval of Bid Number 1849/Trims and Surround Mower—Golf Operations**—Commissioner Dahl moved to award the low bid from Turf Professionals Equipment Company of Franklin Park, Illinois with a bid amount of \$27,012.22 without trade for a Groundsmaster 3500-D (Bank Mower) for use by Golf Operations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chambers and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.
- 8f. **Approval of Commissioner Travel Request—NRPA Spring Board of Trustees Meeting**—Commissioner Dahl moved to approve a travel request by Commissioners Randel to attend the NRPA Spring Board of Trustees Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia as a representative of the Northbrook Park District from April 18 through 22, 2007 with anticipated expenses of \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chambers and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT—None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS—None.

OLD BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS—None.

13. Recognition of Retiring Commissioner Dahl

President Hall asked Commissioner Dahl to join him at the podium.

President Hall honored Commissioner Dahl with the following remarks, “Most people have heard of the Oscar, the statue awarded for achievements and excellence in the movie industry. Here in Northbrook, we have our own Oscar - Oscar Dahl, who symbolizes achievements and excellence in the business of parks and recreation. In fact, he has been recognized many times for outstanding performance by the Northbrook Park District Board of Commissioners and by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. After serving on the Board for the past 20 years, longer than any other commissioner, Oscar is stepping down, and tonight is his last regular meeting as a board member.

However, no one who knows Oscar would use the word retiring to describe him. Some of the words that have been used are outstanding, loyal and dedicated. He's been recognized for his enthusiasm, his commitment, his diligence, his courage, his tenacity and his foresight and perseverance.

I would like to mention just a few accomplishments that Oscar has achieved. During his tenure, Oscar served as Board President, chaired many park committees and started the Northbrook Park District Sports Hall of Fame. In addition to serving Northbrook, he has actively advocated for parks and recreation at the national and state levels and served as President of the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD). In that role, he visited and gave presentations to more than 25 park districts and started the "2,000 Trees by 2000" Program, which far exceeded its goal. He helped initiate the "Sister Park District" Program, was instrumental in promoting the "Friends of the Illinois Parks" Program and promoted legislative action such as the "Open Space Land Trust Act" to benefit parks and recreation in Illinois. He received an Outstanding Commissioner of the Year Award, the highest honor from the I.A.P.D.

As you can imagine, Oscar has collected countless awards, plaques, pins and honors for his achievements, in addition to having a tree planted in his name at the Village Green in Northbrook. He served as Grand Marshal of the Illinois State Fair parade; he assisted at a tree planting ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield; he worked to control the over-population of Canadian Geese in northern Illinois and he was part of a champion cow milking team at the State Fair. He is also proud to have scored two holes-in-one at Sportsman's Country Club in the past two years (quite an achievement for a person who suffers from a vision disability – macular degeneration).

Over the years, Oscar has worn many hats. He has owned his own insurance company and has entertained as a clown and as Santa Claus. Tonight, we want to tip our hat to him. We do not want to say goodbye but rather Thank you. You have served tirelessly, without compensation, and you have made the Northbrook Park District and the community a far better place. In the coming years, may the wind be at your back and the sun in your eyes.”

All in attendance stood in applause for Commissioner Dahl.

President Hall presented Commissioner Dahl with a Certificate of Appreciation which read, “Oscar L. Dahl, Commissioner 1987-2007, Vice-President 1992-1994, President 1995-1997, With Grateful Appreciation For Your 20 Years of Leadership, Northbrook Park District, Board of Commissioners.” President Hall reported in addition a tree will be planted at the Anetsberger Golf Course at a site to be determined by Commissioner Dahl and Director Yoder this spring.

President and CEO of the Illinois Association of Park Districts Ted Flickinger came to the podium. He reported he is joined here tonight with Peter Murphy, General Counsel of the Illinois Association of Park Districts as well as past-presidents Don Jessen and Fred Hohnke. Mr. Flickinger stated, “Thank you Oscar for your many contributions to the field of parks and recreation, you have left an indelible mark in our field, and as President of IAPD presented Commissioner Dahl with a Board Member Service Anniversary Award for 20 years of service to IAPD and as a Northbrook Park District Commissioner.

Mr. Flickinger stated on behalf of the over 400 park districts, forest preserves and conservation groups, the over 2,100 elected officials in the State of Illinois and along with the Illinois Association of Park Districts, we wish to present to Commissioner Dahl with the following resolution, which reads:

“WHEREAS, The Illinois Association of Park Districts represents more than 2,100 elected officials serving nearly 400 park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies throughout the state of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Association of Park Districts holds in the highest esteem those individuals who have demonstrated a deep and continuing commitment to the enhancement of recreational opportunities for the citizens of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Dahl has faithfully served the park, recreation and conservation mission in Illinois as a commissioner for the Northbrook Park District from 1987 to 2007, playing a key role in advancing the agency’s services, programs and facilities. In 1999 he received Master Board Member status from the Illinois Association of Park Districts for his involvement in achievements at the local, state and national levels, and in 2001 was awarded the association’s highest award for citizens, the Allan A. Weissburg “Commissioner of the Year” award for his outstanding support of parks, recreation and conservation in his community and throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Dahl was instrumental in the Governor’s declaration of July as “Parks and Recreation Month” in the state of Illinois. In 1999 his initiative “2,000 Trees by 2000” drive benefitted the Northbrook Park District with the planting of 1,100 trees, and while commissioner he was actively involved in securing state grants for the purchase of several new park areas; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Dahl served with distinction on the Illinois Association of Park Districts' Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2001, and as board Chairman in 1999. In 2006 he was honored with the Chairman's Citation for his steadfast leadership in parks and recreation. Oscar's selfless dedication and talents extended nationally with his involvement in the National Recreation and Park Association and as a legislative advocate for parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Dahl's spirited leadership and genuine fellowship are remarkable personal traits that leave lasting impressions on those who have the privilege of knowing him. We praise his selfless dedication in promoting Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts and recreation agencies as leaders in the delivery of park and recreation services; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS, That we applaud Oscar Dahl for outstanding service to his community, state and nation and commend him on the contributions he has rendered to the field of parks and recreation; that we wish him the very best in his future endeavors with the knowledge that he is a person who will always give generously of his time and remarkable personal talents; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this preamble and resolution be presented to Oscar Dahl as an indication of the respect and esteem in which he is held by this Board of Trustees and the entire membership of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2007 and signed by Scott Triphahn, IAPD Chairman and Theodore B. Flickinger, Ph.D., IAPD President/CEO."

With that Mr. Flickinger emphasized "Everybody loves you Oscar, thank you for all you have accomplished in your 20 years as Commissioner." He commented Commissioner Dahl is most worthy of this quote from Theodore Roosevelt, "What a man does for himself dies with him, but what he does for mankind lives forever..."

Commissioner Chambers came to the podium and read from a poem she wrote for Commissioner Dahl.

"Owed" to Oscar. Oh Oscar! Dear Oscar, it's true! The Park District owes a great deal to you! You served our town and our state, Doing your best to make the parks great! Whether in town or at the state fair, You are a Commissioner Extraordinaire! To the new guys you gave great advice! I admit, to me, you had to give twice! On issues sometimes, you weren't right, But you'd argue with all of your might! In the end, whatever the vote, You jumped in to help row the boat! While agreeing to just disagree, We all became friends, you see!

To Elaine, with great affection, I say, "Thanks, now he's yours every Wednesday!" So, now after twenty years, We say, "Fare thee well! No Tears" We owe you the very best wishes of luck, and hope you get "The best bang for the Buck!"

President and CEO of IAPD, Ted Flickinger, fondly related that even the City of Chicago is very much aware of Commissioner Dahl. While in Chicago Commissioner Dahl had the opportunity to visit with Mayor Daley and told the Mayor he had voted for him. Mr. Flickinger commented to this day when driving by the Governor's Mansion in Springfield he recalls the day when he and Commissioner Dahl dedicated a tree on the Mansion grounds, the many Illinois State Fairs they attended, and a green t-shirt he wears which reads, "The Best Bang for the Buck"

Commissioner Cloh came to the podium to honor Commissioner Dahl.

"Oscar, this is a very special and bitter-sweet occasion. It's very sad to be saying goodbye to Oscar, as a fellow commissioner of the Northbrook Park District. But at the same time, now he's got the chance to enjoy all of the parks that he has been involved over his 20 years as a commissioner. Oscar has been a mentor to me as a new commissioner. In his 20 years as a commissioner, he has been a pillar in this community. To many, he is the face of the Northbrook Park District. The park board will be odd without Oscar's presence at the meetings, maybe a little quieter as well. Although we are saying goodbye to Oscar as a commissioner, we know that this will not be the last we see of him. After all he's only stepping down as a commissioner, he is likely to be seen visiting one of the many trees planted in his honor, golfing at Sportsman's, throwing out the first pitch at Northbrook baseball's opening day, or finding people to buy him a drink at the legislative conference. Oscar, you have truly given the town of Northbrook the best bang for the buck as a commissioner and given Cadillac service for less than Chevy prices, in fact for 2 free shirts a year! Elaine, thank you for allowing the Village of Northbrook the use of your husband the last 20 years. Take care of yourself."

Commissioner Dahl thanked everyone for their kind words; they really mean a lot to him. But, he first wanted to thank his wife, Elaine, "Thank you for the being a strong supporter and standing right along with me on this long road." She has been a great impact on him and at times he talks too loud but it has been a real pleasure to be with her these past 51 years. She is a great woman. As for the Northbrook Park District, he stated it has been a real pleasure to serve with all Board members who have served on the Northbrook Park District Board these 20 years. The most important contribution of a Board member is providing the best for the residents while they are serving. He remarked all boards have worked as a team, and pointed out it does take teamwork. He is honored to have served with the current Board and continues to say that the Northbrook Park District gives the residents the 'best bang for their buck.' He has had the pleasure to work with two Executive Directors; he applauds their accomplishments. He reported the current Northbrook Park District staff is a Gold Medal Staff, and they work at a Gold Medal pace. The quality of staff is outstanding, their accomplishments with programming has made a tremendous impact on the Northbrook community. He quoted from his scoutmaster, "Always leave it a better place than what you found it," and he hopes he has done that. He is thankful for the past and is excited for the future, to the next 10-15-20 years. His journey has been of joy; every minute of it. He thanked the IAPD staff and those who have traveled from outside of the community for coming to Northbrook tonight. He wanted to comment on what Commissioner Cloh had said, "Northbrook offers Cadillac service for less than Chevy prices," and he believes that. Northbrook has the finest for the least dollars and the residents know that. In closing, he said, "Remember you can always make a dollar, but you can never make a day, so 'Take Time for Fun'."

President Hall reported at the end of this meeting, we will gather in the Crestwood Room for a retirement reception honoring Commissioner Dahl.

NEXT MEETING

President Hall announced the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be the Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 7 p.m., Leisure Center Building, 3323 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, Illinois.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Chambers moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahl and unanimously approve on voice vote.

**Respectfully submitted,
NORTHBROOK PARK DISTRICT**

**/s/ Edward W. Harvey
Edward W. Harvey, Secretary
Board of Commissioners**

EWH/jaj