

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2010 AT 7:00 PM AT
THE MEMORIAL PARK FIELD HOUSE

Call to order: 7:00 P.M.

Chairperson: John Spizzirri

Committee Members: Raeann Zylman and John Murphy

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Commissioners present: Joanne Ring

Park Staff Members Present: Annie West, William Cazares, Chris Hobson, Chris Sobczak,

Additions or Revisions to the agenda: None.

Commissioner Spizzirri calls to order the last meeting as a Recreation Committee. Commissioner Spizzirri makes note of importance of this date's meeting for Christmas program coordination. Commissioner Zylman Asks if meeting could be held with a less formal approach. Committee and board note commissioner Zylman's suggestion.

William Cazares makes suggestion for the "Name that Turkey" live turkey pick up. Mr. Cazares makes his suggestion of pick up time to be within hours of park operation to avoid compensation. Commissioner Spizzirri makes note that pick-up time of Saturday, November 6, 2010 as preferred time pending availability of the turkey farm. Commissioner Spizzirri asks staff about the turkey viewing hours. Mr. Cazares makes suggestion of 11am to 5pm to coincide with the Park Office's hours of operation. Committee makes suggestion of having the live turkeys transported to random schools for viewing. Committee continues discussing manner of transportation of live turkeys from turkey farm to the Blue Island Park District. Committee asks Chris Sobczak to get in contact with the turkey farmer to receive safe transportation suggestions. Pardoning date and procedures are discussed. Committee decides to allow the Recreation staff to read all name suggestions and choose from those after 5pm November 20, 2010.

Annie West talks about the Polar Express purchases and needs. Ms. West informs committee of Lori Campione's role as Mrs. Santa for this program. The Role of Santa Claus is discussed. Mrs. West will be in contact with possible leads to play Santa Claus for the Polar Express event. Commissioner Spizzirri makes suggestion to serve "Swiss Miss" brand hot chocolate opposed to the "Aldi, Inc" brand. Ms. West makes note that the "Swiss Miss" brand hot chocolate when served, received complaints of flavor from the public. Costumes and decorations for this event discussed and planned. Pricing, profit and ticket sales are discussed among the committee and Staff.

Raeann Zylman makes suggestion that the Recreation Center be one of the stops in the "12 days of Santa" event. Committee and staff agree and will contact the Tommy Brown Sports Association to verify a date if possible. Ms. West makes note of the Blue Island Park District's intent to produce a multi-organization flying, listing all of the Christmas events of all of the local organizations of Blue Island. Ms. West notes that any organization is encouraged to participate. Commissioner Spizzirri addresses his concerns on travel of the "Santa House". Commissioner Spizzirri makes a suggestion of developing a "Dry Run" method to the Maintenance staff. Commissioner Spizzirri makes his suggestions to execute a "Dry Run". Commissioner Spizzirri asks about Advertising of the "12 days of Santa" event. Ms. West explains the multiple signs that will be placed at all parks. Committee makes their suggestions for the signage. Lighting and accessibility of the "Santa House" is discussed. Chris Sobczak asks committee about doorway lighting for "Santa House". Commissioner Spizzirri makes suggestion of a removable light by door way. Ms. West asks about picture taking and pricing at for the "12 Days of Santa" event. Committee agrees to charge \$5 dollars for a Park District supplied print and to encourage a donation for residents using their own cameras.

Ms. West Describes "Wrap it Up" event. Ms. West explains the benefits of this program. Commissioner Zylman asks if we are still hosting a drop box for the "Angel's Touch Charity". Commissioner Spizzirri Mentions the benefit of gift wrapping programs at shopping centers. Ms. West offers the Friends of the Park a possible opportunity to carry out a gift wrapping program at the Chicago Ridge Mall.

The Light Parade is discussed. Commissioner Spizzirri makes note that he wishes the Blue Island Park District "Santa House" to be available for use at the Metro South Parking lot right after the conclusion of the light parade. Commissioner Spizzirri asks about signage for the vehicles and costumes to be used in the light parade. Ms. West suggests using light parade as an opportunity to pass out flyers for upcoming events.

The Lunch with Santa Menu is discussed. Commissioner Spizzirri states that he would wish for the event to serve Mostaccioli and chicken fingers. The committee gives a \$2.50 per meal limit. Committee asks staff to negotiate with D'Mars Restaurant with that per meal price agreed upon.

Commissioner Murphy states that Chris Sobczak and he will meet with DCFS to talk and learn about providing the Recreation Center a day care program. Mr. Murphy states that with knowledge of grant writing, the park district would be able to acquire grants for this program. Commissioner Murphy makes a motion to place hire a grant writer at \$50 an hour and to place "Grant Writer" onto the Board meetings agenda. Commissioner Zylman reminds Mr. Murphy that we are only in a committee meeting. Committee and staff continue to talk about the benefits of hire a Grant Writer. Commissioners converse about the conditions of the Recreation Center. Commissioner Spizzirri ask about the condition of the hot water heater at the Recreation Center. Ron Young a member of the audience and an active member the Tommy Brown Sports Association states that he does not have knowledge of that situation. Commissioner Spizzirri states that he was told by Gary Graham information Judy Macintyre has worked with Chicago park district for

more than 25 years. Committee asks Mr. Young, about Saturday, November 6 events at the Recreation Center. Mr. Young states that the Recreation Center will be serving 5 cent coffee Monday morning at the Recreation Center.

Chris Sobczak gives the committee a quick breakdown of pricing and use for a “Roller”. Mr. Sobczak states that prices vary for field Rollers from \$300 to \$1500. Commissioner Spizzirri asked Mr. Sobczak if a Roller is a necessity to the park district. Mr. Sobczak states that it a higher end pricier model is not, but a \$200 to \$300 Roller that can be attached to the park’s field groomer. Mr. Sobczak continues to give prices and descriptions of varies Rollers and Rolling solutions. Commissioner Spizzirri States that the Blue Island Little League has a roller for each field. Commissioner Spizzirri States that he feels that the Blue Island Park District would not get their money’s worth out of a \$5,000 roller, Commissioner Spizzirri asks Commissioner Murphy if he believes the Park will get its money’s worth, Commissioner Murphy answers, “oh, hell yes”. Commissioner Murphy continues to mention about our fields current condition and why it’s in that condition. Commissioner Spizzirri explains to Commissioner Ring what a Roller is used for in the park field system. Commissioner Spizzirri states that he believes that the roller is a “big ticket item” and doubts its purchase as absolutely necessary. Commissioner Spizzirri informs Mr. Sobczak that there might be deals for smaller or similar roller due to out of business concrete businesses. Carmine Bilotto a member of the audience and City of Blue Island treasure states that he doubts the need to purchase a Roller. Mr. Bilotto also asks questions about our “Santa House” transportation situation and makes suggestions. The committee answers Mr. Bilotto’ s concerns and makes note of his suggestions.

Mr. Murphy makes a comment that the park district needs to reassess its ability to advertise its programs. Ms. West responds to Mr. Murphy’s comment by letting him know that the Christmas events have always sold out under her management and are expected to sell out again. Ms. West states that she believes the advertising for Christmas events is fine and in no need of change. Commissioner Zylman makes note that programs like the city of Blue Island’s “tea party” need to be run by the park in order to help continue those cancelled City of Blue Island Events.

Commissioner Spizzirri makes a statement about the Park District not owning an Edger. Mr. Sobczak gives the committee a quick briefing on pricing. Committee asks themselves what it will do to solve the problem of not owning an Edger. Carmine Bilotto addresses the board from the audience and states that he has an unused homemade Cement Roller and an older Edger. Pending approval and conditions of the units, Mr. Carmine Bilotto would like to donate these two units to the park. Commissioner Zylman thanks Mr. Bilotto for his offer.

Commissioner Zylman asks the Blue Island Park District for a donation of Christmas lights for the City of Blue Island’s Christmas Tree. Commissioner Spizzirri makes note that he would not like to make a donation. Commissioner Murphy makes note that he is not responsible for the City of Blue Island’s financial situation. Commissioner Spizzirri asks Commissioner Zylman if she has asked other organizations for donations.

Commissioner Spizzirri speaks out a verbal list of possible donors. Commissioner Zylman states that she wishes not to continue the topic of donation for Christmas lights.

Christopher Hobson makes a brief reporting of the Bitty Basketball Program. Mr. Hobson states that there will be another Bitty Basketball program to be run out of the recreation center.

Commissioner Spizzirri asks staff if the document he is holding in his hands is the official fest report. William Cazares states that it is the final “profit and loss report” for the 2010 Blue Island Fest. Joanne Ring states to all staff and committee about the requirement of all public persons to fill out a FOIA in order to receive any documents from Blue Island Park District records. Mr. Young from the audience makes a comment about what he believes the FOIA requirements and procedures are. Commissioner Ring corrects Mr. Young’s mistaken claims. Mr. Young insists of the rules to be otherwise. Commissioner Zylman makes a question about why a member of the public has access to documents that the board or a member of the board has not seen or approved. Commissioner Spizzirri states that that is the FOIA officer’s job. Commissioner Zylman makes statement that she doesn’t believe those procedures to be proper. Commissioner Murphy agrees. Mr. Cazares the acting FOIA officer informs the committee that all documents, spending, policies, of a public tax funded body are subject to the FOIA regulations. Mr. Cazares explains to the committee, that whether they agree with what is in the requested documents or not, it’s still subject to the public’s access. Mr. Cazares recommends to the Committee, to understand and abide by the rules and to not question it’s authority for those rules are clear and the penalties are heavy. After further explanation and delegation, the subject is dropped.

Public Comments: Allowed during meeting.

Commissioner Spizzirri adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

John Spizzirri
Chairman of the Recreation and Program Committee