

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS  
OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT  
GARY MORAVA RECREATION CENTER  
110 W. CAMP MCDONALD ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL 60070  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

President Lisa Gould called the Regular Board Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioners present:

Vicki Carney  
Terry Curtis  
Lisa Gould  
Karl Jackson  
Tim Jones  
Bob Loranger  
Mark Malouf

Also Present:

Christina Ferraro – Executive Director  
Dino Squiers – Superintendent of Facilities & Parks  
Julie Caporusso – Superintendent of Recreation  
Scott Devlin – Business Manager  
Jim Lennon – Park Attorney  
Edlyn Castil – Admin. Asst./Recording Secretary

Commissioners absent:

None

A quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lisa Gould.

**Corrections / Additions / Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Malouf and seconded by Commissioner Curtis to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved with a voice vote. The motion carried.

**Correspondence**

There were none.

**Recognition/Welcome**

**Residents** – Residents Mark Kuehne, Dee Mundre, Orysin Ludwin, Nancy Lutton, Wendy Dewar, Rod Ludwin, David Ludwin, Al Stewart, June Wolf, Ethan Jersild, Rod Siemens, Mary Ellen Siemens, J Danahn, Barb Danahn, Theresa Hoesli, Richard Hoesli, Matt Plischke, John Rapski, and L Moshal were in attendance.

**Recognition** – Superintendent of Recreation Julie Caporusso recognized Jackeline Gallegos for her leadership role with the Kids Day Off Program. She will be recognized at the next All Staff Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Board Meeting – February 16, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Loranger to approve the February 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved with a voice vote. The motion carried.

**Announcements (Meetings)**

A Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held on 04/19/16 at 6:00 PM at GMRC. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on 04/19/16 at 7:00 PM at GMRC.

**Park District Treasurer's Report****Cash Report #3**

Mt Pros State	Payroll	#90001511	Sweep Acct.	Outstanding checks	\$	(2,516.93)
Mt Pros State	Vendor	#90001503			\$	(27,375.94)
Mt Pros State	Imprest	#90001529	Sweep Acct.	Outstanding checks	\$	5,000.00
Mt Pros State	General/Sweep	#90001498			\$	1,894,292.17
Mt Pros State	ATM	#90001537		Combined Bal – Account and ATM Machine	\$	26,075.53
Mt Pros State	Cash Reserves	#90001545			\$	349,670.30
Mt Pros State	Class – Reg.	#90002787	Sweep Acct.	Deposit in transit	\$	-
Mt Pros State	Investment	#107503657			\$	1,008,074.51
				Totals	\$	3,253,219.64

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #3 dated March 15, 2016 in the amount of \$3,253,219.64. The motion was unanimously approved with a voice vote. The motion carried.

**Approval of Warrants for Payment**

Vendor # 2	02//04/16	\$	25,518.96
Vendor # 2A	02/11/16	\$	29,816.38
Vendor # 2B	02/18/16	\$	9,100.42
Vendor # 2C	02/25/16	\$	21,204.69
Vendor # 2D	Electronic	\$	12,082.71
Payroll # 3	02/05/16	\$	53,235.07
Payroll # 4	02/19/16	\$	52,282.80
Refund # 2	February	\$	1,050.72
	Total of Warrants	\$	204,291.75

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept Warrants for payment as submitted for Vendor Warrants # 2, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, Payroll 3, 4 and Refund #2 in the amount of \$204,291.75. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Carney, Curtis, Gould, Jackson, Jones, Loranger, Malouf

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**Business Manager Report**

YTD Fund Summary – as submitted. Business Manager Scott Devlin informed the Board that the annual Audit went well. The Auditors will attend next month's Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Carney discussed reviewing the draft from the Auditors in the next two weeks (before the April Regular Board Meeting).

**Attorney's Report**

Legal Matters – Attorney Jim Lennon reported there were no other matters other than what was presented on the agenda.

**Administrative / Operational Summary**

**Executive Director** – as submitted. Executive Director Christina Ferraro also reported that the Prospect Heights Park District and City of Prospect Heights Block Party will be held on August 13, 2016. The cost benefits for IAPD, IPRA, NRPA, NWSRA and PDRMA were included in her Board Report. There will be further discussion regarding this item at the next Regular Board Meeting.

**Superintendent of Recreation** – as submitted. Superintendent of Recreation Julie Caporusso also reported that Supervisor of Recreation Georges Eber submitted a letter of resignation. Interviews for this position were conducted and Olivia Shapley was hired to fill this position. She will start on 3/30/16. Julie reminded the Board and Residents in attendance of the Wine Tasting and Bucket of Balls 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration event being held at OCCC on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The event is a free event to the first 50 people to register.

**Superintendent of Facilities and Parks** – as submitted. Superintendent of Facilities and Parks Dino Squiers reported the Engineer assisting with the Park District whirlpool is applying for a variance with State Health Board. Commissioner Malouf asked Dino to provide recommendations for the use of the space in the whirlpool room. Dino discussed extending the usage of the current Tennis Courts. There are two options – acrylic crack repairs or a fiber membrane that bridges the gaps. The Board discussed the two options and decided to patch and power wash the Tennis Courts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Loranger to patch and power wash the Tennis Courts located at Lions Parks, cost not to exceed \$50,000.00. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Carney, Curtis, Gould, Jackson, Jones, Loranger, Malouf

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**Director of Golf Operations** – as submitted. Business Manager Scott Devlin informed the Board that Director of Golf Operations Marc Heidkamp reported that OCCC Golf Course opened on Saturday, 3/12/16.

**Superintendent of Greens** – as submitted.

**Administrative/Operational Updates**

Youth Leagues & Adult Leagues - Superintendent of Recreation Julie Caporusso reviewed the Youth Leagues & Adult Leagues Departmental Summaries. She highlighted the Youth Basketball co-op program with River Trails Park District. The Adult Softball Leagues will be included in the Summer Brochure.

**Public Comment**

Matt Plischke commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space.

Rob Ludwin commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space.

Ory Ludwin commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space. She is interested in turning the space into a prairie and introducing monarch butterflies to the area.

David Ludwin commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space. The area provides a sound and light barrier for the residents.

Ron Siemens read a letter from the Friends of Tully Park (Exhibit A). They would like to keep Tully Park as an open space. He commented that there has been no input from the Residents about the transfer of property to the Church. He would be interested in making the space into a natural prairie.

**Public Comment (continued)**

Mary Ellen Siemens commented about keeping Tully Park as open land and turn it into a nature area and have volunteers help along with the Natural Resource Commission.

John Ropski read a letter (Exhibit B). He would like Tully Park to remain open space. They would accept property as a donation.

Wendy Dewar commented about keeping Tully Park as open space/green space.

Dee Mundre commented that her backyard backs up to Tully Park and that her backyard is her sanctuary. She would like Tully Park to remain open space.

Nancy Lutton commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space/natural preserve.

Al Stewart commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space/natural area.

Ethan Jersild commented about the issues with the communication to residents. He would like to keep Tully Park as an open space.

Mark Kuehne commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space/natural area.

June Wolf commented about keeping Tully Park as an open space. The area helps act as a water barrier.

Ron Siemens asked about a public hearing should the Park District proceed with the transfer of the Tully Park property to the church. Park Attorney Jim Lennon explained the history of the property and what has transpired.

**Unfinished/Ongoing Business**

**Tully Park** – Commissioner Lisa Gould thanked the Residents for their input about the Tully Park property. Their concerns/recommendations for the property will be taken into consideration by the Board.

**New Business****Resolution 03152016 Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Prospect Heights Park District Nature Project in Lions Park**

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adopt Resolution 03152016 Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Prospect Heights Park District Nature Project in Lions Park. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Carney, Curtis, Gould, Jackson, Jones, Loranger, Malouf

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**Recess into Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Loranger to recess into Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 1220/2 Section 2A Subsection C) for the purpose of discussion of Land Acquisition (Section 2(c) (5/6)) at 8:11 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a voice vote. The motion carried.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

Open session reconvened at 8:45 p.m. During Executive Session Land Acquisition was discussed.

**Possible Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session**

Attorney Jim Lennon was directed to suspend conversations with the Bridge Community Church regarding the acquisition of Tully Park.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a voice. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Edlyn Castil  
Recording Secretary

Secretary:   
M. Malouf, Prospect Heights Park District Secretary

March 14, 2016

Prospect Heights Park District  
110 W. Camp McDonald Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

**Subject: Tully Park**

Dear Director Ferraro and Board of Commissioners:

We have learned from the Bridge Community Church of Des Plaines that the Prospect Heights Park District (PHPD) is in the process of obtaining approval to transfer the Tully Park property located in Prospect Heights, to the church. We also understand that under the Park Commissioners Land Sale Act, the park district has the authority, if approved by the court, to transfer taxpayer property if, in the opinion of the park district, the property is no longer needed, necessary or useful.

Because the park is not easily accessible and not heavily used, we understand that the park district may feel that the park is not needed, necessary or useful. We strongly disagree and request that the PHPD preserve the open space and recreational opportunities that Tully Park provides.

The Prospect Heights Park District's General Practices Manual states that the Board strongly believes in citizen participation, seeking community feedback whenever possible, and reaching out to all residents of the District to assure that all are served equally to the fullest extent possible. The Park District Board of Commissioners also claims to seek community input as they plan for the future. **This was not the case with the proposed transfer of Tully Park.**

Local residents are extremely disappointed that the Board has not sought any input from the local community regarding the future of Tully Park. For more than a year, the Park District has pursued the transfer of a 70-year public park to another party, without first seeking any public input, comment or opinion. If not for information provided by the Bridge Community Church, local residents would still be uninformed about the proposed transfer of the property.

Tully Park is used by local residents on a daily basis and has been for 70 years. It provides open space for non-structured recreational activities. During spring, summer and fall it is common to see children and adults playing soccer or softball or simply playing catch with a frisbee or ball.

During the winter, the park is occasionally visited by cross country skiers and families building snow forts. Dog walkers use the park year around to train and exercise their pets. The park also provides a sound and light barrier to residents in the area from heavily used Euclid Avenue and Wheeling Road.

After hearing about the potential transfer of the property, within a few hours we were able to obtain more than 80 signatures on a petition to preserve the park property as open space for the community. This petition was submitted to the Park District Board of Commissioners on November 17<sup>th</sup>, where we feel it has not received proper consideration.

As much as we appreciate the park district using our tax dollars to provide recreational areas and enhance the beauty within our community, we are deeply concerned about the potential loss of a community park and the open space that it provides. Transferring the Tully Park property to the Bridge Community Church would have long lasting negative impacts on the community;

- Transferring the property would reflect negatively on how the PHPD is managing public park property within our community;
- Transferring the property would result in the loss of public land, open space, and recreational opportunities for the community. Once the property is transferred to the church, that public property is gone, forever; and
- Transferring the property would have a negative impact on the property values of the nearby residents.

Transferring Tully Park to the Bridge Community church is a 'lose – lose' scenario for both the park district and the residents of the community.

**Tully Park is public property owned by the tax payers. We respectfully request that the Park District Board of Commissioners consider the following:**

1. Tully Park should be preserved for the residents of Prospect Heights. The annual maintenance cost of Tully Park is only 0.1% of the annual tax dollars the park district receives from its citizens. One of the goals listed in the PHPD Master Plan is to acquire park acreage where possible. Transferring Tully Park away from park district management contradicts that very goal. Preserving Tully Park is a 'win – win' for both the community and the church.



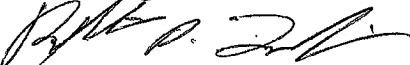
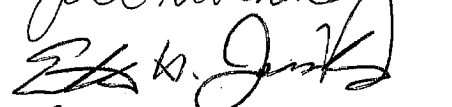
2. Work with the Prospect Heights Natural Resource Commission (PHNRC) to convert the park into a natural area. The PHNRC has already confirmed with us and Director Ferraro that they are willing to work with the park district to convert the land. Converting the park into a natural area will benefit the environment, increases biodiversity, enhance the beauty within the community, provide volunteer opportunities for our youth, and preserves open space. Converting the park into a natural area is a 'win - win' for the park district, the community and the church; while at the same time meeting the mission and guidelines listed within the Board's General Practices Manual.

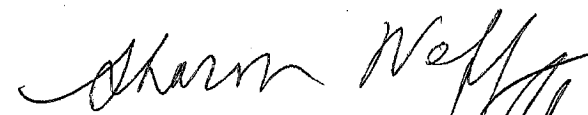


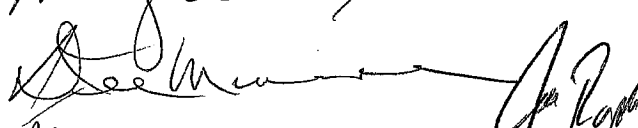
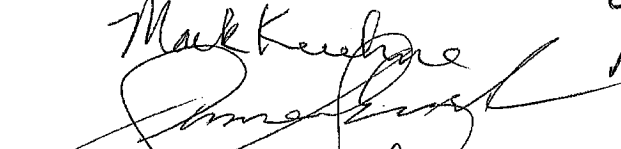
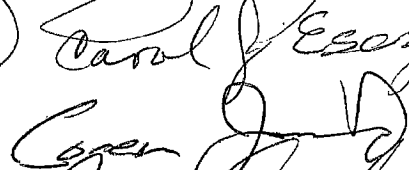


Tully Park has been used and enjoyed by local area residents for 70 years. Transferring the park to an organization from outside of Prospect Heights that may someday develop the property violates the Boards own General Practices of preserving and providing quality open space and recreation opportunities for residents.

The Board's General Practices Manual states that the Board will work to maintain the availability of parks for generations to come. We strongly encourage the board to do just that. Seek out a solution that preserves Tully Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

*The Friends of Tully Park*

  
  
  
 Crystal Ludwin  
 Nancy Lutton  
 Lynn Anderson  
 Cathy Brady  
 Jill Koska  
  
 Barb Danaher

  
  
  
 Mary Ellen Seneca  
  
 Mack Keck  
  
 Carol J. Escoz  
  
  
 June Wolf  




## Tax Paying Friends of Tully Park

March 15, 2016

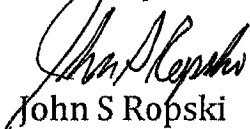
Dear Prospect Height Park District,

As one of the lead representatives of the Friends of Tully Park, we would be pleased to accept a donation of the Tully Park property from the Prospect Heights Park District.

We recently received information that the Park was not needed nor desired by Prospect Heights and the tax paying citizens, Friends of Tully Park, would like to claim the property and care for what they have been paying for the last 50 years. We would like the community to continue to have access to the park for its intended use, to have open green space and to be enjoyed by all people.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John S Ropski  
212 Owen place  
Prospect Heights Il 60070  
847 951-1098

CC: Prospect Heights City Counsel  
Prospect Heights Representatives