

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting – December 20, 2007**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on December 20, 2007 in the Rose Administrative Center, 2000 Belvidere Street, Waukegan, Illinois at 12 Noon.

I. Call to Order

President Duffy called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon and directed the roll.

II. Roll Call

Present Commissioners Durkin, Sarocka, Motley, and President Duffy. Commissioner Foley was present by way of remote participation, and participated in the meeting via telephone conference call. Commissioner Foley was unable to personally attend due to a business meeting, and had advised the Executive Director more than two hours in advance of the meeting of her inability to be physically present. Also present Executive Director Greg Petry and Board Attorney Charles W. Smith.

III. Review, Discuss and Decide.

At the commencement of this meeting, Attorney Charles Smith and Board Secretary announced that the agenda did not call for public comment at this meeting and that the agenda was limited to the closure of the Orchard Hills Golf Course and Clubhouse and golf personnel.

Motion by Commissioner Motley, seconded by Commissioner Durkin, to close the Orchard Hills Golf Course and Clubhouse facility effective immediately and to approve severance packages for employees Newyear, Stilling, Johnson and Martinez. Roll call to the Motion: Ayes: Durkin, Foley, Motley, and Duffy. Nays: Sarocka.

IV. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Sarocka expressed appreciation to the members of the public who were in attendance and stated that it is his opinion that the Board is making a mistake in closing the Orchard Hills Clubhouse at this time. He felt that the closure is premature and that no consideration was given to alternatives. He commented that this was a sad day for the Waukegan Park District in his opinion and that the Board had failed to exercise proper due diligence prior to making this decision.

Commissioner Motley disagreed with the comments of Commissioner Sarocka and stated that every option had been explored in a twelve-year effort to find another location for the soccer/recreation complex. He pointed out that it would take up to \$8 million to purchase Johns Manville and do the environmental clean-up in order to start construction, and that the Orchard Hills site was the best location for the recreation complex.

Commissioner Durkin stated that the Orchard Hills Golf Course was purchased for the sport complex. The delay over the last eight years is a sad day for the Park District and wishes the course could have been kept open one more year. Commissioner Durkin stated he voted with the majority to close the facility because the closure was inevitable in any event.

Commissioner Foley asked that Commissioner Sarocka would not use her name in making his comments relative to being informed as to the history of the sports complex. She stated that she involved herself in the process and asked questions concerning the history of the recreation complex and, in her opinion, the time to proceed was now. She stated that saving something for two months was not worthwhile. She was prepared if Johns Manville could have been purchased to support that action, but when it was obvious that Johns Manville was not going to be an economically viable alternative for the Park District, it was time to act.

Commissioner Duffy stated that the decision to close the Orchard Hills Golf Course was not about golf but was about the Park District's need for a central recreation complex. This is needed just like the Field House was, and a centralized location is important and a big benefit for the Waukegan Park District.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Motley, seconded by Commissioner Durkin, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Smith
Board Attorney

CWS:mt