

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Committee of the Whole
March 22, 2010**

The Committee of the Whole of the Waukegan Park District met in a regular meeting on March 22, 2010 at the Rose Administrative Center, 2000 Belvidere Street, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Durkin at 3:45 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Motley, Duffy, Sarocka, Foley President Durkin, Absent: None. Also present were Greg Petry, Board Attorney Charles Smith, Dayna Niemi, and Cheryl Yuen.

III. Topic(s)

A. American Independence Parade - Alicia Mentell announced to the Board that the theme for the American Independence Parade is: "History in the Making". She confirmed that Ed Link has been named Grand Marshal of the parade.

B. Rotary Group Study Exchange Presentation – Alicia Mentell and Dayna Niemi made a presentation on the Rotary Exchange program in New Zealand between April 17 and May 17, 2009. A slide presentation was shown to the Board and Ms. Mentell and Ms. Niemi spoke about the commitment of New Zealanders to fitness and aquatics, in large part because so much of New Zealand is surrounded by water. Their aggressive program for aquatic safety has resulted in a dramatic decrease in drownings over the past decade.

New Zealand has a sports and recreation agency (SPARC). The head of this agency is the equivalent of a cabinet-level position in the New Zealand government. New Zealanders have set as a goal winning an international competition in all sports. They also have a goal to be the most active nation in the world. Youth fitness programs were reviewed, as well as adult fitness programs.

The Board thanked Ms. Mentell and Ms. Niemi for their informative presentation.

C. Cultural Arts Strategic Plan – Claudia Freeman introduced Cheryl Yuen who reviewed with the Board the Cultural Arts programs. Ms. Yuen asked questions of the commissioners and staff present in order to determine the priority of cultural arts programs within the Park District and the community as a whole, and how to identify certain patrons who might want to help sponsor a cultural arts program. Ms. Yuen presented a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) review of cultural arts, reviewing the role of the Park District and cultural arts, a review of individual programs, including the symphony and chorus, and took suggestions from the commissioners concerning how the cultural arts program can be strengthened and maintained in its current high level.

The commissioners expressed the high importance of cultural arts to the Waukegan Park District and expressed their desire that the cultural arts programs continue and additional cultural arts programs are added to the program. The commissioners view the cultural arts programs as the strength of the Waukegan Park District, and particularly praised the efforts of Ms. Freeman for her work in administering the cultural arts program.

The Board agreed to a special budget meeting on April 1, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Motley, seconded by Commissioner Duffy, to adjourn regular session. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Smith
Secretary