

COLOMA TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 9, 2014

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Coloma Township Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Park District Office located at 508 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Rock Falls, Illinois.

Present: Commissioners Sigel, Bubbers, Stindt, Walker, and Nehr Korn  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Michael P. Sterba, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Roger Colmark, CPA Sterling, Illinois

Commissioner Bubbers motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of November 11, 2014 as presented. Commissioner Stindt seconded the motion, roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Commissioner Stindt motioned to approve the November bills in the following amounts:

Corporate Fund	\$	21,699.75
Liability Fund		13,922.86
Recreation Fund		4,068.66
Retirement Fund		3,585.26
Bond Construction # 32 Fund		15,894.66
Museum Fund		390.98
Bowman Park Development Fund		9,278.93
Police Fund		442.75
Total	\$	69,283.85

Commissioner Nehr Korn seconded the motion. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The following is a listing of the Work Fare People from Coloma Township, Whiteside County Probation Office, Project Chance, Department of Human Services, Experience Works and Partnership for Employment that have worked for us the past month. Also included are total days worked in November and in 2014.

	Coloma TWP	Best	Probation Dept.	Whiteside County Housing	Dept. Human Services	Experience Works	Partners/ Employment
Days in November	5	0	3	1	0	0.00	0
Days in 2014	152	135	51	14	10.75	0.00	9.75

Coloma Township: Richard Holcomb, Steve Ward  
Housing: Monique Lehman  
Probation: Trevor Sisson

Director Michael P. Sterba reported the next meeting of the Rock Falls Recreation Trail Committee – Proposed Walking/Bike Path/Hennepin Canal Committee will take place on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Sterba plans on attending that meeting to get an update on what is happening with the Rock Falls Trail Committee.

However, on Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, the city of Rock Falls had two major visitors come in regards to the bike path along the river. These two men as well as several other officials including Brian Schumaker from Wendler Engineering, who is doing the local work, spent three hours discussing the new walking/bike path from the Lower Dam to the Upper Dam. They virtually walked the entire site asking questions to Brian about how he was going to handle problems along the river and through Seward Riverside Park. At the end of the day Sterba believes that they were satisfied with his answers and that they are going to approve what is called phase one of the Federal Transportation Grant that the City of Rock Falls had received earlier. However, there seems to possibly be one problem that the City of Rock Falls is facing. At Seward Riverside Park, the playground area that was originally scheduled to be meandered

around with the trail or the playground completely removed will not work under Federal Guidelines. The guidelines read if any playground or significant structures are in the way of a trail they can be removed but they must be replaced in another area of the site. Meaning that the three pieces of playground equipment that are there can be moved over to the east side of the road going into the park, they currently reside on the west side. The three pieces of equipment to say the least are in dire need of being replaced so basically the engineers said a new piece of equipment needs to be put on the west side of the roadway. This is not a problem except for who is going to pay for the equipment. We discussed the fact of possibly putting in a multiple use structure similar to what we have at Joshua Park. Unfortunately the cost of this particular multi use structure is going to be possible around \$30,000-35,000. Who is going to pay for that? These items all have to be addressed in what is called phase two of the project. In phase two the City of Rock Falls has to determine all of the engineering that is required as well as any structures to be removed and/or re-installed. Sterba guesses that if the City proceeds with phase two and it runs around the top edge of Seward Riverside Park the existing playground needs to be removed and a new structure needs to be placed on the east side of the roadway. Who is going to pay for that structure remains to be seen. The City is hoping to put that into the cost estimate of doing the trail. If this is the case then the City will receive 80% funding for this playground area. If they do that then the question becomes considerably less of how many dollars need to be provided to make this project fly. These are some of the concerns Sterba wants to make the Board aware of if and when this trail ever gets built down the road. The City of Rock Falls still has not decided whether they are going to proceed with phase two of this project but time will tell. Sterba will keep the Park Board informed of any new developments in regards to the walkway/bike path along the river.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented some documents in regards to the RB&W Greenspace Review Committee. As you may recall the City of Rock Falls asked me to serve on a review committee of the proposed development of the RB&W site. Sterba is also enclosing a copy of that for the Park Board members to review and to give Sterba some feedback on what you might like to see done. Currently the committee is made up of ten members coming from various backgrounds to help the City get some idea of where they want to head. Sterba will explain some of the content of the meeting at the Park Board Meeting.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the restroom facility and ADA upgrades at Dillon Park are moving along a little slower than we would have hoped. At this time all of the electrical work for the ball diamond lights and in the concession stand is complete and the good news is that the ball diamond lights are still functional, we do have a couple bulbs and/or ballasts that are out, but at least the current facility will operate in the Spring of 2015. In addition the electricity has been run to the new restroom facility as well as all of the hard surfacing is complete. Basically, what needs to be done is the painting inside the restrooms and storage room and the fixtures put in place. The electrical will of course be done as well but there's not very much to be done other than some switches and hand dryers to be installed. The new steel roof is now complete on the building and is very attractive. We are still hoping to be able to heat up the facilities warm enough for the painter to complete his work here over the next week or so. If this is the case then the electricians and the plumbers can come right behind the paint job and finish the facilities still this year. The only thing that will need to be done then in the spring will be the painting of the outside doors as well as the stripe that will go completely around the building at the base of the soffit. The project has at times been slow and very frustrating but Sterba believes in the overall run that it will be a great addition to the park.

Sterba has also had another discussion with Dick Bauman the engineer from Wendler Engineering from Dixon who was in charge of the project. As you may recall, last month Dick's mother was very ill and his mind was not focused on any work projects. Fortunately, his mother is alive but in hospice, and he's been spending a lot of time with her. Sterba did talk to him about meeting in the near future to discuss the project at some length. As you may recall on the bill list tonight was the first bill from Swedberg Construction on the project for a little less than \$80,000. Sterba recommends we pay this due to the fact that a great deal more than \$80,000 worth of work has been done and so there's no problem with us taking care of this now. The next bill we get Sterba wants to make sure to meet with the engineers and to discuss that everything is taken care of properly before any more disbursements are made. Sterba also at that time will make sure that Dick is aware that the Park Board is unhappy with some of the engineering problems that we experienced with this project and that they would like to be compensated for those mistakes.

Sterba will keep the Park Board informed of any new developments in regards to the Dillon Park facility.

After a lengthy discussion among the Park Board, Commissioner Stindt motioned to approve the Dillon Park upgrade invoice #1 for \$79,591 as presented. Commissioner Bubbers seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

After another lengthy discussion Commissioner Stindt motioned, and the board agreed, that Swedberg Construction did not meet the deadline of November 22<sup>nd</sup> to have the project finished due to several outstanding circumstances. However, the Board felt that the number one obstacle was the roofing company who did not perform diligently in order to have the project meet its deadlines. Therefore, the Board is listing in the minutes that the official deadline date according to the bid documents was to be November 22<sup>nd</sup> and the project actually finished for the season on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. According to our time frame the project was missed by nine working days at \$100 per day penalty. The Park Board will decide later on how they choose to have that \$900 penalty applied to the project. Commissioner Bubbers seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that there was nothing new since the last Park Board meeting in regards to the Centennial Park Street Lighting project. The City of Rock Falls has closed down the project for the year due to inclimate weather. We hope to pick it up again in the spring when things become more manageable.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Park District has received the new ADA Wheelchair Handicap Swing that will be installed in Storybook Village in Centennial Park. Due to the somewhat inclimate weather we plan on installing the new swing set early in the spring and having a dedication ceremony as well. Mr. Bill Block the Director of the Illinois Elks Club out of Chatham, Illinois plans on attending that dedication ceremony so that all will receive positive publicity as well.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that if you had a chance to go by the Sam Akiti property you may notice that the house has been completely taken down and that the site for the most part has been cleaned up. The hole that the house created once removed has been filled and we expect to have to put some additional soil on it in the spring as the fill dirt settles. We have also been able to remove the trees that were hindering us from going to what we call the bottom of the park site, down the hill to the south. The feedback we have gotten from the neighbors has been very positive in the sense that they're glad to see the house go because it was problematic with people coming in and out, as well as, animals living in the basement. We will continue to clean up the property over the next year or so as we receive more free labor in the district.

In regards to the property itself we still have an issue with one of the property owners at the south end of the site. Sterba has been doing some research with the Whiteside County Assessor's Office as well as the Coloma Township Assessor's Office in trying to find the aerial photos that the County used to asses various properties within the county. These aerial photos will tell us how long the fence has been in place, the swimming pool, and the portable shed on Mr. Rivera's property which is the house west of the access road. Sterba has been in discussion with the Park District attorney Gregg Schott about what the Park Board recommended we do last time in trying to negotiate with Mr. Rivera and try to be a good neighbor. Gregg said that he would be happy to try to contact Mr. Rivera and/or his attorney who we assume is Mr. Pignatelli and try to see what might be done to create a win-win situation for everyone involved. In the meantime we are getting some information on how long Mr. Rivera has been there and when he installed the items that are encroaching on Park District property. Sterba will keep the Park Board informed of our research and hopefully have some good news for you at the Park Board meeting.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Dorenbos bench has been installed at Bowman Park and a dedication ceremony was held last Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Photographs of the dedication ceremony should be in the paper here over the next week or two.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the next Park District election will occur on Tuesday April 7, 2015. Commissioner Bubbers and Stindt are up for six year full terms and

Commissioner Nehrkorn is up for a two year unexpired term of Leo Nardini. Sterba has prepared the election packets for all three of the commissioners. Filing dates for the petitions does not occur until Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and the closing filing date is Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm. This gives the Park Commissioners plenty of time for each commissioner to acquire the signatures that they need.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Non-Referendum Bond Issue #33 was officially issued on December 1<sup>st</sup> as required by law. The closing of the bond issue went very smooth and the \$260,000 has been put into the Park District account for safekeeping.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that there was nothing new since the last Park Board meeting on the Jerry Bellini Memorial. As you all know the new memorial bench will be installed at Wallingford Park outside the Major diamond in the spring of 2015.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the annual 2015 IAPD/IPRA state conference will be held Thursday through Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Sterba has made all of the room reservations and registered everyone for the conference as requested. Anyone else interested in attending should please let Sterba know and he will make the appropriate reservations.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Hometown Holidays went very well. Bowman Park was very attractive and lit up for the season. We heard a lot of positive comments about how it makes Rock Falls and the downtown area much more festive for the season.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that there was nothing new on the Jacob Cantlin Memorial at this time. We have sent in the first draft of the memorial plaque to receive a proof to see if there are any corrections that need to be made. When Sterba receives that proof he will make sure the Board receives a copy for any comments you may have. We anticipate the dedication of the memorial on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as part of the Park District 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration weather permitting.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported the Park Board needs to approve the 2014/2015 Tax Levy Ordinance as presented. But first a public hearing needs to be held in regards to the ordinance. After the public hearing, final action will be taken on the ordinance and then the ordinance will be filed with the Whiteside County Clerk as required by law. After a short discussion Commissioner Bubbers motioned to open the public hearing in regards to the 2014/2015 Tax Levy Ordinance. Commissioner Stindt seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried. President John Sigel then asked for any comments both pro or con in regards to the 2014/2015 Tax Levy Ordinance. Hearing none he asked for the meeting to be closed, Commissioner Nehrkorn motioned to close the public hearing in regards to the Tax Levy Ordinance. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried. After a short discussion Commissioner Stindt motioned to approve the 2014/2015 Tax Levy Ordinance as presented and to file it with the Whiteside County Clerk as required by law. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sigel then called on Park District CPA, Roger Colmark, from Sterling, Illinois. Roger presented the fiscal May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 annual audit documents for the Park Board's review. Roger went through the documents fund by fund and answered any and all questions that the board had. Roger's office also prepared the annual financial report that is to be filed with the Illinois State Comptroller's office and is due by the end of December 2014. At the conclusion of the presentation by Mr. Colmark Commissioner Walker motioned to put the fiscal May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 annual audit document on file in the Park District office for the public's review. He also authorized the annual financial statement to be sent to the Illinois State Comptroller's office as required by law. Commissioner Nehrkorn seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a check for \$1,982.05 from the Illinois Department of Revenue. The check represents the Park District's Personal Property Replacement Tax allocation for the months of October and November.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that the Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycee's held a polar plunge on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the boat docks in Centennial Park. The Jaycee's had a pretty good crowd of spectators but Sterba is not sure they had many people actually participating in the polar plunge. Those spectators were also able to make a donation to the Jaycee's to help pay for the disadvantaged Christmas party that they hold for young kids around the area. Enclosed please find a couple of pictures that the Daily Gazette printed in regards to the polar plunge.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a letter from the Whiteside County Collector. The letter states that the County direct deposited \$12,786.07 into the Park District's General Corporate Fund. That represented the Park District's 6<sup>th</sup> and final tax distribution for 2014. Also included was a letter from the Whiteside County Collector stating that the Park District received \$64.63 in interest on the tax revenues that the county collected and invested. Also you can see at the bottom of the page there was a payment in lieu of taxes by the Whiteside County Housing Authority of \$1,084.41 and also some Back Tax collected of \$12.27 for a total of \$1,096.68 for those particular items. The dollars will be separated out over the Park District's twelve accounts by the Park District's bookkeeper.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of the 2014 Great America Ticket Sales Report for the Park Board's review.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of an article by Mr. Bob McCray entitled "Rolling on the Rock." The article has to do with the Rock River National Water Trail which extends from Fondulac, Wisconsin to Rock Island, Illinois. The article was published in October as part of a regional magazine.

Director Michael P. Sterba reported that in the past the Park Board has been generous enough to give each full time employee a \$25 Walmart gift card for the holidays. After a short discussion Commissioner Walker approved giving each full time employee (one per family) a \$25 gift card to Walmart in honor of the season. Commissioner Nehr Korn seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of the Park District's 2015 annual contribution unemployment rate as provided by the State of Illinois. Good luck deciphering the formula that the state comes up with in order to determine what your contribution rate is. As you can see we're at the very low end of the unemployment rate at .55%.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented copies of a letter from the Whiteside County United Way stating the Rock Falls Civic Fund's 2015 allocation. Of that allocation the Park District receives \$6,570 for our summer programs.

Director Michael P. Sterba presented his monthly Director's report to the Board.

IPRA also sent us their monthly Board Meeting Minutes for our review.

The Park District has received the weekly newsletter from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce for our review.

Commissioner Nehr Korn motioned to adjourn the Park Board Meeting. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Park District Office located at 508 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Rock Falls, Illinois 61071.

Adjournment at 8:30 PM

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Minutes Submitted by  
Michael P. Sterba

Director of Parks & Recreation

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Date

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Donald E. Stindt, Secretary  
Coloma Township Park District  
Board of Commissioners