

Work Session
November 21, 2011

At the call of the President, Brett Gould, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Work Session in the Board Room of the Provena Saint Joseph Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 11:30am.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Gould. He then asked everyone to remember former Mayor Art Schultz's health in their prayers.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Gould, Albritton, Condon, Marcum

Commissioners Absent: Schultz

A. Wedgewood Clubhouse Addition

Executive Director Dominic Egizio said this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Schultz and suggested this be tabled to the December meeting. All agreed.

B. Inwood Golf Course Cart Barn

Mr. Egizio reported that drawings for the Inwood Golf Course cart barn are 25% complete with a construction estimate of approximately \$300,000. Superintendent of Revenue Facilities and Golf Operations Ted Brodeur said the design would be similar to Woodruff Golf Course's cart barn but slightly larger. Golf outings are going to those courses that have indoor facilities because of weather and the current cart storage area is unsafe. The building would serve a dual purpose, a place to store the golf carts and provide a place for outing rentals. The new building would help us save on tent rental costs and would assist in hanging on to larger outings. Commissioner Marcum asked how many carts the barn would house. Mr. Brodeur said at least 140. The building would be located behind the #10 tee and have an area for a portable bar and a room for rentals. Commissioner Condon asked what revenue would be generated from having the cart barn. Mr. Brodeur said the biggest thing is that it would help us to hold on to some of our outings and may bring back some of our larger outings that have gone to other facilities. President Gould directed staff research costs and financing possibilities.

C. Discussion of Park District Finances

Mr. Egizio began this portion of the work session by addressing the questions previously submitted by the Board.

1. How are utility costs figured out between the Inwood Athletic Club and the Inwood Recreation Center (ice arena)?

It is approximately 2/3 from athletic club and 1/3 from the ice arena. Charges for both facilities are on one meter so it is difficult to determine the exact breakdown. Business Manager Steve Bixenmann said the Park District is part of an energy consortium; and as part of our membership, we get paid to agree to shutdown certain areas of the building four times a year for four hours at a time. We have collected a lot of money this way but

have never had to shut down. The athletic club is a fairly new building so it is pretty efficient. Mr. Egizio said staff is looking at energy management. Lighting was updated at several facilities. The lighting at the Stadium has not been changed since 1984. This is something that needs to be addressed. The anticipated cost for this work would be \$300,000. Commissioner Marcum asked if we could apply for an energy grant. Grants Coordinator Debbie Greene said this type of grant goes in cycles for who can apply. We are not currently in the cycle; however, we do receive money every time we apply. President Gould said this work needs to be added to the capital plan. Mr. Egizio added there are more efficient ways to cool the ice than we are doing now and there are some design/build things staff will be researching that may not fall within the tax cap.

2. When we are talking about a field house, where was our part of the money coming from? Mr. Egizio said we would look for grant funding and would have to finance the remainder through bonds. Commissioner Condon asked about the design. Mr. Egizio said no additional work has been done on this project but it will be revisited soon.
3. How much in new sponsorship did we receive this year? Mr. Egizio said we received \$343,400 in 2010. Sponsorships increased in 2011 to \$504,650, not including the naming rights agreement with ATI for Joliet Memorial Stadium. It was asked how staff determines how much funding to request from our sponsors. Brad Staab, Superintendent of Communications & Marketing, said one thing we consider is a sponsor's tenure with the Park District when negotiating. Commissioner Condon asked how much time the Corporate Relations Manager spends on sponsorships. Mr. Staab responded that it is seasonal. Staff is currently working on renewals. Also, nurturing our relationships with our sponsors is a large part of the job. Staff has a meeting next week with Citgo who is interested in doing something at Hartman Recreation Center. Commissioner Condon asked if there is anything structured that would list the number of contacts made in a month. Mr. Staab said this is not currently done. President Gould said the golf managers will have some free time during the winter months and could make calls for potential sponsors. Mr. Egizio said all sponsorships run through the Corporate Relations Manager so that a particular business is not contacted over and over again. Mr. Brodeur added that when the golf staff meets, they suggest potential sponsors and this information is turned over to the Corporate Relations Manager. Mr. Staab added that we have a few exclusive agreements which prevent us from contacting similar businesses.
4. Why is the Joliet Park District budget from July 1 to June 30 and not a calendar year? The Joliet Park District's fiscal year has been May 1 through April 30th for more than 20 years. It was changed at the time because the ice rink was a major player in the finances of the District as was the softball complex. Commissioner Marcum asked what programs are affected with timing of the current fiscal year and was advised it is mostly the golf season passes. Mr. Bixenmann said the fiscal year can be changed but it is a lot of work. The Board would have to pass a 10-month budget and then go into a new year. The 10-month budget would show a big deficit and then the 2-month budget would show a large increase. Staff would need a year to get prepared for the change. We are too far into the process to change it for this year. President Gould asked what is easiest and Mr.

Bixenmann said it is more practical the way it is because of the payroll process at the end of the year with W2's and W3's. Mr. Egizio added that there is no real reason to change it. President Gould said he would recommend going with whatever is most convenient for staff. Commissioner Marcum said the way it currently is makes the numbers a little confusing. Mr. Egizio said this could be brought back at any time.

5. When equipment is purchased for facilities, does it always come out of the capital fund? Staff tries to budget for the capital fund but once the needs exceed the capital fund, purchases have to come from the operating fund. This has been the case since the tax cap. Commissioner Albritton asked if we should have a separate fund for emergency repairs. Mr. Egizio said this would be done for each department if the District had the funds to do so. Mr. Bixenmann said there is \$650,000 that rolls over each year for capital. The available dollars are always depicted on the Treasurer's Report under Capital Improvement Fund. President Gould asked if we are underfunding the capital fund and Mr. Egizio said we have no choice. Staff is working on a capital improvements list and a capital projects list.
6. Who sets the price of what we sell at our concession stands/golf courses and who decides what products we sell?
The three golf courses, the Inwood Sports Complex and Splash Station have concessions. Mr. Brodeur and Superintendent of Planning Terry Keigher work with their managers to set the fees, keeping them consistent throughout the District. Mr. Brodeur said staff looks at what it costs to produce each concession, including labor, and then sets prices. Mr. Keigher said we are able to order from different vendors to keep costs down. Commissioner Condon asked if staff is striking a balance to be fair with the vendors while making sure we are not being taken advantage of. Mr. Brodeur said staff does a good job keeping our costs down.
7. What is the cost to print and distribute our Leisure Guides and do we track our return on this method?
Mr. Staab said the catalog makes up one third of the Communication Department's budget. Three catalogs are distributed each year. We are now printing a smaller guide in a smaller quantity to save money. Even though we are printing a smaller quantity, registration numbers are pretty much the same as in previous years, and people are relying on other ways to get the catalog besides the printed copy. It is difficult to track how much money the guide brings in. To assist with this, it may be possible to add a code to the new registration software that would indicate how a registrant received program information. Mr. Egizio said he would like to get away from printing the guide but the community is not ready yet and may not be for some time. President Gould asked when the new website will be up. Mr. Staab said staff is working on some changes that were suggested and the site should be up soon. He added that it will take 7-9 months for the online registration to be available.
8. What are the proposed uses for the capital improvement dollars in 2012?
Staff is working on this; but unless we know there is going to be a big expense, these dollars are used as a contingency fund. Staff could allocate every dollar but money is

needed for contingency. President Gould said we need to start planning for the big things that we know will need to be done in the next few years.

9. Where do things stand with the new multipurpose building etc., layout, funding?

Mr. Egizio said staff would like to revisit this during this winter. The District could use the revenue and the space.

10. Revisit of airport dilemma?

Mr. Egizio said he thought all questions regarding the airport were addressed at the Special Meeting of November 16, 2011. President Gould said he spoke with Congressman Kinzinger's office and was advised that the Congressman is aware of the situation and he is going to push for funding for our airport.

11. What is the plan and ideas for moving away from weather dependent events and programs?

Mr. Egizio said that by nature of what the Park District does, much is weather dependent. He would like to see an indoor building for indoor programs.

12. What is the anticipated overall expected increase in labor expense for the District?

Mr. Bixenmann advised that it has been 3-4% over the past several years.

Mr. Egizio said he received questions from the Board regarding the union contract; however this discussion would be more appropriate for a closed session. President Gould said the Board will have some closed session meetings to discuss this subject.

There were also some questions from the Board that were organizational in nature. Mr. Egizio distributed the current organizational chart. It was suggested that staff be cross trained. Mr. Egizio said this is done within departments.

In response to additional organizational questions, Mr. Egizio responded there is always someone in charge at each facility while open. Staff is instructed to return calls immediately. Questions regarding vacation and sick time will be discussed in an Executive Session at a later date.

Commissioner Condon asked how we treat corporate memberships in the community for our fitness center. Mr. Brodeur said we have 20 - 25 corporate businesses that have corporate memberships. Staff is sent to functions hosted by various businesses where our memberships are explained and offered. Smaller businesses are handled differently in that they pay up front.

LEVY ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2011

Mr. Bixenmann began with some history. In 1991, we went to a self-insured concept that was to be funded by our ability to issue bonds in case of a bad event. Then our major facility burnt down and immediately after that, the tax cap came, leaving us with no normal bonding. Being left without funding, we borrowed \$13million, everything we could at that time. The Park District continued along in the 1990's with nothing dramatic happening. In 2000, the Horticultural Center was built through donated funds. The Park District was unprepared for this

and our cash fell slightly. In 2002, Splash Station opened. Again we were not prepared and our cash went way down. Nothing we do makes a profit at the current rates we charge. We rely on \$6.5million in subsidy. Although things are tight, we have had worse times than right now.

The Equalized Assessed Valuation is the total amount of money we can levy taxes on. During the 1990's, it kept going up but we couldn't take advantage of it because of the tax cap. Last year the EAV was slightly down. Mr. Bixenmann is not yet sure what it will be this year.

In the 1990's, when the Park District borrowed the \$13million, the tax rate hit \$.98, triple what we are getting now. Between 1995 and 2002, the rates were dropping slowly because we couldn't expand our tax levy as the EAV went up so our tax rate dropped. In 2003, the State gave us a little more ability to bond. We currently have the ability to roll \$1.7million in bonds and have to make everything work around this amount. If we didn't have the tax cap, we would be able to roll up to \$12million. Commissioner Albritton asked if the \$1.7million we are able to bond will ever increase and Mr. Egizio said it may never happen. The Board will be asked to consider an ordinance at this month's regular meeting for the tax levy. When the budget was passed last spring, there was a levy attached to it. The requested levy will be a 2.6% increase from last year. If our EAV stays the same, our tax rate will be around 30 cents. If it drops, it will be about 33 cents. Mr. Bixenmann hopes the new assessments in Kendall County will offset the drop in assessments in Joliet Township. He said that if the Board doesn't pass the ordinance for the levy increase, we will be leaving money on the table. The Treasurer's Report shows the operations fund balance at \$879,000, even with last year's \$878,000. There is \$107,000 left in the Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Bixenmann's projection for the end of the year is a slight deficit of \$39,000. Last year, we had a surplus of \$55,000. Mr. Egizio added that staff works hard to make sure the District breaks even. President Gould asked Mr. Bixenmann to spend a little time discussing his comment that if we don't approve an increase in the levy, we would be leaving money on the table. Mr. Bixenmann said the 2.6% increase in the levy is approximately \$130,000 that is available to us. We have the ability under the tax cap to levy equal to the Consumer Price Index. The CPI this year is 3% but Mr. Bixenmann prefers that we be conservative. Commissioner Condon said other municipalities are not asking for increases and that philosophically, we are always looking for more money and questioned if this is fair to the taxpayer. Mr. Bixenmann said our tax rate was good at 50 cents before the tax cap but we are nowhere near 50 cents now. Mr. Egizio said he doesn't think Will County is affected by the tax cap so they haven't seen the drop we have seen. The City of Joliet is also unaffected by the tax cap. President Gould said the levy extension is asking for more and with the EAV falling, the individual homeowner's taxes will increase. An alternative is to not ask for a levy increase. Commissioner Condon said she brought this up only because since she has been on the board, it has seemed to her to be the philosophy that we are always going to ask for more money and she is not just here for the Park District but also represents the taxpayers. President Gould said the individual homeowner's taxes may have gone down but the sum we have collected may have gone up because it was divided among a larger pool of tax payers. He continued that the tough question at this time would be do we start cutting back to make up that \$600,000. Mr. Egizio said the question to the Board would then be what do you want to close? We can maintain the services we have been providing but if the Board does not want to ask for the levy increase, staff would have to ask the Board's direction on what cuts should be made. President Gould asked why we need to ask for an increase in the levy if the proposed budget will be built on no

departmental increases. Mr. Bixenmann said we need to consider utility increases and other similar costs. Mr. Egizio added that some things are increasing that the Park District has no control over such as IMRF. Commissioner Albritton said the 2.6% levy increase may not even cover the increases we will have in these types of costs. Commissioner Marcum added that counties and cities have other income that we don't have, such as sales tax, to cover expenses. Commissioner Condon reiterated her concern that we are always asking for more money and Mr. Bixenmann said one alternative would be to raise our program rates. Mr. Egizio said during the past few years, we are seeing locally the effects of the tax cap. For instance, we haven't been able to do maintenance on the roads in Pilcher Park because there has been no money. A lot of the preventative maintenance we haven't been able to do because of the tax cap. This will continue to be the case for the next several years. Mr. Bixenmann said that overall the Park District represents 5% of the homeowner's tax bill. During 1996 – 2003, we didn't spend any money on capital improvements because we didn't have it. We are now trying to catch up. The Park District has done \$44million in improvements in the past 20 years with \$7.6million in grants so it was not all bond money. When we sell bonds we have \$676,000 left for capital improvements. Mr. Bixenmann has looked at refinancing but the call date is so far out, it wouldn't make sense with the current interest rates.

Mr. Bixenmann then discussed how the Park District's finances would be affected if we assumed the debt for Splash Station. The remaining principal would be pushed off to 2030 and we would pay just the interest on it for 17-18 years. If we do that, we will have \$55,000 less to do capital improvement with. However, the Recreation Fund has a balance of \$334,000 and the Aquatic Fund has a negative \$1,229,604. If the aquatic fund was folded into the Recreation Fund and we took the \$750,000 that the City of Joliet would give us, the Recreation Fund would be \$144,000 to the negative. On the overall though, the \$879,000 in the Operating Fund would have the \$750,000 added to it and we would be at \$1.6million. We have done a couple of operational things at Splash Station that has really improved performance there. The deficit has been cut immensely by move the dates of operation to June 15 - August 15. Commissioner Condon asked if this would be the best way to use the money, to wipe out the deficit. Mr. Bixenmann said this would solve a problem that would not re-occur. President Gould asked what would be the advantage of taking \$50,000 less out of our capital fund over the next 20 years and eating \$500,000 that is the City's obligation to pay off \$600,000 in our revenue fund. Mr. Bixenmann said it is philosophical. We have an aquatic fund that has a deficit of \$1.2million that will not go away. He is trying to looking for a way to absorb the loss at Splash Station. Mr. Egizio said this would be a way to get the Park District back to square one operating without a cash deficit. President Gould said his concern is if we lose money at Splash Station next year, we will start to accumulate debt again, and we are letting the City off the hook for an expense that we will assume. Mr. Egizio said that on the operational side, we lose money at Splash Station every year. Commissioner Condon said if we move forward with this, the Park District will assume \$500,000 of debt that wasn't supposed to be ours. Mr. Egizio and Mr. Bixenmann agreed that we are helping the city out but we will get the \$50,000 back when we start to see the 2% growth. Mr. Egizio said there is value in the ability to run the waterpark on our own. The Board will need to make a decision on this in December.

GOLF

Mr. Brodeur reported that this year's revenue, through October, is up by \$52,000. Even though there were 42 days of rain during the season, which equals one month of lost revenue, staff still found a way to increase revenue and cut expenses.

Staff has started working on golf rates for next year. Season pass sales have not increased over the past five years but preseason pass purchases offset that. Staff does not recommend raising pass rates this year. In past years, staff has discussed eliminating season passes; however they are now going the other way because those buying passes are the dedicated players who spend money going to the after-hour events and renting carts, etc. Staff will be promoting a new summer pass rate that will be valid June 1 through September 1. Commissioner Condon asked how this rate would impact season passes. Mr. Brodeur said it would bring in an entire different group of people. Our 9 hole and weekday daily rates are competitive; but staff recommends increasing our weekend rates by \$1.

President Gould asked if people are spending more money at the courses because we are doing things at night. Mr. Brodeur said that is the case and they are also spending more money during the day. We are at 26,000 rounds of golf. Mr. Egizio said the courses are trying to do social things so that people will want to be together and then they spend money when they are together at the course. Mr. Brodeur said staff has been offering discounts on concessions which is also bringing in more revenue. Commissioner Marcum asked if staff is reaching out to the seniors. Mr. Brodeur said many are on our email list and we also offer the senior tour which reaches a large group of senior players. Staff is also thinking out of the box, getting away from more traditional golf.

President Gould asked if leagues are still holding their numbers. Mr. Brodeur said we have gotten a few new leagues over the last couple of years, and a couple of the leagues that left are asking to come back because we provide good customer service. Staff is looking at food and beverages at the courses and for golf outings. Staff will aggressively go after outings for next season.

Mr. Egizio said unless someone from the Board disapproves, staff will move forward with rates as proposed so we have them available for Christmas gift purchases, unless someone disapproves.

ICE ARENA

Last year ice was budgeted to break-even but it netted \$110,000. This year, revenues are up \$21,000.00 from last year and expenses are down \$6,000.00. Summer camp was up 10% with 18 to 25 kids attending each week throughout the summer. The WJOL hockey tournament was down to 16 teams this year because it was opposite the NASCAR race. The Nike Bauer Tournament was held at the ice arena at the beginning of November. The Canadian teams love our facility and appreciate the good customer service. The Harvest Gold competition had 144 competitors from 15 different clubs from the Chicagoland area. In March, the Jaguars will host the annual NIHL hockey tournament. April is the annual Inwood Ice show. The men's hockey league is up to 18 teams from 6. A 30 and Over league, which meets on Sunday nights, was

started with 2 teams and now has 5. Public skate continues to increase. Staff has a good grasp on school schedules to provide fun things for the kids to do when they are off school. Jaguars still rent 32 hours a week. Thirty men play rat hockey on Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings. Anticipated expenses are a new motor for the chiller and one of the compressors will have to be rebuilt. The facility is doing well enough that these expenses will be built into the operating budget.

INWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB

Mr. Brodeur reported the club just celebrated its five year anniversary. More than 1,200 members scanned in during the day-long celebration for a chance to win a lifetime membership. There are currently 5,500 members. The busy season is coming up so staff is expecting more members. To date, we have not lost anyone to the new club that opened up down the street. 1,400 attending group exercise during the past week. The juice bar has brought in \$55,000 since it was moved downstairs. It only brought in \$20,000 for 2010. Last year we began a leasing program for our treadmills. This will be built in to the operating budget again this year.

Fitness Coordinator Gina Rodriguez reported that Training with a Trainer, which is 1 hour of free training, is being promoted through email. Commissioner Condon asked how many personal trainers are on staff. Ms. Rodriguez advised twelve trainers work part time with hours that fluctuate depending on the season. The club's big winter promotion is Turn Back the Clock. Teams, each consisting of six people, work with a trainer and nutritionist. The program is based on body age and the team that loses the most body age wins. It is hoped that we will sell more memberships as a result of the program. IntenCity just started with 87 people currently in the program. The club's revenue is up by \$45,000 this year. Expenses are up a little as well. Swim lessons are at an all-time high. This, of course, increases our labor. We are maxed out for lane usage. Mr. Egizio added that our maintenance costs are also up because of the number of people that comes through the facility. The registration desks are very busy with the new catalog just coming out. Our desk staff needs to know everything about the entire District. Commissioner Condon asked about how staff is marketing the club to pre-teens. Ms. Rodriguez said that children 12 ½ years of age and older can be on the fitness floor. Fitness has also been included in our summer camp program. Mr. Egizio said we are still missing that group of kids who aren't active.

SPLASH STATION

Terry Keigher said Splash Station celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer with special events at the waterpark to celebrate. The waterpark opened for Memorial Day again this year because the weather was hot. More than 900 people were at the waterpark on that day. 68,096 people visited the park during the 73 days of operation, an average of over 900 a day. \$100,000 in season passes was sold. Group birthday party and rental revenue totaled \$101,409 which was \$21,000 more than last year. Admissions and concessions staffs are continuing to cross train. Commissioner Marcum asked if we market the waterpark for birthday parties. Aquatic Coordinator Suzanne Ringbauer said a lot of them come to us by word of mouth but we do promote them through email blasts and cold calling. Mr. Keigher said staff will re-connect over the winter with the groups who booked the waterpark in 2011. Commissioner Marcum said there seemed to be a glitch with some people not receiving return phone calls from staff. Ms. Ringbauer said the glitch was found to be in the phone system. Commissioner Condon said there

seems to be a problem with staff being scheduled to work only to be sent home an hour after starting their shift. Ms. Ringbauer said this is always a difficult situation. There are times when staff is scheduled to work but due to weather or the number of people in the park, they are sent home in order to save on labor costs. Staff is now using a scheduling program called When to Work which is helping to ease this situation.

President Gould asked about the hours of operation for next season as well as the rates. Mr. Keigher advised that staff has decided to keep the rates and operating hours the same for 2012. Mr. Egizio added that, for the bottom line, the past two years have been the most successful. Commissioner Condon asked if staff is still looking at other types of passes. Mr. Keigher said a VIP pass is being considered. Commissioner Albritton asked if a senior weekend rate would be considered. Mr. Egizio said that it would be tough to administer such a rate and to put into the computer system. Commission Albritton asked if there is funding to expand the facility. Mr. Egizio said if there were grant dollars available for a recreation facility, Splash Station would not be high on the priority list because it is still an outdoor facility.

BIRD HAVEN GREENHOUSE/HORTICULTURAL CENTER

This year we have offered an additional seating time for special events as well as more seats at each event in order to maximize revenue. Rates for weddings at the Greenhouse were increased. More plants are being grown in house to cut down on material costs. This was the third year without part time seasonal staff. Volunteers are filling that void. The Poinsettia Show starts this Friday with the sale on December 3 & 4th. Dec 9th is Dinner with Santa and December 10th is Breakfast with Santa.

Kevin Eberhard has been instrumental in getting the organic community garden up and running.

Commissioner Condon asked about the attendance at Sunset at Bird Haven. She said there seems to be some wealthy seniors who are really interested in Park District. Mr. Egizio said the Joliet Park Foundation is going to overhaul the event.

RECREATION

A youth t-ball league was started this year with over 100 players. We offered lacrosse this summer with 15 participants. Youth basketball camp at Joliet West had 80 children. The Inwood Sports Complex had a tournament every weekend from April through October. More than 200 teams were in the adult leagues. The Joliet Police Department has assisted in stemming the drinking in the parking lot that seemed to be a problem last year. Our adult softball leagues are staying the same in number; however, the mixed leagues are dropping somewhat. The league managers will be invited to a round table meeting to address this situation. The Joliet Storm travel soccer club began this year. Good comments were received regarding the coaching and organization. Staff is working on a plan to market this program. Staff is also looking at concessions to set menu prices for next season.

The air conditioner and furnace at the Multi Purpose Center are on their last leg. Approximate replacement cost is \$100,000. We have begun to replace equipment in the gymnastics room.

Some of the replacement costs were funded by the competitive teams. Mr. Egizio said the plan is to incorporate the equipment replacement into the field house if it gets built.

Terry Keigher went to the Pro Wrestling event. There were approximately 50-60 people attending. He recommended offering them to use the Multi Purpose Center on a month to month basis and has contacted the group but has not yet received a response.

The gymnastics program is growing is tumbling. Revenue is up \$14,000 from last year. The cheer program is growing too. A competitive cheer team was developed in 2011. Senior programming took seniors on a trip to Boston trip that was very successful. Staff is working to fill a second bus for next Spring's Savannah trip. Mature Munchers is a field trip for seniors who meet each month for lunch. Day camps increased this year with revenues \$41,000 ahead of last year. All day camp and specialty camps received free lunch from IL State Board of Education. Specialty camps are still doing well. These are camps that meet the needs of adults and children looking for enrichment in a variety of areas. 114 are enrolled in the Troy After School program and 28 students in its Before School program. Staff is meeting with Troy Schools to find program space for youth and adult programs. Sunshine & Rainbows, our preschool program, has 238 children and 15 are in full day kindergarten. Staff will represent the Park District in the Light Up the Holidays parade this Friday. They will oversee the Fun Fair from 12-4pm in the banquet room at the Renaissance Center, and the gymnastics, tumbling, youth dance and Sunshine & Rainbows will participate in the parade.

HARTMAN RECREATION CENTER

Tennis and basketball camps were conducted at Nowell Park. These camps will also be programmed for Heggie Park next year. Revenue increased by \$15,000 and staff labor has been cut by \$10,000 this year. Park District facilities were utilized for camp field trips this year to save money and staff relies on University of St. Francis students and Career Seekers for volunteers. More than 70 were in the after school program at Hartman and the same number in summer camp. More than 500 people attended Breakfast with Santa in 2010. This year's event is December 17th 9am – 12pm. An Easter egg hunt and a couple of sports classes will be offered at Heggie.

SRJC

SRJC staff is in 42 classes in 17 schools to run leisure education programs and activities for individuals with disabilities. Schools are cutting back on Special Education so our staff goes into the schools to provide it. We are working with other Special Recreation Associations in the area to start up a cooperative ice skating program here. Staff is seeing more individuals that need one on one care so this is increasing our staff and training costs. April 21, 2012 will be the annual Candlelight bowl fundraiser at Town & Country. The goal is to raise \$15,000. SRJC will have a plot in the community garden and participants will work with volunteers. The Polar Plunge, a new event for SRJC, will be March 10, 2012 at Leisure Lakes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Egizio said that staff is always looking for naming rights agreement partnerships. President Gould said the sponsorship numbers are great.

The department oversees the three races, Taste of Joliet and the Fall concert. The races profited \$41,000 this past season with an increase in attendance at all three. The Taste of Joliet profited \$55,000 last year. Mr. Staab is currently working to secure entertainment for the 2012 Taste of Joliet which will once again be the last weekend in June.

The catalog will be tweaked to tell our story a little more. It is currently strictly programming. Commissioner Condon complimented the invitations being done by the department. President Gould agreed that all of our publications are well done. He asked if staff would consider dropping to only two per year. Mr. Staab said that could be considered but it is difficult for those who do the programming to look six months ahead.

NATURE CENTER

Nature Center Superintendent Debbie Greene reported the roofing project is nearly done. The Underground Railroad program is currently being offered at the Nature Center. The business card used for field trip information works well. Because there is always a dead period in April, staff has decided to extend maple syruping into April. Ms. Greene reported that staff costs are down.

PARK SERVICES

Superintendent of Parks Dale Judevine advised there are approximately 6 playgrounds that are not worth fixing. These are in neighborhood parks that are only used by a handful of people and located in close proximity to other parks. Currently, 23 parks are in need of a major upgrade. Mr. Judevine was asked if he would consider closing any of them and he said only if they become unsafe. It was asked if staff has considered splitting the cost of the school playgrounds with District 86. Mr. Egizio said the schools are in the same financial condition that the Park District is in. There has been some discussion among staff that maybe we shouldn't be in an agreement with the school districts anymore. President Gould said an agreement could be worked out that would have the schools responsible to replace the equipment and we would maintain it.

Staff is working on a priority list for vehicle replacement.

President Gould asked the staff to assist the Board through prioritizing needed projects. He concluded by saying this type of meeting is very valuable to the Board as well as the staff.

D. Adjournment

At 4:10pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Condon, seconded by Commissioner Albritton, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dominic Egizio, Jr.
Board Secretary