

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**  
**FRANKFORT, IL – FOUNDERS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**7:30 p.m.**

- I. Call Committee to Order – President McCarey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He requested a roll call.  
Attendance: Commissioners Ruvoli, McCarey, Ponton and Gentry; Executive Director, Gina Hasset; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.  
Absent: Commissioner Barz  
  
Guests: Dennis & Belinda Olszewski, Robert Sterling, Jeff Berens, Debbie O’Connor, Roberto Siller, Brian O’Connor.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Field Use – The commissioners had a summary of all of the IGAs that are between Frankfort Girls Softball (FGS) and FPD in their packets. Mr. Sterling has expressed concerns at the September 12, 2023 Board Meeting on how the fields used by FGS are allocated for rental when FGS is not using them. FGS has first use of the fields that they have put dugouts and lights on and have an IGA as well. They do not have exclusive rights to the fields. Also no organization has the right to rent the fields to a third party. Only FPD can rent out the fields. Rentals are based on what the organization has available. FGS gives the District about 2 weeks notice of the schedule to use the fields. FPD does the prep before the games by dragging and lining the fields. Boys baseball does their own field prep. Because the Maintenance Department is small, the lead time to rent one of the girls fields must be 2 weeks so an employee could be scheduled. The donations made by organizations were discussed. When an organization wants to rent a field, they call the administration desk. They are required to supply a fee, insurance and a roster. Mr. Sterling asked for the opportunity to use the Jackson Creek fields to practice for the Frankfort Freedom organization, a full-time girls traveling team. He said that c2 field is not safe to use. He explained his need to use the fields for practice. Gina let him know that he was never denied use of the fields. She stated that until today, she had not received a roster and no dates or times to use the fields had been requested. Previously Mr. Sterling did supply the Certificate of Insurance. Debbie O’Connor is on the FGS Board. Mr. Sterling says that FGS does not want to spend money on maintenance of the fields. Mr. Beren complained that a photo of the girls practicing was illegal. It is not illegal. The photo was taken to document that the organization was using the field without permission and without rental fees being paid. Discussion of the issues was discussed. Gina asked for a list of the dates that are needed and she will contact FGS to arrange Frankfort Freedom to rent the fields. Mr. Sterling sent a request with dates by email at the end of the meeting. The commissioners thanked the representatives from Frankfort Freedom for attending the meeting and listening to the issue.

IV. Park Management

- A. Park Vandalism – Gina has not heard back from the police department. There will be no restitution.
- B. Pond Maintenance – Complaints have been received in the Misty Falls subdivision. Gina sent the person a copy of the IDNR information on ponds. It needs to be dredged. There has been little precipitation to help mitigate the stagnate water. Discussion was held.
- C. Mowing of Parks – Mowing has been reduced to every other week. There was a request for mowing at Indian Boundary Park.

V. Recreation – The Fall Harvest Ball was held recently. It was intended to include families but ended up with more mothers and sons.

VI. Illinois Rescue Funds – A meeting with Tod of Design Perspectives will take place tomorrow. Gina wants to focus on community engagement to be sensitive to those interested in Fort Frankfort. Senator Hastings will attend part of it as he helped procure the funding.

VII. Facility & Property Update

- A. Tax Objection – No update has been received on the status.
- B. Laraway Road – Gina has reached out to the Patriots Center.
- C. Founders Center Gym Truss Status – PDRMA denied the appeal to payout on the insurance claim. Gina picked up the permits and the Village waived the fees. She will thank the Village for the courtesy. The contractor will be out later in the week to do onsite measurements. Gina will keep the commissioners informed of the timeline. The air handler is installed but has to have adjustments made. Gina is working with Will County to see if some of the FERPA money can be allocated for it.
- D. Five Oaks Park – Gina, commissioners Ruvoli and Barz attended the HOA meeting. Gina was given the opportunity to talk and asked the HOA Board to remove FPD from the declaration to have to pay the annual HOA fees and a refund. She said that the Board did not appear to understand that FPD was unhappy that they had been served a summons. Members of the HOA (not on the Board) were unaware of the summons and the issues of the park ownership. The HOA was also told that because of the back and forth between the HOA and FPD the District has incurred approximately \$10,000 of taxpayers money. The HOA's president did approach Commissioner Barz. FPD's attorney will file a motion to dismiss the summons. Commissioner Ruvoli noted that Gina gave the HOA members an overview of the process that FPD does when installing a park. They were happy to know that they will be given the opportunity to have some input. Mr. Olszewski said that an HOA resident was told by their Board member that an agreement is that FPD will separate the 3 lots that make up the park parcel and the HOA will get 2 of them. Some residents believed that the park parcel belonged to the HOA instead of being the property of FPD. The copy of the Judgement that the HOA filed against FPD is now available to the public. Many residents were unaware of the Judgement until now. Mr. Olszewski said that the Five Oaks Park property now looks great and thanked the Board.

## VIII. Miscellaneous

- A. Operation Playground said they would pay for a tent if FPD wanted one to use for the Pours for Parks. Discussion was held.
- B. Commissioner Gentry asked for a follow up to the debris dumped at Jackson Creek Park and the complaint that was registered. President McCarey called the person that complained. He told her that it was discussed by the Board. The maintenance department has also gone out and weed whipped after the debris was removed by the resident.
- C. Commissioner Gentry wants to have a discussion to review the rates that are charged for field rental. The cost of an employee to maintain the fields was discussed.

## IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

- X. ADJOURNMENT – President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Committee Meeting at 8:55 p.m.

***Commissioner Gentry made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand Board  
Minutes Secretary