

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS
AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010 IN
THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Niemietz called the Executive Session of the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:26 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Stumpf.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Row, Hejna, Oberkfell and Roessler.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: Commander Bill Wolf, Parks Coordinator Jim Lawlor and Adjutant Jim Mertz representing Columbia American Legion Post No. 581.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Niemietz stated the Executive Session was called to consider the purchase of specific parcels of real estate.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF SPECIFIC PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE

Chairman Niemietz called upon Mayor Hutchinson to make opening remarks. Mayor Hutchinson informed the Committee of a meeting held with representatives of Columbia American Legion Post No. 581 on April 8, 2010 – representing the city were the Mayor, Community and Economic Development Director Paul Ellis and City Administrator Al Hudzik; representing the American Legion were the guests present at this meeting. The Mayor indicated the possible purchase of the parklands area of the American Legion was discussed, as well as various funding options, including grant funds (specifically, through the Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant program); he then called upon Commander Wolf to address the Committee. Commander Wolf informed the Committee of a meeting the American Legion Executive Board had in which they were willing to consider the sale of the parklands, but that the appraised value would have to

be the benchmark if any sale was to be consummated. He again indicated the Legion would like to relieve itself of the maintenance of the parklands and stated he felt they would look at all financial options the city may be considering (i.e., grant proceeds or financing over a period of time). The timeframe for the OSLAD grant program was presented by Paul Ellis, who indicated this year's grant applications are due between May 1st and July 1st, and that the award may not be announced until January, 2011 – the purchase of the land may not then occur until the latter part of 2011. He then presented the Committee with a document entitled "Scope of Use: American Legion Park", which detailed the current useage of the Legion's parkland (and contained a layout of the baseball diamonds on the back), and indicated the annual maintenance costs were estimated to be \$20,000. Bill Wolf then informed the Committee that he had a survey of the Legion's parkland and posted it for the Committee Members to see – a general discussion took place while the survey was being reviewed. Mr. Wolf also informed the Committee that the Legion had retained the firm of Crowder and Scoggins as legal counsel on this issue. A general discussion then took place on the possible purchase of the Legion parkland, the financing options available (including applying for the OSLAD grant), the use of Southwest Illinois Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (RC&D) as consultants (and the costs thereof), the maintenance of the parklands, the organizations currently using the parklands, and the affordability and financing of acquiring and maintaining the property. It was the consensus of the Committee that Paul Ellis continue to (i) explore the OSLAD grant; (ii) obtain information on the estimated maintenance and operational expenses that would be associated with the acquisition of the parklands; and (iii) keep in touch with the representatives of the American Legion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

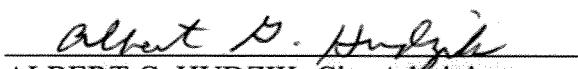
MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl to adjourn the Executive Session of the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of Monday, April 12, 2010 at 9:02 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Stumpf voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



MARY E. NIEMIETZ, Chairman
PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes Taken By:


SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant
ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator