

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
Special Meeting
Park Office
August 1, 2005

Approved
8/10/05
Terry

6:00 PM Special public meeting called to order.

In Attendance: Phil Loethen, Terry Ball, Randy Wiesemeyer, Jim Derby, and Mary Kmetz

Absent: Kevin Woodring and Norm Beck

Also in attendance: John Comerio, Peter Murphy, and Ted Flickinger

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Recognition of George Bryant and IAPD guests -

Phil introduced Park Director George Bryant and the distinguished guests.

There was discussion about going into executive session as this was a private seminar for the purpose of "self-evaluation, practices and procedures and professional ethics". As no public were in attendance it was decided to stay in regular session until such time as someone came to the meeting.

General Discussion -

Dr. Ted Flickinger gave a brief outline of what would be presented for the evening.

Terry said that the ongoing recent issue the park district has had has been bad relations with the local newspaper. There have been numerous articles that have been blatantly inaccurate and the local paper has recently been repeatedly going to the Madison County States Attorney to complain about violations of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. These complaints have for the most part centered on how we vote to go into executive session. The newspaper has been upset that we simply say to discuss personnel and or legal. They want us to name the exact statute that covers this area.

Peter Murphy, General Counsel for Iparks said that recent court cases have determined that there are no legal requirements to name the statute. Simply stating personnel or legal will suffice in abiding with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Randy said that we have had recent problems with a commissioner giving detailed information of discussions of closed session to the local newspaper.

Dr. Ted Flickinger said that this is an illegal act for a commissioner to do this. He said it is counter productive to the board and this activity should stop or the board should investigate if it is possible to remove this person from the board.

Terry said that in the past week, he has emailed the minutes of the most recent executive session detailing the benefits being provided to Park Director George Bryant. Phil then forwarded these minutes via email to the commissioners on a Monday afternoon. The local weekly paper was out to the public on Wednesday morning, listing these benefits in detail, literally verbatim from the minutes.

Kevin arrives 6:30

Presentation of Material -

See attached

9:00 Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Randy/Mary 6-0 Ayes

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary