



**SSSRA**

South Suburban Special  
Recreation Association

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Oak Forest Park District**  
**15601 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest**  
Thursday, July 27, 2023  
9:00 am

## **Minutes**

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### **I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Cindy Grannan called the South Suburban Special Recreation Association's Board meeting for July 27, 2023 to order at 9:08 a.m.

Members Present: Targett Johnson, Country Club Hills Park District  
Christopher Cole, Hazel Crest Park District  
Mike Gianatasio, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District  
Lisa Hill, Matteson Recreational Division  
Cindy Grannan, Oak Forest Park District  
Ashley Turner, Richton Park Parks & Recreation Department  
Meghan Fenlon, Tinley Park-Park District

Members Absent: Michelle Havran, Lan-Oak Park District  
Jesus Vargas, Olympia Fields Park District  
Kevin Adams, Park Forest Recreation & Parks Department

Others Present: Lisa Drzewiecki, SSSRA Executive Director  
Heather Specht, SSSRA Superintendent  
Regina Ross – Ellison, SSSRA Finance & Office Manager

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Grannan called for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Megan Fenlon made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Mike Gianatasio seconded the Motion, and the Agenda was approved unanimously.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. June 22, 2023**

Lisa Hill made the Motion to approve the regular Board Minutes for June. Megan Fenlon seconded the Motion, and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **IV. Correspondence**

None

### **V. Public Comment**

None

VI. Community Announcements

SSSRA:

- Drzewiecki circulated a thank you card from former Homewood-Flossmoor's Executive Director, Debbie Koppas.

Homewood-Flossmoor:

- Gianatasio announced that Debbie Koppas retired on June 30, 2023. Effective July 1, Doug Boehm took over the role as the new Executive Director of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. New Business

A. Video Intercom System - Enclosure – Action Item

Christopher Cole made the Motion to approve the Video Intercom System in the amount of \$3,793 as presented. Megan Fenlon seconded the Motion. The Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Sealcoating of Parking Lot – Action Item

Lisa Hill made the Motion to approve Sealcoating of the Parking Lot at SSSRA in the amount of \$2,271 as presented. Mike Gianatasio seconded the Motion. The Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

IX. Staff Report

A. Program

1. Outreach Report – June, 2023

Specht reported on the following for the month of June including Email Newsletter, Flyers, and Social Media. In addition, staff participated in the following outreach events:

- On June 1, SSSRA provided activities for five early childhood students at Richton Square School.
- On June 12, SSSRA organized a celebration and recognition of Juneteenth at Rich Township High School Alpha Program.
- Anna Broccolo, Public Relations Manager attended the following events: Tinley Park Food Truck & Art Festival on June 10, the Abilities Expo in Schaumburg on June 23, and the Bettenhausen Mobility Open House on June 26, in Tinley Park.

## IX. Staff Report

### A. Program (continued)

#### 2. Special Olympics Summer Games

Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Bloomington at Illinois State University the weekend of June 9 – 11. There were 8 athletes who attended the event. Thank you to the coaches for a successful weekend of competition.

#### 3. Day Camp Summary

Specht gave a report on SSSRA summer day camp and mentioned that the agency has seen pre-covid numbers, which is awesome! There was a total of 84 registrations from 42 participants. Adventurers and Trailblazers combined for session A due to low enrollment. A chart was included in the Board packet showing the number of campers registered for each session and the community in which they reside.

The camp descriptions are as follows:

- Shooting Stars, ages 2-8: Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center, Tinley Park.
- Adventurers, ages 9-13: Matteson Community Center, Matteson.
- Trailblazers, ages 14-22: SSSRA Office, Tinley Park.

This year's day camp theme is *Out of this World*. Campers will participate in a variety of activities that are centered on themes such as outdoor games, arts and crafts, and social activities. On August 4, family members will have the opportunity to join campers at the Parent Day/All Camp Day special event.

There are a total of 11 part-time staff with 2 returning staff from last summer. Specht mentioned that each part-time staff varies in experience from having worked with individuals with disabilities at other day camps or jobs to assist in their respective schools as teacher aides.

#### 4. Mind-Body-Balance for Veterans Training

Specht shared with the Board that there will be a Mind-Body-Balance training held on Tuesday, August 22 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the SSSRA Office. Mr. Gabori Partee, The Fitness Representative, Motivational Speaker, and Former Sergeant in U.S. Marine Corps will be the guest speaker for the event.

#### 5. August Special Events – Enclosure

Specht reviewed the upcoming Special Event flyer for the month of August. Specht mentioned that the Bulldogs Game was rescheduled and will be held on Monday, August 7, in Tinley Park.

### B. Administrative

#### 1. Staff Professional Involvement, Activities & Training – June, 2023

Drzewiecki highlighted that Heather Specht, Superintendent attended the Legal Update and Discussion Webinar Series through PDRMA on June 6, via Zoom.

IX. Staff Report

A. Administrative (continued)

2. 2022-2023 Service Statistics and Participation Report – Attachments A & B

Drzewiecki shared with the Board that there was an overall 26% increase in registrations with a slight decrease of 13% in registrations from Lansing compared to the previous fiscal year. Drzewiecki mentioned that staff will focus on community outreach efforts in Lansing. Staff continue to attend community events and offer special events in workshops & the school districts. Anna Broccolo, Public Relations Manager, is researching new opportunities to attend in each member community. As a reminder, the staff have been assigned two member communities to ensure that all members are reached equally throughout the year. SSSRA will be represented in each community 1 – 2 times a year. If member districts would like the agency to participate in their events, such as parent-teacher conferences or back-to-school events, please contact Heather at the SSSRA office.

3. 2022-2023 Summary of Inclusion Services

SSSRA supported a total of 67 individuals through the Inclusion process compared to 71 the year prior. The association incurred \$36,183 in Inclusion staffing costs including contracted Sign Language Interpreters. Drzewiecki shared with the Board that pre-covid Inclusion staffing costs were \$90,000. Drzewiecki also mentioned that deductions will be credited back to member contributions for the fiscal year 2023- 2024.

X. Financial Report

A. Claims List

1. June, 2023

Meghan Fenlon made the Motion to approve the Claims List for June, 2023 as presented. Mike Gianatasio seconded the Motion. The Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Financial Statement

1. June, 2023

Lisa Hill made the Motion to approve the June, 2023 Financial Statement. Christopher Cole seconded the Motion, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

XI. Closed Meeting - Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

None

XII. Adjournment

Chrisopher Cole made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Ashley Turner seconded the Motion and the Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2023  
At the SSSRA Office**