

BARRINGTON COUNTRYSIDE PARK DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1393
BARRINGTON, IL 60011
Park Board Meeting Minutes June 30, 2010

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Commissioners present were:

Richard Lamkey, President	Jean Maddrell, Vice President
Fred McMorris, Treasurer	John Rosene, Secretary
Maureen Crump, Communications	

Also present: Rosemary Nero, Administrative Assistant

Residents: Libby Louiseau, Stan Louiseau, Jeryl Olson, Dan Lundmark, Dennis Kelly, Vicky Kelly, Lauren Foos, Stew Gully, Monica Gully, Mary Beth Holsteen, Patrick McKeivitt, Clark Benkendorf, Lorelei Benkendorf, Barb McMorris, Jennifer Rousseau, Karen Rosene, Jason Elder, Nancy Hennelly

Motions:

Jean moved that the Park Board make a formal request of the FRVPC to begin discussion with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County on the Pony Club's use of the Forest Preserve property, and to provide a report with evidence that negotiations are official, and John seconded. This motion was amended to include the following:

Report should be presented at the July 14th meeting, was made by Jean and seconded by John.

5 ayes	0 nays	0 absent
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Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:45 was made by Jean and seconded by John.

5 ayes	0 nays	0 absent
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Commissioners Discussion:

Richard began the meeting by asking each Commissioner to express their opinion about the width of the blacktop road coming into the Riding Center. Commissioners agreed that the driveway has to be wider but each Commissioner had a different opinion about the exact width. Opinions varied from 18, 20, and 24 foot wide with a gravel shoulder on each side up.

Commissioners recognized that the grade of the driveway from the facility should not exceed 2%, and will address this issue with Gary Blanford. The Commissioners want a safe incline with no drop off on the sides.

Commissioners had a general discussed about the area south of the indoor arena, referred to as Option 2. Objections to Option 2 included the proximity of the Oak trees, the clearing of other trees, the line of sight problem for backing up, and the added activity around the arena. Arguments in favor of Option 2 included the idea that it contained all or most of the parking on Park District property and thus be under our control, did not require fences or gates, could be modified to include additional parking

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area west of the indoor arena and south of the entrance drive and could be further modified to address the concerns about sight lines and backing up.

The Park Board had a general discussion about the winter parking area. Each Commissioner had a different opinion about the size of the winter parking area, views ranged from no expansion of the existing graveled area as much as 70 feet. Commissioners also disagreed about the location of the winter parking area, some Commissioners like the existing location, and other Commissioners would like to see the winter parking on the Park District's property or confined to south of the gravel road leading out into the Forest Preserve property.

The Commissioners discussed the 'Ring Road' option. Arguments in favor of the 'Ring Road' option were that it served the need of the Forest Preserve, the Park District and would meet the needs of the events held at the Park District and on Forest Preserve property. Arguments opposed to the 'Ring Road' option were that it would define and limit the size of the events, that it would permanently scar the current grassy area and there would be loss of control having the parking area on Forest Preserve property. Further, it was argued that the Park Board should not be concerned about trying to solve the parking needs of Pony Club events such as the Horse Trials, but rather focus on solving the day-to-day parking needs of Riding Center users and local trail riders.

John Rosene presented and read a formal statement to the Park Board opposing the ring road option. A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.

A general discussion took place about placing the parking area totally on Park District property. Regardless of which property was used for the parking area, some Commissioners feel that the Park District should only be concerned with providing a parking area to meet Riding Center needs. Other Commissioners want to insure that there is suitable parking for the entire community and the various events held at the Park District, therefore construction of a parking area on Forest Preserve property is necessary.

A general discussion took place about the FRVPC Horse Trials. The Commissioners reviewed the area needed to put up temporary stalls and the parking area needed.

Commissioners were informed that a staff person from the FPDCC attended and the FRVPC Horse Trials and was very impressed and supportive of the event. Fred McMorris requested that FRVPC be given an opportunity to get clarification concerning the parking, permits and other FRVPC events and perhaps explore developing a relationship with the FPDCC.

A general discussion took place about inviting the FPDCC staff to clarify some issues concerning the FRVPC Horse trials. It was decided that the FRVPC should be given the opportunity to contact the FPDCC to propose an arrangement between the FRVPC and the FPDCC and provide a report back to the Park Board at the July 14th meeting.

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Residents asked questions about option 3, the Cul De Sac Option, discussion of which was tabled by the commissioners

The Commissioners agreed to discuss option 3 at the next Park Board meeting.

Fred McMorris reported that he will be out of town for the July 14th meeting and he made a request that the Park Board would not conduct a vote of the parking area issues at the July meeting (to which the commissioners agreed).

Upon Fred's return the Park Board will schedule a special meeting to discuss the Equestrian Trailhead and will try to accommodate all of the schedules of the Park Board members.

It was reported that the grounds were damaged due to the stabling and the heavy rains at the Horse Trial event. The Commissioners would like a report at the July 14th meeting, from FRVPC detailing how the grounds will be restored back to its original condition.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John Rosene

June 30, 2010

TO: THE BARRINGTON COUNTRYSIDE PARK DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JOHN ROSENE, COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: Trailhead Parking Facility

I spent a number of hours at last weekend's Horse Trials, both on Saturday and Sunday. This is clearly the premier annual event to take place at our Riding Center and is a magnificent showcase for our facility. If not of national significance, the Horse Trials are certainly of regional significance and is an undertaking our park board should encourage and support. Chris Maronvich from the Forest Preserve was there, and apparently he was pretty enthusiastic. This event adds luster to our local equestrian community and, I believe, helps maintain the mystique and the property values in Barrington Hills.

Having said this, I believe any decisions we make regarding the design and placement of the Trailhead Parking Facility we are obligated through our IGA to construct, are critical to the future of the Horse Trials and similar events.

What has become clear to me is that any problems or arrangements the Pony Club has with the Cook County Forest Preserve are theirs to deal with, not ours. As part of the IGA, our focus must be the parking needs of Riding Center users and local trail riders with solutions that don't intrude on current and future needs of events like the Horse Trials.

In fact, my belief is that any wrong decision we make is more likely than not to cripple the Pony Club and its ability to implement the Horse Trials and certainly limit this event's ability to grow.

That's why I categorically oppose the "ring road" solution.

First, it will create a scar on what is now a beautiful and useful meadow that will be impossible to erase. Second, it will create an artificial constraint if participation in the Horse Trials was to increase. Third, my own experience of parallel parking horse trailers along side a variety of polo fields tells me that such parallel parking is both difficult and inefficient.

My first choice is to keep all or most of the parking on our property. Our objective should be to provide trailhead parking for truck-trailer rigs, not automobiles and I believe that an additional 10 to 15 parking spaces is all that is required to meet most of our needs.

I believe we can achieve that (a) without intruding too much into Forest Preserve property, (b) without damaging an attractive open grassy area and (c) without damaging the future of an event that makes us look so good to our community, our region, and to the leaders of the Cook County Forest Preserve. Thank you.