



SALT CREEK RURAL PARK DISTRICT
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 9th, 2024

Commissioner West called the Decennial Committee Meeting to order at 6:00pm, the following Commissioners, staff and residents were present:

Paul Nagel – President (Remote)
Victoria West – Vice President
Michael Reiss – Treasurer
Pat McGovern – Secretary (Remote)
Wally Kleinfeldt – Past Commissioner

Ilene Seligmann – President (Remote)
Joe Mazzocchi - Commissioner (Remote)
Tim Stoeckel – Commissioner
Diane Hilgers – Executive Director
Kathy Kotrba - Resident

Director Hilgers advised this committee was formed in an effort to reveal the efficiency of districts. This study will need to determine if we will be able to continue providing for our residents. The committee chair will be Paul Nagel, which was approved in the Resolution. A written report will need to be prepared and submitted to Cook County by November 9th. In this introductory meeting she will detail what is required from staff, commissioners, and residents.

This district was provided with a template to follow and included in the report will be all our Policies, Procedures, IGA Agreements as well as a list of relationships with other shared services. Resident input is required to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns or satisfaction with the district services.

There is a need to consider the future prospects of the Park District and understand if we can continue to serve the community or if there is a possibility of being absorbed by the surrounding districts, especially if the Bears development happens at Arlington Park. We are competing with the surrounding districts as well as the Library's and schools who are now offering similar programs. Park Districts have turned into a business rather than a service. Wally Kleinfeldt asked if we had looked at the positive and negative impact the Bears development would have on us and what partnerships would there be. Director Hilgers responded it has been investigated, but we have no final answer as nothing has been confirmed.

Our Park District tries not to compete with the surrounding districts but offers a small hometown family orientated district with great special events and customer service. Unfortunately, we have more non-residents attending our programs than residents. Director Hilgers said there will need to be a succession plan as staff changes will affect the dynamics. She could see the park dissolving into the surrounding districts.

Commissioner Nagel said after looking at the document he read it as they are not stressing consolidation of government units but are focusing on efficiency and current policies and ordinances. His role as a commissioner is to support the residents and feel the Bears development could have a good financial impact. Commissioner Stoeckel agreed we should be focusing on the task on hand and fulfill what they are asking for, this is an exercise, and we need to just give them what they are asking, the topic of dissolving should not be discussed. Commissioner Reiss added the development is unique and an opportunity that could benefit us if we are open to it, and feels we are the most efficient to tackle it and not give it away. He feels we need to focus on our uniqueness and market our name more.

Commissioner Kleinfeldt asked who at Cook County will be reviewing these reports and feels there will probably be no action on it. He noted we could have a symbiotic relationship with the Bears, and they may prefer to deal with a smaller park district than the larger ones that have more problems.

Director Hilgers said she would like to have the next meeting in April right before the regular meeting and the last one will be in October. She will provide the template at the next meeting. She added has been invited to attend the Palatine Library's decennial meeting as part of all the municipalities.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

PAT MCGOVERN, SECRETARY

VICTORIA WEST, VICE PRESIDENT