



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
PLEASANT DALE PARK DISTRICT
Thursday, July 17, 2008 7:00 PM
at the Recreation Center
7425 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge

SPECIAL MEETING

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM
2. **Roll:** Present were Commissioner Durham, Commissioner Tertell, Commissioner Pettrone, and Commissioner Moon. Also present were Director Wendt-Epting and Attorney Eric Anderson. Commissioner McMurray was available via speaker phone.
3. **Open Forum:**

David Panich, resident & member, mentioned that Nikki and the staff keep the Chalet clean. Closing the Chalet is an injustice to all members. He called the Doings and Suburban Life and asked if the Chalet is doing advertising. None is being done. He questioned how it can stay open if there is no advertising. Do an advertising campaign to bring in members. Don't take the Chalet away from us. It is the best kept secret in town.

Ivy Table, non-resident & member. She asked the seniors to raise their hands. Since the YMCA closed down, the seniors have no place to go. She participates in water aerobics

Bob Svidron, resident & member. Swims with the ladies. He traveled further to the YMCA because he did not know the Chalet was there. Keep the Chalet open. He asked why the equipment disappeared.

Barb Svidron seconded the above

Flo Hesselgrave: resident, member. Wants the Chalet

Minnie Stone: resident & member. Wants the Chalet open. Attended the YMCA for 22 years. Don't want this one gone.

Constance Tosheff. Non resident & member. Wants the Chalet

Pat Saeorski. Non-resident & member. Wants the chalet

Lilian Conrad. Non resident & member. Belonged to the YMCA. Advertize, advertize, advertize. Did not know it existed. Paid more at the YMCA, would pay more for the Chalet. Do banquets, advertize on the bar.

Lee and Mary K. Residents & members. Want the Chalet.

Max & Sharon Moskal. Resident & member. Wants to know the plans for money for the Chalet. Committed to make the Chalet run.

Sharon Moskal asked When the Chalet was purchased, what was its purpose? Money maker or provide service? Keep it a community place for kids and residents. She asked if the board considered changing the name to Pleasantdale Health and Fitness. Advertise as a fitness center. Board member commented that the Chalet is not just a fitness center. Mrs. Moskal suggested having a table at the farmers market to advertise.

Gina Millette. Member for 6 months. ;Less expensive for water aerobics. Lived here for seven years and did not know it was there.

Eloise Wojcik. Non resident & member. LaGrange YMCA member. Agrees with the rest. Just because it is old do not destroy it. A plan is needed. Publicity is different from advertisement. Work with present Chalet staff to promote the chalet.

Ed Pechous. Advertise, promote. Lots more can be done. Bingo, drink specials nights, casino night. Specials on memberships. Raise dues. He swims almost every day, Bally Health Clubs cost nearly \$800/year. If the Chalet cost 50, 100 more per members, so what because the community can still use it.

Sigfried & Marianne Endlickhofer. Keep the Chalet open.

Jeanne Karasek Member, non resident. From YMCA. Everything is great.

Joseph Karasek. Apply for grants to keep it going. Director Wendt-Epting noted that the Chalet had an energy grant and that the board does not know if any other grants are available.

Nancy Hough. Non resident & member. Agree with everyone. Advertise, publicize, keep it running.

Jan Freer. Resident and member. She asked if anyone in the room was part of the telephone survey. Two raised their hands. What process to put it on the ballot? Why was an outside firm hired? The board replied that the Chalet has been losing money for quite some time. There were plans to renovate the Chalet. When the plans went to bid the cost came in at twice the budget. The board could not justify that amount of money and talked with consultant firm to poll the community. There was approximately an 80% negative response. The tax payers support a facility that few residents use. There was no referendum for the purchase of the chalet.

Audrey Walsh. Resident & member. She asked why, when they got the quote for 1.6 million did the board not just scale the project down, plan to take on other things.

Diane Maxa loves the Chalet. Always walks the track. Hopes it will continue to operate.

Debbie Strus. Non resident, YMCA LaGrange coordinator for swimming. Part-time with the Chalet. The Y has 2400 participants and has paid over \$20,000 in rental of the Chalet facilities. They provide service to many communities and are happy to have a place. There are about 300 participants per session; 300-500 individuals.

Larry Robb agrees with everyone but is concerned about the cleanliness.

Matt - Indian Head Park resident & member. At the Chalet for 6 months. Great plans and interest but not brought to fruition. He suggests more taxes and fees, upgrade the kitchen to allow banquets or restaurant as well as the bar. He suggested setting a goal for membership.

Carey Cochrane. Live in unincorporated Willow Spring a few doors down from the Chalet. The chalet has a lot of history; he attended homecoming there. The potential is not being utilized. Residents do not realize there is a public bar and the kitchen needs renovation.

Tom Kulawiak does not believe the losses and does not believe that the salaries will be cut if the Chalet is sold because of allocation of salaries from the facilities. He suggests holding people accountable for profit/loss and give the community a chance. Putting the Chalet on the ballot as a referendum will be a self fulfilling prophecy. There will be rats leaving a sinking ship mentality.

John C. Beck. Moved to Indian Head Park because of the Chalet. He is interested in the well being of the citizens. He has been a non resident member since 1972, and commented that it is a wonderful place but needs cosmetics. It should be saved.

4. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Pettrone commented that she sees the vision. There is a need for the Chalet. Small and large things need to be done; it has not been run properly. She wants someone with a vision to get in there and do something. A lot can be done.

Commissioner Durham commented that he did not hear one comment that he did not agree with. He has been on the board for six years, and the board has battled with this for six years. There comes a time to set a motion for reality, for the rest of the residents to have a voice. If you put it on the referendum and champion the Chalet, that tells us that the whole community wants the Chalet. To do the renovation for \$500,000 or a million dollars without the acceptance of the community is irresponsible. It is better to put the Chalet on the referendum than not put it on the referendum and let it die a slow death.

Commissioner Moon ran for office a year ago because he did not believe the Chalet was run properly. It needs better management. He feels the same way now as he did when he ran. We need to look at it and not just keep putting \$250,000 into the budget to lose year after year.

Commissioner Tertell agrees with the comments of the other commissioners. Most in the room favor keeping the Chalet. There are 12,000 residents, 4000 households in the district. There is an insignificant number of taxpayers using the facility. He has been concerned about the Chalet for quite some time; move the facility forward, change the facility, make it more useful for the community. The park district has tried things and cannot lose this level of money on a facility.

5. Resolution 2008-01: Approving the Sale of the Chalet.

Vote: Commissioner Pettrone: No
Commissioner Durham: yes
Commissioner Moon: No
Commissioner Tertell: yes

The resolution failed.

6. Additional Items: none

7. Open Forum: Board will not abandon the Chalet, and challenge the people in the room to back up their comments. The board asks for the public's help for the Chalet. The public has ideas to help the Chalet. The Chalet has committee that needs people at their meetings. The next meeting is August 12th, at 5:30 PM an hour before the Park board meeting. This will be posted at the Chalet.

8. Executive Session: none

9: Adjournment: Commissioner Moon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM 2nd:
Commissioner Durham. Aye ó U

Nancy McKenna
Recording Secretary