

**STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
March 19, 2008**

Chair Spinola-Schwartz called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Strawberry Recreation District to order at 7:01 PM.

**QUORUM CALL:**

Present were Directors Spinola-Schwartz, Francis, Klopfer, Wambach, and Zener. Manager Joseph and members of the public were also present.

**OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION: (limited to 3 minutes per person):**

Several members of the public complained to the Board that management is divisive and condescending; there is no customer service, and no attempt to reach out to the residents. Specific but not all inclusive concerns are listed below:

A member of the public suggested that at the Tennis Committee Meeting on March 20, 2008 tennis passes should be sold as well as distributes tennis keys. Manager Joseph noted that staff had already planned on selling tennis passes at the tennis committee meeting. After some debate the Board decided to start distributing tennis keys and not wait until the new lock has been installed on April 1, 2008.

A copy of the York/Flynn settlement was also requested. Manager Joseph noted he has spoken with County Counsel who said that copies of the settlement agreement can be made available to the public.

A member of the public felt that Management made transactions difficult and not in the spirit of community service. She had previously submitted a letter to the Manager with ideas to develop community input and felt put off by the center and that the manager is not responsive.

A member of the public was concerned about the lack of community outreach. There was no communication with the neighbors regarding a grinding noise from the pool pump. The District could turn off the pump earlier and knock on neighbor's doors to inform them. She also requested that the District build a fence by the parking lot because the greenery was thinning and reducing privacy.

A tennis court neighbor commented that the Manager stonewalled her regarding complaints about the Tennis court lights shining in her bedroom.

Another member of the public suggested opening the pool earlier and adding a master's program. She also suggested letting the swim team have the pool for a few hours in the spring as well as reducing the temperature a few degrees.

A member of the public commented that the pool is not conducive to lap swimmers. She felt the center is not community oriented; it should have a teen center and an additional lap pool. She likes some of the life guards, but feels they need to change how they talk to difficult people with kids.

A member of the public felt the pool is underutilized. There is no advertising or surveys. Tam Valley has fund raisers and garage sales.

A member of the public suggested having a film night. The recreation center should raise money to do more things.

Manager Joseph commented that the motor was being shut down at night time which eliminated the motor noise but meant that the pool temperature would be colder the next morning. The motor was running during the day in order to keep the pool operating with the least impact to everyone. Chair Spinola-Schwartz stated that the District could do a better job communicating with the public.

Chair Spinola-Schwartz commented that Director Zener is working on a master plan for the Recreation Center and is interested in meeting with the public to explore a second pool. Manager Joseph commented that the District previously explored a two story pool house with a workout room, but the cost was prohibitive. Manager Joseph did obtain \$170,000 in grants that were used to renovate the existing structure with a new roof, skylights, separate water heaters for the men and women, as well as new tiles and the addition of the dry sauna feature. Director Klopfer commented that the community needs to be educated on the differences between a community

center (funded by a city government) and a recreation district (largely funded by pool, tennis and room rental fees).

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

MINUTES CORRECTIONS:

None.

MINUTES

Motion: Approve the February 13, 2008 minutes. M/S/C Wambach / Klopfer

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, and Wambach. Noes: None

Absent: None

Director Zener was not present at the February meeting.

Item A. Action Item-Approve Reorganization of the Zone IV Committee

Bob Allen stated that he is resigning as chair of Zone IV and that Tirrell Graham has agreed to be the new Chair of the Committee. Zone IV is self funded by a tax on the individual homes in Zone IV. There is \$300,000 left from the latest dredging project. There was \$2.1 million in bonds issued, enough to cover the Cove Apartments in case they backed out. The cost of the work was \$1.8 million and the whole project is completed. There is one private dock that the engineer recommended not repairing the pilings because the dock is too old. Most of the dock has been fixed, with the exception of the pilings. The Harbor Cove Way Dock owned by the District has been repaired to the satisfaction of Luis Yataco, Maintenance Manager. Manager Joseph commented to the Board that the dock was repaired with used floatation parts since the Facilities Tour. Mr. Allen stated that there is long learning curve for Zone IV because of the nine agencies it must work with.

Motion: Move to reorganize the Zone IV Committee with Tirrell Graham as Chair and Bob Allen, Nick Hoppe and Barbara Wambach as members. M/S/C Francis / Klopfer

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, and Zener. Noes: None

Absent: None

Director Wambach recused herself from the vote.

FISCAL REPORTS – CONSENT CALENDARS:

Item B1. Third Quarter 2008 Revenue-To-Date vs. Budget

As presented.

Director Wambach enquired about the fall in youth recreation revenue.

Manager Joseph responded that the Enrichment program at Strawberry Point School has been replaced by Mill Valley Recreation which has had an overall negative impact on programs offered by the District. Additionally, Karate started out as a class and then became a rental and then found facilities elsewhere. The Recreation Supervisor, Joy Murphy, is responsible for new classes. Director Francis was concerned over the percentage decrease and felt that we are not tapping into the community. Director Francis said the population of children in Strawberry is increasing. Director Wambach felt that the District needs to find out why loyalists love the facilities and why people who should be here are not here. The District needs to assess our strengths and weakness to fix enrollment.

Manager Joseph stated that he maintains an open door policy and added that brochure suggests offering different classes through Strawberry Rec. Chair Spinola-Schwartz suggested surveying the parents of the children at the school across the street. Director Zener suggested that the District needs to offer other courses such as soccer, sewing, and yoga. Director Frances suggested speaking at the PTA meeting to find out what we can offer. Manager Joseph commented that flyers about our classes go home with the children at Strawberry Point School. Director Zener felt the cover of the brochure is not catchy enough and added that Mill Valley has their brochure out before us.

Motion: Approve Items B1 – 5. M/S/C Francis / Wambach

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, Wambach, and Zener.

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Item C1. Directors Reports: Director Klopfer-Update on Employee Handbook

Director Klopfer commented that a template from another district was used, but changes were made to the handbook to reflect our particular offerings such as vacation days. It should be agendized as an action item for the SRD Board meeting next month. The handbook should be reviewed by our County Counsel. The Board thanked Director Klopfer for her efforts.

Item C2. Directors Reports: Director Wambach- Action Item-Discuss and Approve the Date for the District Hosting a Green Festival

Director Wambach noted that she will bring sample recycled plastic totes to the next SRD Board meeting. The District could sell totes to create market branding. The District needs to decide on whether to hold the event and when to have it. The price of the tote could be considered as part of a donation. Director Zener stated that the District should do a "green upgrade" and use solar energy. Chair Spinola-Schwartz commented that the Marin County Faire will be green this year. The Board decided to aim for an event date of September 20, 2008 with the event probably running from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Director Francis suggested having a triathlon or 10K running race as part of the event. Manager Joseph commented that races are generally in the morning and would conflict with the Green Festival from a traffic, parking and marketing standpoint.

Motion: Move to hold a Green Festival on September 20, 2008 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. M/S/C Klopfer / Francis

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, Wambach, and Zener.

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### ADMINISTRATION:

##### MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager's Report as presented.

The Ark enquired about the York/Flynn settlement agreement. Manager Joseph commented that a copy of the York/ Flynn settlement is available for the public who request it.

##### OLD BUSINESS

None.

##### NEW BUSINESS

None.

##### CORRESPONDENCE:

As presented.

Correspondence from LAFCO and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board was attached.

##### Matters of an Urgent Nature Arising Since Agenda Distribution:

None.

##### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Manager Joseph announced that the Spring Carnival will be at 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 22, 2008.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Spinola-Schwartz motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Director Wambach. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Spinola-Schwartz at 9:20 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Strawberry Recreation District Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008.

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Secretary, Board of Directors  
Strawberry Recreation District

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Chair, Board of Directors  
Strawberry Recreation District