

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 20, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M. AT THE LINCOLN WAY SPECIAL RECREATION CENTER, 1900 HEATHER GLEN DRIVE, NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS

I. General Functions

Call to Order: President Marcquenski called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Roll was taken and those present were:
Audrey Marcquenski, Director, Frankfort Square Park District
Jay Kelly, Executive Director, Manhattan Park District
Gina Hassett, Executive Director, Frankfort Park District
Kelly LaMore, Park Manager, Peotone Park District
Greg Vitale, Executive Director Mokena Park District
Greg Lewis, Executive Director, New Lenox Community Park District
Kirsten VanDuyne, Executive Director, Wilmington Park District (*joined at 10:40 a.m.*)

Absent: Renee Chavez, Executive Director, Crete Park District

Others present were Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.

Special Guests: Bonnie Cavelli, Associate Professor, St. Francis University

Public Comments: None

II. LWSRA Strategic Plan Workshop

Ms. Cavelli introduced herself and gave her general background with the University. The Board members will review the Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values. The goal is to gather comments, data, and what is going on in the organization. She met with the administration team last week for their input. Today's meeting with the Board is important because they drive the strategic direction of the organization. She will meet with various staff groups as well. Then a retreat will be held to bring the groups together to discuss what the next ten years will look like.

1. Mission

LWSRA's mission is to provide recreation and leisure services for individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities while promoting greater disability awareness in the community.
The exercise is to review the statement and tweak it if necessary. The members discussed the wording, and the consensus was that they were comfortable with the statement. The goal of the mission statement is to make clear that 'therapeutic recreation' or handling medical or caretaker situations is beyond the capabilities and training of the employees of LWSRA.

2. Vision

A community without limits for individuals with disabilities.
The word 'recreation' or 'leisure' needs to be included in the vision. The words 'without limits' was seen to be too broad. Discussion was held. The Vision can be changed during the retreat.

3. Core Values

Each of these came out of a previous endeavor. The members reviewed each one and suggested some ideas to improve the list.

- COMMUNITY - Using community-based resources to enhance recreational opportunities and reciprocate goodwill throughout community outreach.
- OPPORTUNITIES – Providing services to an ever expanding range of those with special needs. (change ‘those’ to individuals)
- RECREATION – Developing an atmosphere that provides the opportunity to live a full & healthy life.
- EDUCATION – Advocating and educating the importance of recreation and leisure.
- TRAINING – Focusing on creating the highest trained and knowledgeable staff.
- RELIABILITY – Striving for the highest quality and reliable service each and every day.
- UNITY – Establishing an independent environment for individuals to belong, grow and succeed.
- SAFETY – Supporting a protective balance between health, well-being and opportunity.
- TRUST – Promoting accountability, responsibility and familiarity.

The acronym is CORE TRUST. Some of the feedback was there were too many in the list and some could be combined which would eliminate the acronym. An overhaul and update with a focus on recreation, not just a broad range of ideas. It needs to be consistent with the Mission Statement. A question arose regarding the Districts’ mission statements and do they align with LWSRA’s and vice versa. It was suggested that each District could do their own exercise to review their mission statements and consider changes that reflect LWSRA’s.

4. Next Steps – What does the future look like for recreation. The Board members discussed and made suggestions. The agency had to figure out how to function as a business while doing the right things for longevity. The question is how do we budget for all the building needs and staffing. The challenge is the cost of building maintenance and support services. The fee structure for each District will change as they experience growth. The worry is about the geography of families served by remote services in the future and where do the boundaries stop. More outreach through schools in smaller communities is needed. Satellite locations were discussed. The Board has to make sure that LWSRA services their members first of what we can do and what we can’t or shouldn’t do. Physical boundaries and services offered need to be defined. The next step is to talk to the staff and survey the parents of the participants.

III. **Adjournment** - President Marcquenski adjourned the workshop at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary T. Strand, Recording Secretary