

## **Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting**

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bostic; Members Moss, Ahart, O'Connor, and Wendt

Members Absent: Member Wollrab

Other Members

Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Administrative Services and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; and Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management

Others Present: None

Chairman Bostic called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Chairman Bostic presented the Minutes of the Thursday, February 5, 2009 Property Committee meeting and the January 20, 2009 Stand-up meeting. Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Bostic accepted and placed the minutes on file as submitted.

Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board in Memory and Recognition of the late John W. English who passed away on January 6, 2009. Mr. English was a County Board member from 1974 to 1982. Mr. Steffa indicated that Mr. English's love of the outdoors and horticulture knowledge allowed him to be an active volunteer in the planning and development of COMLARA County Park. Mr. Steffa stated that Mr. English personally was responsible for the planting of many of the trees and prairies that are at the Park today. He added that, in addition to serving on the County Board, Mr. English served on the Unit 5 School Board, the Parkland's Foundation Board, the McLean County League of Women Voters, and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Mr. English was the first recipient of the WJBC Sprit of McLean County Award in 1977.

Mr. Steffa advised that, under McLean County Ordinance 5.19, the Parks Department proposes a Resolution renaming the Deer Island Access Trail at COMLARA County Park as the John English Memorial Trail. This trail was chosen because it receives more foot traffic than any other trail in the Park. Mr. Steffa noted that the 1.5 mile trail starts next to the Visitor Center and runs south along Evergreen Lake to Six Mile Creek Prairie near Six Mile Creek Bridge. Mr. Steffa added that the Parks and Recreation Department would also like to name this seven-acre prairie, which was planted with Member English's personal volunteer assistance, the John English Prairie.

Mr. Steffa stated that the Parks Department would like to have a formal dedication for the trail and the prairie on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The Parks Department would change signs at both ends of the trail and at the prairie to recognize the memory of Mr. English.

Motion by Ahart/O'Connor to recommend approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board in Memory and Recognition of the late John W. English.

Chairman Bostic indicated that Mr. English harvested the wood for the County Chairman's gavel from his farm. She noted that Mr. English did the turning on the gavel. The mallet section of the gavel is made from walnut. Chairman Bostic added that Mr. English's goal was to plant every tree that was native to Illinois and some that weren't. Chairman Bostic asked if there are any further comments. Hearing none, Chairman Bostic called for a vote on the previous motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Steffa noted that a lot of the hard word trees at COMLARA Park, including Walnut, Sweet Gum and Oak, were probably planted by Mr. English.

Mr. Steffa indicated that, as part of the change to Ordinance 35.14-1 adopted by the County Board on August 16, 2005 to allow swimming in Evergreen Lake as a special event, the Parks Department has issued a Special Use Permit to Colleen Klein, Tri-Mom Events LLC. Normally, the Tri-Shark Triathlon is held at Moraine View State Park every year. Mr. Steffa noted that, because of the closing of that state park as well as the uncertainty of it reopening, Mrs. Klein requested the use of COMLARA Park/Evergreen Lake. This event will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Mr. Steffa added that Mrs. Klein also holds the Evergreen Lake Triathlon at COMLARA Park/Evergreen Lake in July. He advised that Mrs. Klein is familiar with running these types of events, and has made sure safety is a top priority. Mr. Steffa noted that the County Board approved a Special Event Road Closure Permit for this event on February 17, 2009, and her Insurance Certificate is in order.

Mr. Steffa anticipates that the event will continue to be held at Evergreen Lake even though Moraine View State Park has reopened. He noted that the Tri-Shark Triathlon Cub Board will make that decision.

Mr. Steffa reviewed the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Bass Fishing Tournament. He indicated that for the first time in the history of the United States, the State of Illinois will have competitive bass fishing on the High School level beginning this spring of 2009. This sport will be governed under the Illinois High School Association or IHSA. Mr. Steffa noted that the state will be divided into different sections from north to south and high schools will compete in "sectional" tournaments. Mr. Steffa announced that the Evergreen Lake has been chosen to host a Sectional Tournament on Friday, April 24, 2009. There will be twelve high schools participating in the Evergreen Lake Sectional, including Deer Creek-Mackinaw, Metamora, Fieldcrest, Morton, Normal Community, Normal Community West, Pontiac, Roanoke-Benson, Streator Township, Streator Woodland, Midland, and Washington. Mr. Steffa stated that the Parks and Recreation Department will work closely with IHSA officials to ensure this tournament is a success.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Steffa.

Chairman Bostic presented the February 28, 2009 Property Committee bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor. The Property Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$71,795.63 and a Prepaid Total of \$300,923.90 for a Fund Total of \$372,719.53.

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Motion by O'Connor/Ahart to recommend approval of the bills as of February 28, 2009, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Bostic asked if there was any other business or communication for the Property Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Bostic adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary