

WOODRIDGE PARK DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
May 9, 2006

President Hohnke called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM. Upon roll being called, the following commissioners were present: Hohnke, Mahoney, Duffy. Absent: Coleman, Kubal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark Filipiak, Winston Drive, was present along with several family members and neighbors, to request permission to maintain a wooden foot bridge leading from his backyard across a creek to ComEd property. This bridge sits on Park District property and leads to a vegetable garden his family has cultivated for more than three decades. Filipiak stated that ComEd has allowed the garden since the first planting in 1972, and they have never had any problems. Adams explained that Filipiak's bridge, along with several others, were not allowed due to a DuPage County stormwater ordinance. This ordinance has been in effect since 1991 and considers these bridges nonconforming structures. However, DuPage County staff explained to Adams, since the bridge structure existed prior to the adoption of the ordinance, it was grandfathered in.

Frankland clarified that the Park District did own this property and did have some latitude to work with Filipiak based on the County's information. Liability was the key issue. Frankland said the Park District would prefer entering into a license agreement which indemnifies the Park District, provides liability insurance coverage, and would terminate if Filipiak ever sold his house. Discussion commenced on insurance and liability issues. Adams noted that the district was reviewing all liability issues with our attorneys. Filipiak stated that he did not want to cause a "headache or stress." His family would just like to continue the garden which has become a sense of pride, place of beauty and a huge tradition for his family and surrounding neighborhood. Frankland concluded stating that the County was the ultimate authority in stormwater management. However, the Park District will try and work out a license agreement.