

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bostic, Members Selzer, Dean and Moss

Members Absent: Members Ahart and Harding

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Human Resources Assistant

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management Department

Chairman Bostic called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Bostic presented the Minutes of the July 7, 2005 Property Committee meeting. Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Bostic accepted and placed the minutes on file as submitted.

Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation presented a request for approval of an Ordinance amending the Ordinance Adopting and Enacting Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Public Use of all County Parks and Recreational Areas. The amendment allows for permits to be issued for special event swimming such as a triathlon or open swimming events. In order for a permit to be issued, health and safety conditions have to be met.

Mr. Dean asked why special event swimming is not currently allowed. Mr. Wasson replied that the lake was never cleared of obstructions when it was built. Building foundations and trees were not removed. If special permit swimming is allowed, a swimming course would be mapped out to avoid any obstacles. Park staff would use buoys to show the course. The event staff would keep the participants safe and on route.

The Bloomington-Normal Area Sports Commission is planning a world-class triathlon on July 22, 2006. The Sports Commission is expected to provide most of the manpower for the event.

Mr. Dean asked what an open swim event is. Mr. Wasson replied that an example of an open swim is a swim for participants of a triathlon prior to the day of the triathlon. This allows the participants to become familiar with the swimming course.

Mr. Selzer asked if a member of the public could request an event. Mr. Wasson replied that a request could come from anyone. Specific health and safety precautions would have to be met. Participants would sign a waiver releasing the County of any obligations for injuries.

Mr. Moss asked if the Property Committee would be responsible for approving each special event permit. Mr. Wasson replied that he would provide the Committee with information regarding these events, but the Committee would not need to approve each special event permit.

Mr. Moss asked if the County has been approached before to host special swim events. Mr. Wasson replied that there was one previous request; however, the organization chose another location for their event.

Mr. Moss asked if swim events are held at Moraine View State Park. Mr. Wasson replied that Moraine View does host some swim events. Moraine View is not a good location for triathlons due to size.

Mr. Selzer asked what the County's responsibility would be as far as roads. Mr. Dean replied that the Transportation Committee approved the road course. Mr. Wasson replied that the Sports Commission is responsible for clearing the road of debris such as gravel. The Highway Department and Township Road Commissioner will work with the Sports Commission to make sure there is no planned road work on the day of the event.

Mr. Wasson noted that the amendment was prepared by the First Civil Assistant State's Attorney.

Mr. Selzer stated that he could not vote on the request due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Moss/Dean to recommend approval of a request for an Ordinance amending the Ordinance Adopting and Enacting Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Public Use of all County Parks and Recreational Areas. Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson presented his General Report. He noted that watercraft reservations have increased. Mr. Wasson reported that shelter reservations have been high, with most shelters being at capacity. However, due to the heat, camping reservations have declined. Beach usage is up.

Mr. Wasson stated that the McLean County Employee Picnic was well attended. The weather was beautiful and the bugs were not too bad.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Wasson. Hearing none, she thanked him.

Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management, presented several items for information. Mr. Moody presented a status report on the February 14th fire damage and repairs at the Old Courthouse. He indicated that he is working with Wiss, Janney, Elstner and Greg Koos, Director of the Museum of History. Mr. Moody indicated that the bid specifications are complete and are expected to be sent out the week of August 8, 2005. Wiss, Janney, Elstner will work with the disaster cleaning firm to insure that surfaces are properly cleaned.

The replacement of the Jail roof is almost complete. There are a few minor things for Peoria Roofing to complete. Once complete, Peoria Roofing and Facilities Management will make an inspection of the roof and address any problem areas.

Facilities Management has successfully maintained the air conditioning systems for all County Buildings this summer. Each building is being checked 3 times a day, 7 days a week. There have been no major problems.

The parking lot behind the Nursing Home has been resurfaced.

Mr. Moss asked if the sign for the Government Center needs to be repaired. Mr. Moody replied the sign is supposed to buckle in the warm weather. The sign is designed to allow for expansion. Mr. Moody indicated that he has asked the sign company to check the sign as a precautionary measure.

Mr. Moss asked when National City is moving out of the Government Center. Mr. Moody replied that National City is expected to move out on or before November 1, 2005. The third floor of the Government Center will require extensive remodeling work after National City moves out. The HVAC system has to be completely revamped.

Mr. Moody stated that the ATM has been ordered for the Government Center. Once the ATM arrives, Ms. Kathy Woosley, Bloomington Municipal Credit Union, will notify Mr. Moody so that it can be installed on the north end of the first floor.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Moody. Hearing none, she thanked him.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator presented one item for information. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that he would be meeting with Mr. Tom Hamilton, City Manager, City of Bloomington to discuss the division of office space in the Government Center once National City relocates. The current plan is for the City of Bloomington to take over the entire third floor of the Government Center. The City of Bloomington will then occupy 53 percent of the Government Center. Currently, expenses for the Government Center are split 50/50 between the County and the City of Bloomington. The expenses could be split 53/47 or space could be set aside as common shared space for meetings. Mr. Moss asked if any public organization could rent meeting rooms. Mr. Zeunik explained that currently organizations are only charged if the County is required to bring in employees during off hours to staff the event. Unless the Committee objects, Mr. Zeunik advised that he will continue to work with Gene Asbury on the allocation of space.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Zeunik. Hearing none, she thanked him.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any Other Business or Communications for the Committee. Mr. Selzer stated that he attended a fundraising seminar. He asked if the McLean County Museum of History is working on any grants or fund raising. Mr. Selzer asked if the Committee is satisfied with the efforts of the McLean County Museum of History with raising the remaining \$2 million needed for the restoration of the museum. Mr. Moss stated that Mr. Koos attended a Committee meeting earlier this year. Mr. Moss indicated he was satisfied with the grants that Mr. Koos is working on. Mr. Moss stated that he did not know if there were plans for a capital campaign.

Mr. Selzer stated that the Committee needs to think about how the County can help the McLean County Museum of History complete the restoration of the museum. The McLean County Museum of History would be a great community project.

Chairman Bostic presented the July 31, 2005 Property Committee bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor.

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Motion by Selzer/Dean to recommend approval of the bills as of July 31, 2005, which have been reviewed and recommend 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 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucretia A. Wherry
Recording Secretary