

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS  
AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010  
IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Niemietz called the Executive Session of the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:50 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Stumpf.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Hejna, Oberfell and Roessler.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Attorney Tom Adams, City Engineer Ron Williams, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: Commander Bill Wolf and Parks Coordinator Jim Lawlor representing Columbia American Legion Post No. 581.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Niemietz stated the Executive Session was called to consider the purchase of specific parcels of real estate.

**III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF SPECIFIC PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE**

Chairman Niemietz called upon Mayor Hutchinson to make opening remarks. The Mayor informed the Committee Members that he had been approached by Commander Wolf (in November) to see if the city had any interest in purchasing the property owned by the Columbia American Legion, including the buildings and equipment located on the property (with the possibility of leasing the fraternal building back to the Columbia American Legion), and taking over the management/maintenance of the property with the stipulation that it continue to be operated as a park/athletic fields in perpetuity. A general discussion was then held wherein Commander Wolf gave a background briefing on the Columbia American Legion's original and current vision for the use of the land (i.e., to provide facilities for the young adults in Columbia (and surrounding areas) to participate

in organized sports) – both Commander Wolf and Parks Coordinator Lawlor detailed the activities involved in the management/operation of the athletic activities, as well as that of the fraternal building; during the discussion, all in attendance were given the opportunity to express their opinions and ask questions – items discussed included the following: scheduling issues, grounds and buildings maintenance (and partnerships that currently exist or that may be formed to provide maintenance support in the future), cost to purchase, as well as funding sources/issues (including fees and concessionaires/management company employment), and staff time/additions to staff, that may be needed to continue ongoing operations/management. It was the general consensus of the Committee Members that a recommendation be made to the City Council that city staff prepare a cost analysis and business plan pertaining to the possible purchase of the Columbia American Legion property.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

##### MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Stumpf to adjourn the Executive Session of the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of Monday, February 8, 2010 at 9:25 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Stumpf voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Mary E. Niemietz*  
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MARY E. NIEMIETZ, Chairman  
PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes Taken By:

*Sandra Garner*  
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SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

*Albert G. Hudzik*  
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ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator