

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 2008**

Mayor Calderone called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Hoskins, Hosty, Tellalian and Mayor Calderone answered the Roll Call. Commissioner Curry joined the meeting at 6:06 P.M. In attendance were Park District Commissioners Cathleen McDermott and John Doss and Park District Superintendent, Erin Parchert. Also in attendance were School Board members Frank Mott, Lois Bugajsky, Joan White, Mary Turek and Mary-Win Connor, School District Superintendent, Dr. Louis Cavallo and Rachel Entler of the Forest Park Youth Commission.

Mayor Calderone stated that the purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue and collaborate on collective solutions to youth issues in Forest Park.

Rachel Entler distributed a Teen Center research and analysis report comparing teen centers in Oak Park, St. Charles and Niles and outlining attributes, space and equipment needs, costs and other items to be considered for a teen center.

Dr. Cavallo stated that behavioral issues are dealt with in school. He further explained that a Parent Institute is in the process of being started. This Institute provides parents with support, information and suggestions to help people become more effective parents. It also fosters involvement with the parents of the youth in Forest Park. The Schools have also instituted a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program for the children. Dr. Cavallo feels that they are receiving positive results from this program.

It was discussed that Mayor Calderone and Commissioner Hoskins met with representatives from Loyola to discuss Loyola's potential willingness to work with the Village. Loyola is clinically focused and believes that Forest Park is a unique size and may be a good community to help and to use as a part of a case study. They may be able to partner with the Village to apply for grants as well.

Rachel Entler stated that the Youth Commission, in response to the perception that there is nothing for teens to do in Forest Park, organized a centralized public information flyer listing activities by the different groups in Forest Park. They listed Community Center, Library, Park District and their own activities. They found that the main issue is with 6th through 9th grade youth. There is no child care available locally for children this age. Children don't necessarily want to sign up for programs, they want choices and options.

It was noted that the Community Education Council provides homework help at the Library.

The Park District reported that they provide programs, but kids don't sign up. There is little involvement with children over 5th grade, so the programs have had to be cancelled.

A list of stakeholders not present at this meeting was compiled and includes:

Forest Park Public Library
West Cook YMCA
Private Forest Park Schools
Forest Park Churches
Forest Park Youth
Middle School Principal, Karen Bukowski
Chair of PBIS Leadership Committee, Bob Lydell
Guidance Counselor from PMSA or District 209
Police Department Representative
Parents/Groups Representing Home Schooled Families and Forest Park Families with youth that attend schools outside Forest Park
Ameri-Corps (representative contact through local soccer program)

It was agreed that the primary focus should be on Forest Park Children.

It was discussed that Rachel Entler and Dr. Cavallo will accept the responsibility of composing, distributing and gathering information from the youth via a survey. They will contact Loyola to find out whether Loyola can give any direction or assistance in composing the survey and to gather information and/or requirements from Loyola regarding their program and the availability of grants.

It was agreed that the group's goal would be to meet again in early February.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be addressed, a roll call vote was taken to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz
Village Clerk