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From: Sameera Luthman

Date: 16/03/2015 14:24 (GMT-06:00)

To: "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"

Cc: Sue Omanson

Subject: Response to your blog post made on March 14, 2015

The following is the Naperville Park District's response to your blog post made on **March 14, 2015** in an effort to set the record straight:

**The Park District reviewed and revised its Board Policy with the assistance of legal counsel in September 2012; the Policy is in full compliance with Illinois law. It is important to note that when the District went through this most recent revision, the parameters of the Policy were further narrowed to include fewer discounts and expense reimbursements.**

**First, the Blog ignores the duties of sitting Commissioners. Among the duties of sitting Commissioners is the responsibility to monitor customer service and the quality of experiences provided by staff, programs and facilities. The Policy encourages Commissioners to make greater use of facilities and participate in programs (including programs for family members of disparate ages) by defraying the expense of doing so for selected facilities and programs. During the policy review process, staff produced evidence of numerous instances where feedback from the Commissioners and their families was valuable in improving the experiences provided by the Park District. If a Commissioner does not participate in a program or use one of the facilities listed in the Policy, the Commissioner receives nothing.**

**Second, the Blog confuses defraying expenses with paying compensation. Defraying the cost of reasonable expenses incurred by Commissioners in the service of the District is not compensation. An example of the payment of reasonable expenses incurred is when Commissioners travel to Springfield to meet with legislators and other Park Districts on matters of policy. The payment of those expenses does not constitute "compensation" to a Commissioner. If a Commissioner does not go to Springfield, the Commissioner receives nothing. A second example is participating in the annual Illinois Association of Park Districts conference. One of the requirements of those holding the office of Park Board Commissioner is to educate themselves regarding policy changes, best practices and industry standards. For those Commissioners attending a conference of this kind, a payment of reasonable expenses would be acceptable. In both instances, the focus is on defraying an expense incurred in the service of the office. Because the Policy carefully links the discounts to the duty of the office, there is no compensation paid and no violation of Illinois law.**

**As for all persons who are not sitting Commissioners, the District has the power to market and encourage use of programs and facilities through a wide variety of incentives and discounts – including those offered to employees, former**

**Commissioners and others (who experience shows are also good sources of customer feedback) – and the Policy serves that purpose. As with any discount or incentive, it can be changed at any time and so there is not even an implied promise of some benefit for service. It also is important to state that only some current commissioners choose to participate in District programs, while others do not.**

**In short, no compensation is paid to Commissioners.**

**Sameera Luthman**

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