

Alsip Park District Personnel Policies

I am a Director of the Edgar County Watchdogs (www.IllinoisLeaks.com) and have reviewed policies of various public bodies in the State of Illinois.

The following is a preliminary listing of items that we believe violate the Constitution of the State of Illinois [Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph (a)], the Illinois Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205], and other laws.

A public body cannot establish rules or ordinances that are in violation of state or federal laws, and from reviewing your Policy Manual it appears some items listed below are in violation of established laws.

The definition of “compensation” as it applies to an elected or appointed Commissioner is anything received as a result of service as a Park Commissioner – it need not be a monetary benefit. The below “benefits” are indeed “compensation” and do violate the Constitution and the Park District Code.

I ask that this Park District re-evaluate its policies to immediately eliminate all compensation to commissioners and former commissioners and their family members and guests.

Section VI Fringe Benefits

Paragraph G. Use of Park District Services, Facilities, Equipment

This paragraph authorizes Board Members and their immediate families to:

- a) register in any program, membership facility, special event, or contractual program without charge, and,
- b) Free participation in overnight trips for Commissioners, and,
- c) resident status for Commissioner’s athletic team, and,
- d) free use of the Fitness Center for Commissioners and family – and for Past Board Commissioners, and,
- e) free rental of Aquatic Park by each Commissioner once each year, and,
- f) free rental of gym or program rooms, and,
- g) free use of Park District tools, vehicles, and/or machinery or other related equipment, and,
- h)

Paragraph K. Retired Commissioners’ Benefits

This paragraph authorizes former Commissioners and one guest a “COMMISSIONER’S GOLD CARD” that with authorizes free use of all Park District Facilities:

- a) Aquatic Park – Daily Admission

- b) Apollo Recreation Center – Daily Admission to Fitness Center and Gym
- c) Fountain Hills Golf Club – Green Fees and Cart
- d) All future Park Facilities

This violates the Illinois Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/2-11] which states in part that:

A person is not eligible to serve as park commissioner if that person is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the park district or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony.

This also violates the Illinois Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/4.1] which states in part that:

The members of such governing boards shall act as such without compensation, and each member of the board shall be a legal voter of and reside within such district.

This also violates the Constitution of the State of Illinois, Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph (a) which states that:

(a) Public funds, property or credit shall be used only for public purposes.

- These “benefits” (compensation for serving as Park Commissioner) are specifically forbidden by the Park District Code.
- Use of these can be construed as having incurred a debt to the District that is now in arrears and could be ground for removal from office.
- Serve no Public Purpose – especially since the law governing the district state they shall serve without compensation

Thanks,
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