

AGENDA

SPECIAL RULES MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

Village Hall

6:00 p.m.

March 28, 2011

Update on the Central Park Wetlands Discovery Center

Adjournment

AGENDA BRIEFING

DATE: March 24, 2011

TO: Mayor John Ostenburg
Board of Trustees

FROM: John Joyce
Director of Recreation & Parks

RE: March 28th Workshop

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Village Staff and consultants working for Park Forest School District #163 have been utilizing the Central Park Wetlands and the Wetlands Discovery Center extensively for science education with students K – 8th grade in the District. More than 2,000 students from a number of school and community groups have come to the site for hands-on learning in each of the last two years.

On Monday evening staff members Michelle O'Connor and Marti Blaze have invited a number of their "super students" (as they refer to them) and their parents to the Village Board Workshop. Ms. O'Connor will begin by introducing each science team. She will follow with a brief history of how the Village and District have worked together on this project followed by a brief explanation of the kinds of learning which has taken place at the Center and at school as a result of student experiences at the Center.

Following this, Board Members, parents and visitors will be welcome to visit several tables where students will show and demonstrate their projects. I'm sure the students would welcome questions.

The staffs from both agencies have worked closely on some exciting plans for the future. Purchases of innovative science materials and equipment have been made for the Discovery Center to facilitate exciting science learning. Some will be on display. Village Staff is working with District Staff on building a "butterfly garden" to be located inside the pool enclosure, vertical gardens for the children to plant, and a rooftop planting which will feature hummingbird feeders. Once again the students and these future projects will be featured at a special event on Saturday, May 21st at the Wetlands Discover Center to be titled "Environmental Science Expo". This will be combined with the Village's pre-season Open House at the Aqua Center.

SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION: This item will appear on the Agenda for a Board Workshop scheduled for 6 PM on Monday, March 28, 2011.