



May 4, 2011

TO: All Commissioners

FROM: Matthew B. DeLeon

RE: New Item – Forest Preserve Board Agenda – May 4, 2011

COMMISSIONER

1. JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, Sponsor, County Commissioner, Submitting a Resolution regarding Consideration of the Blue Park Gun Club's Permit Request for Continued Land Use.

Submitting a Proposed Resolution.

Sponsored by JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, Forest Preserve District Commissioner

It is requested that this item be referred to the Real Estate Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Consideration of the Blue Park Gun Club's Permit Request for Continued Land Use

WHEREAS, The Blue Park Gun Club (The Club), a non-profit organization incorporated under the Laws of the State of Illinois for the purpose of trap, skeet and sporting clays activities, requests a permit for continued use of 4.75 acres of land transferred from Cook County to the Forest Preserve District on May 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The Club was organized in 1926 by a number of Cook County residents, several of whom were Veterans of the First World War and on February 28, 1928, The Club was granted a Certificate of Incorporation as a not-for-profit organization which they have maintained continuously for 83 years; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club maintains a community minded and education oriented philosophy evidenced by their Boy Scout Merit Badge Program and their Hunter Education and Safety Courses; The Club provides materials, guidance and supervision to the Boy Scouts and the Illinois Scholastic Shotgun Sports Association Youth Program at no charge; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club Clubhouse has on numerous occasions been used by the Markham Police Department for departmental meetings and by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to present and conduct their Hunter Safety Classes; and

WHEREAS, over the past 84 years, the members of the Blue Park Gun Club have received numerous awards and commendations for their work in the community; through the years they have hosted numerous American shotgun manufacturers, such as Winchester, and European manufacturers such as Fabbri; they have additionally sponsored European Shooting Champions Peter Dale and Les Trilla, Grand American Junior Trap Shooting Champions Charles and Ed Lopez, Winchester Shooting Professionals Don Fluelling and Harry Mosier and National Senior Trap Shooting Champion Eugene Bower; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club has always generously contributed the time and expertise of its many members to introduce and educate the public to the many rewards of participation in the Shotgun Shooting Sports and the proper and safe manner in handling and operation of a firearm; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club reflects a true cross section of the community in its membership rolls which include doctors/medical professionals, attorneys, civil servants, police officers, corporate/business professionals, notable chefs, local business owners, municipal workers, political/union leaders, athletes engineers, union laborers, as well as retired individuals from a vast variety of occupations and professions; sixty percent of the current membership are veterans, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club has always been open to the general public who may participate in the shooting sports in the presence, guidance and direction of numerous safety officers only after providing a valid Illinois FOID Card, receiving instruction from Range Safety Officers and having their intended fire arms carefully inspected for safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club believes its never ceasing emphasis on safety and its adherence to and enforcement of No Alcohol or Drug Policies have allowed the Club to maintain its membership rolls and a continuous eighty-four (84) year accident free existence; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club lost approximately two thirds of its property to the State of Illinois by virtue of its claim for Eminent domain per the construction of Interstate 57 and the Bremen Highway demolition in 1964 through 1966; debris in the form of rebar, cement, asphalt, etc. was dumped and used as landfill on the 4.75 acres of land owned by Cook County at that time and for which The Club now seeks a use permit for; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Park Gun Club entered into a lease with Cook County on September 25, 1967 for use of 4.75 acres (near Pulaski Avenue and Interstate 57) for trajectory purposes which was in effect continuously for forty-two (42) years; the clubhouse and shooting range are located on property owned by The Club and the approximate trajectory of the ammunition discharged is 170 to 210 yards upon the 4.75 acre parcel - no weapons are ever brought onto or fired on the property at any time; and

WHEREAS, of the 4.75 acre parcel only a small area approximately 90' x 600' is necessary for trajectory and would continue to be mowed and impeccably maintained as it has by The Club since 1967; and

WHEREAS, The Club would keep in force and affect a policy providing public liability insurance that meets the approval of the FPD; and

WHEREAS, for all of the aforementioned reasons the Blue Park Gun Club should be granted a permit for use of the land for trajectory purposes only, and as a nonprofit organization engaged in charitable, educational, civic, and youth based activities may qualify for a Forest Preserve District Nonprofit Organization Reduced Rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Blue Park Gun Club receive a permit for the use of the 4.75 acre Forest Preserve parcel (see Addendum A legal description) for one day

per week, twelve months of the year pursuant to the annual permit policy of the Forest Preserve District for a fee no greater than \$80.00 per day of intended use.

ADDENDUM A

A certain parcel of land located on the eastern boundary of Cook County Oak Forest Hospital land west of Crawford Avenue in Oak forest, Illinois containing 4.7478 acres, more or less as shown outlined on the sketch attached hereto and made a part hereof, and legally described as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

That part of the northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Fractional section 22, township 36 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, North of the Indian Boundary Line lying South of a line 731 feet North of (as measured) and parallel to the South line of the aforesaid Northeast Quarter of fractional Section 22, and lying East of a line 300 feet West of (as measured) and parallel to the East line of the aforesaid Northeast Quarter of Fractional Section 22, EXCEPT HIGHWAYS, North of the Indian Boundary Line in Cook County, Illinois.