

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

April 13, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Darien City Hall, 1702 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

PRESENT: Neil Christensen, Nancy Campagnolo, Ray Jablonski, James Tikalsky, Frank Noverini

ABSENT: None

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone Executive Director; Chris Katsougris, Assistant Director; Della Deldin; Superintendent of Finance, Robert Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Matt Henderson; Sportsplex General Manager, John Murphey; Attorney

Guests:

President Christensen announced that the Board would not be taking action under Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS

A. Cynthia Veldman, Save the Barn Committee

Ms. Cynthia Veldman stated that the Save the Barn committee asked to come speak because they felt it was a good time to update the board on the progress of the barn.

Ms. Veldman presented a review of the Save the Barn Committee, the mission and how the Committee is restoring the Barn. She provided photos of the Barn and provided a brief history on what the Committee has done to improve the Barn presently and in the future.

Ms. Veldman thanked Commissioner Campagnolo for her support. She asked that the Board consider a new representative to replace Commissioner Campagnolo.

President Christensen thanked Commissioner Campagnolo and stated that she has been a

big supporter of the Barn. He stated that the Board is still committed to working with the Committee and that they will provide the Committee with a new representative.

B. Dan Garcia, Landscape Specialist, Arbor Day activities

Mr. Dan Garcia stated that the Arbor Day event will be held on Friday, April 24th at 9:30 am. at Westwood Park located at 75th Street and Fairview. He reported that memorial trees will be planted.

Mr. Garcia thanked the Karl Foundation for their generous donation of six trees.

C. T-Mobile Representative

Executive Director Gurgone announced that the T-Mobile representative was not present.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received a thank you from the SEASPAR Eagles Program Coordinator thanking the District for all of the support and use of the Sportsplex.

President Christensen reported that he received two emails both which were forwarded to the Executive Director. He reported that a resident inquired if metal detecting was allowed in the parks and that the other was inquiring about the litter in the wetlands at Westwood Park.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that metal detecting is not allowed in the parks.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Cub Scouts will be cleaning up Westwood Park over the weekend.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President - President Christensen congratulated Mr. Rob Sarocco who was elected to serve on the Board. He reported that Mr. Sarocco will be sworn in at the next meeting. President Christensen congratulated Commissioner Campagnolo for her service to the community and that he was sorry to see her go.

B. Vice President- None

C. Secretary - None

D. Treasurer - Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending March 31, 2009.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Jablonski, Tikalsky, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that SEASPAR's Johnny Rogers concert is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Tivoli. She reported that tickets are available at SEASPAR for \$20.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Easter events were a big success. She thanked Commissioner Tikalsky and Commissioner Noverini for their help. She further reported that Panera Bread (Darien), Brunswick Bowl, Suburbanite Bowl, The Patio Restaurant (Darien), McDonald's (Darien), Uncle Bub's, Carrabba's Hollywood Blvd., Family Video (Downers Grove), Bacci Pizza, Panda Express (Darien) and Fridays(Darien), Tivoli Bowl, Steak & Shake (Darien), Frugal Muse & Let's Learn were all generous donors of the prizes given.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that staff began issuing picnic permits on April 1st for residents and that they will issue permits for non-residents on April 15th. She further reported that the Spring/Summer brochure has been mailed to all Darien residents and that residents who have not received a brochure can stop by the Community Center, City Hall, Library or Sportsplex to pick up a copy. Assistant Director Katsougris announced that the summer program registration is scheduled to begin on April 14th for residents and April 16th for non residents.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that preschool registration is underway for fall preschool and that an open house is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the upcoming school year.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported on the Day Trips. She stated that on Thursday, May 7th, the trip will cruise the infamous Route 66. She reported that the fee is \$55 for residents and \$60 for non-residents with lunch included and that the deadline is April 23rd.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that on Thursday, May 14th a trip is planned to visit the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Greendale, Wisconsin. She reported that the cost is \$60 for residents and \$65 for non residents and includes lunch and a stop at the Taste of Home Outlet Store. She announced that the deadline to register is April 30th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that on Tuesday, June 9th the Devil in the White City trip will feature stops at the Osaka Japanese Garden, the University of Chicago campus and a buffet lunch at the Union League Club. She reported that the cost is \$70 for residents and \$75 for non-residents and the deadline to register is May 1st.

President Christensen announced that the summer brochure will include the opportunity

for residents to join the Clarendon Hills Swimming Pool through an arrangement with Darien Park District at a substantially discounted rate. He reported that staff is also working with Hinsdale South for access for our day camp to the swimming pool in the summer.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the early registration family pass for the Clarendon Hills Pool is \$285 and the family plus pass is \$325.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin provided her report to the Board and asked if there were any questions.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that all ball fields and soccer fields are ready for play weather permitting.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the spring hockey numbers look good and that the numbers are up from last year. He reported that staff has done a great job promoting the league.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the SEASPAR Eagles program, which is a program to help young adults transition from high school to the real world, is going to occupy the training room at Sportsplex. She stated that the feedback has been extremely positive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that T-Mobile agreed to install a 100 foot pole and that they installed a 75 foot pole. She reported that staff is awaiting a response from T-Mobile.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants, February 23, 2009 Committee Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes, 2008-09-11 Amended 08-09 Budget and 2009-10-01 Budget & Appropriations Ordinance.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Tikalsky, Noverini, Jablonski, Christensen.

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Minibus bid approval

Executive Director Gurgone reported that bus bids went out for a new minibus 14 or 20 passenger with wheel chair accessibility. She reported that the minibus will be used primarily for the Seaspar Eagles as well as for Darien Park District programs. Executive Director Gurgone reported that \$60,000 is budgeted. She reported that three bids were received, and staff is currently reviewing the bids.

Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to approve the minibus not to exceed \$60,000.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Tikalsky, Noverini, Jablonski, Christensen.

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

B. Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Membership

President Christensen reported that the IAPD is an organization geared to provide information and resources to park board members. He reported that the IAPD dues for the Park District are just under \$6,000 or equivalent to the cost of six concerts in the park. President Christensen reported that the Board felt that the money would be better used to serve the residents. He stated that the IAPD is pushing the District hard to remain as a member.

Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to bypass the IAPD Membership.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Tikalsky, Jablonski, Christensen.

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

C. Public Comment (for new business)

None.

CLOSED SESSION

President Christensen reported that the Board would not be going into Closed Session because the topic of the discussion was generic. He stated that the discussion was to set up a pool for raises. He asked for a motion to approve the wage pool increase not to

exceed 2%.

Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to approve the employee wage pool increase not to exceed 2%.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Jablonski, Noverini, Tikalsky, Christensen.

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

OUTGOING COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION (NANCY CAMPAGNOLO)

Executive Director Gurgone stated that Ms. Campagnolo was elected to the Board in April 2003. She stated that during her time on the Board Commissioner Campagnolo had the best interest of the residents in mind. She further stated that she conducted herself in a professional and diplomatic manner and that in 2005-2008 Commissioner Campagnolo served as President of the Darien Park District Board.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that Commissioner Campagnolo improved the parks and was instrumental in development of the Community Center and the third sheet of ice at Sportsplex. She further stated that she was also instrumental in the recognition program and a supporter of the Eagles SEASPAR program.

Executive Director Gurgone personally thanked Commissioner Nancy Campagnolo for her dedication and six years as a member of the Darien Park District's Board of Commissioners.

President Christensen presented Commissioner Campagnolo with a Certificate of Appreciation. He stated that her years of service were a valuable contribution to the Park District and that he is proud and happy to know her.

Attorney John Murphey stated that Nancy Campagnolo is most courageous and in the words of Ernest Hemmingway, "Grace under pressure". He stated that Commissioner Campagnolo handled the pressure with grace and honesty and she is professional and balanced.

Mayor Weaver stated that Attorney Murphey eloquently described Commissioner Campagnolo. She stated that she is grateful that she stepped up and how she was instrumental in developing an intergovernmental effort that did not exist. She further stated that she is valued beyond description.

Ms. Mary Sullivan, Miss Samantha Gaspari and Ms. Debbie Heniff also presented testimonial and recognized Commissioner Campagnolo. President Christensen introduced Commissioner Campagnolo's family and thanked them for allowing Nancy to be part of the District and for their patience during her term.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that it was an honor and a privilege to serve her term. She stated that anger or ego should never get in the way. She encouraged the Board to continue maintaining open and honest government.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that she was also honored and privileged to serve with Executive Director Gurgone and her staff. She thanked former Mayor Carmen Soldato, Debbie Heniff, Mayor Weaver, the City Officials and the residents of Darien and stated that democracy and open and honest government works.

President Christensen announced that there would be a reception in the lobby for Commissioner Campagnolo.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Campagnolo made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District**

**James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District**