

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE**

August 24, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview Avenue, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

ABSENT: Rob Sarocco

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks, Della Deldin; Superintendent of Finance

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting. There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. Skate Park Issues/Future of Skate Park

President Christensen stated that there were officers from the Darien Police Department in the audience to provide some feedback on what is going on at the skate park. He further stated that the two options for discussion are to remove the equipment or to provide security.

Chief Robert Pavelchik reported that the Department has seen change over the last 6-12 months. He stated that there is heavy gang activity from the Willowbrook apartments and most recently a drug arrest. Chief Pavelchik stated that the location of the skate park is not

in a good location and it is difficult to patrol. He stated that patrolling the area in a more visible location would be better. Chief Pavelchik stated that the police department and the park district tried regulating the hours and locking the gate and that there were still issues. He stated that if the skate park remains in the same location that it needs to be staffed during regular business hours.

President Christensen stated that residents are concerned that the problems at the skate park are rolling over into other businesses in the area.

Chief Pavelchik stated that they have received comments from residents about what is going on at the skate park.

President Christensen stated that one of his concerns is that skateboarders are using the parking lot at Sportsplex and boarding into the building and hanging out in the lobby.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that there is no fence between the apartments and the skate park. He stated that fencing would cut down on some of the foot traffic and that users would have to walk around it.

Commissioner Noverini stated that based on what he has seen that the abusers will just use bolt cutters to take down the fence.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that most of the people at the skate park are not skating but just hanging out.

Commissioner Tikalsky asked if the skate park is closed and the gates locked will the police department from Darien and Willowbrook patrol the area looking for trespassers.

Chief Pavelchik stated that trespassers would be issued a ticket and would have to go to traffic court.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that he feels that the skate park is like a cage and if there are kids in there, they are caged in if someone on the outside has a gun.

Chief Pavelchik suggested that if the District closes the park that “no trespassing” signs should be posted.

President Christensen suggested that staff look into a reimbursement arrangement and have skateboarders use the Westmont skate park. He stated that he was 100% in favor of removing and demolishing the site. He asked the Board for their opinion.

Commissioner Noverini stated that he agreed with President Christensen. He stated that he was concerned with vandalism even if there is a “no trespassing” sign posted.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that he would like to close the skate park immediately and that he was in favor of selling the equipment.

Commissioner Noverini asked if there was money in the budget to remove the park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there was money in the capital budget that was allocated for the Joint Maintenance Facility that could be used to remove the skate park.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that he would like to have a skate park but not in its present location.

Superintendent Strickler stated that if the skate park was moved to another location that other amenities would be lost.

President Christensen suggested placing the closing of the skate park on the September 14th Regular Meeting Agenda and to place a “No Trespassing” sign up at the skate park immediately.

Chief Pavelchik asked that the District take photos of the signs so that they can take them to court.

Officer Skala was in the audience. He suggested adding “violators will be prosecuted” to the sign.

b. Possible T-Mobile Tower

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the T-Mobile is interested in putting a tower at Sportsplex. She stated that she discussed this with the City and that they would prefer a flagpole, and do not want the flagpole to exceed 100 feet. She further stated that the City provided their recommendations to the District and that Attorney Murphey is reviewing a possible contract. Executive Director Gurgone stated that although there have been issues in restoring the landscaping at Westwood, the District is still receiving \$24,000 a year.

President Christensen questioned when this would move forward.

Executive Director Gurgone stated relatively soon and that she cannot move forward until there are drawings.

President Christensen asked if there was a decision on what is going on with the third flag pole at Westwood Park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the third flag pole is going to be a Park District flag.

c. Nike Bauer AAA Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Nike Bauer AAA Contract is a new contract for the same tournament that was held at Sportsplex in the past.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. City Salt Intergovernmental Agreement

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the City Salt Intergovernmental Agreement.

Commissioner Tikaslsky questioned if the District paid for salt or salt and sand.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the District only paid for the salt and not a salt and sand mixture. He stated that last year was a horrible winter because there was a salt shortage. Superintendent Strickler stated that this year the salt is already stockpiled and that it will not be a salt and sand mixture.

b. Surplus Equipment Resolution

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a list of the surplus equipment.

Superintendent Strickler reported that once approved that he would look into selling some of the equipment.

3. Admin

a. SEASPAR Eagles Agreement

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she has been working with the SEASPAR Director on a lease agreement at Sportsplex for the EAGLES program. She reported that there is no final lease agreement yet because PDRMA is still reviewing it. Executive Director Gurgone stated that something needs to be put in place so that SEASPAR will have the space to use in the future.

President Christensen suggested adding a provision if Sportsplex is sold.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District is planning a dedication for the space on Thursday, October 8th.

b. Capital Budget Update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received an update of the capital money spent so far and that the amount of money left over in capital funds would be used for any additional projects such as the skate park removal.

c. DPD Budget to Actual

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the current budget to actuals through July. She reported that the day camp numbers are close to budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Nike Bauer AAA Contract, the City Salt Intergovernmental Agreement, and the Surplus Equipment Resolution would be placed on the Consent Agenda for the next Regular Meeting. She reported that removal of the Skate Park would be placed under New Business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski that the meeting be adjourned. Upon voice vote the Motion was thereby carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District