

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

**December 8, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner 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:** Rob Sarocco

**PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS**

None.

**A. Public Hearing for Tax Levy Ordinance #2008-09-06**

President Christensen welcomed the guest to the meeting. He opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Darien Park District complied with the qualifications of the Truth in Taxation Act. She reported that the District determined at the Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting that the District would levy at the 20% new growth rate, which is equivalent to a 27.62% increase in operating funds and a 0% increase in debt service; a combined total increase in property taxes of 17%.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District is levying at the high amount in order to capture all new growth in the community and that the District anticipates receiving about a 6% increase in operating funds. She further reported that on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, the required

Notice of Public Hearing and the Truth in Taxation were published in the Suburban Life. She stated that once passed, the Tax Levy Ordinance will be filed as required at the Dupage County Clerk's Office.

**At 7:02 p.m. Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to close the Public Hearing.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received communication from a concerned volleyball player who was interested in playing on the over 30 volleyball league.

Assistant Director Katsougris explained that the 27 year old resident was not able to play on that league but that staff is looking closely at adding a 21 and over league in January. She reported that the league will be advertised in the newspapers and on the website.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

- A. President** – President Christensen reported that the Yoga classes were not finalized in the brochure and that residents should contact the District for more details. President Christensen provided a recap of the year. He reported that it was an exciting year for the District with renovations for a new Community Center and Sportsplex having a new third sheet of ice. He further reported that 2009 will be tough with the current economic times. President Christensen thanked the Board and staff for all their hard work and stated that the District will continue to explore to reduce expenses where possible and live within budgetary means. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- B. Vice President** –No report.
- C. Secretary** – No report.
- D. Treasurer** –Commissioner Jablonski presented the Treasurer's report ending November 30, 2008.

**Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending November 30, 2008.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No Report.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the City's Planning/Development Committee approved the Stealth Cell Phone Tower and that it would be presented to the City Council on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **B. Assistant Director**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that staff is busy preparing for the Needy Family Project providing for 175 families. She reported that collection boxes for food and toys are set up the Community Center, Sportsplex and the Darien Police Station and that anyone who can donate would be greatly appreciated. She further reported that donations must be received by Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that registration for residents begins on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and that anyone who did not receive a brochure should contact the post office to voice their concerns. She reported that additional copies are available at the Community Center, Sportsplex, City Hall and the Library.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Polar Express was fantastic and that it sold out with 130 passengers. She reported that the next trip is to the Blue Chip Casino on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and the cost is \$36 for residents and \$41 for non residents. She further reported that the deadline is January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Deldin reported on the PDRMA Fitness Program. She reported that the District came in 4<sup>th</sup> Place with 67,500 life points. Superintendent Deldin reported that staff had a lot of fun and that she is looking at other programs after the holidays.

### **D. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff is doing a great job after the first snow fall. He reported that a plow was stolen and that staff is looking at how the area can be more secure so that other theft does not happen.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that if the District had a Joint Maintenance Facility this would not have happened. She stated that although it is a very expensive venture and something that the District cannot afford at this time, it should still be something to look at in the future.

Superintendent Strickler stated that staff is taking the necessary steps to eliminate theft.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the police were contacted and that the District asked them for additional protection.

### **E. Sportsplex General Manager**

General Manager Henderson reported that Sportsplex hosted the First Annual High School Hockey Tournament over Thanksgiving. He reported that 24 teams participated from the IHSL and Metro West. General Manager Henderson stated that the event was very successful and that staff did a great job.

General Manager Henderson reported that he is continuing to work with PDRMA regarding the Chiller claim and that although nothing has been resolved he is hopeful that the claim will cover the loss of ice revenue. He stated that he would report back to the Board with any new information.

President Christensen asked if the economy has impacted many programs.

General Manager Henderson reported that although the economy has impacted some of the programs such as Skate School and Little Hawks, the Hawks Club is strong. He stated that the Hawks are in their third year of the three-year contract and that they are looking to add language and sign another three-year contract until 2012.

Commissioner Campagnolo asked how the Advertising Representative is doing. General Manager Henderson reported that advertising is tough right now but that revenue is coming in.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)**

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants, October 27, 2008 Committee Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes and Tax Levy Ordinance #08-09-06.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **C. Public comment (before vote)**

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

### **CLOSED SESSION**

**a. 2(c)1: Discussion of the employment, performance and compensation of the Executive**

**Director.**

**At 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to adjourn into Executive Session.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

**ACTION (if warranted) ON CLOSED SESSION**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

**Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the agreement to extend the Executive Director's contract from September 1, 2009– August 31, 2009 with an annual salary of \$105,000.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

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Neil Christensen, President  
Darien Park District

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James Tikalsky, Secretary  
Darien Park District