

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

February 13, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

PRESENT: Nancy Campagnolo, Frank Noverini, Neil Christensen,
Richard Simester, Shari Gillespie

ABSENT: None

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director, Chris Katsougris, Assistant
Director, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Matt Hendersen,
Sportsplex General Manager; Judith Coleman, Attorney

Guests: Bob Grankowski, Darien
Gloria Andersen, Darien
Lane Kelly, *Suburban Life*

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Mr. Bob Grankowski, Darien thanked Superintendent Strickler and staff for making the handicapped parking at Sportsplex more visible. He also stated that the Board was doing a terrific job.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received correspondence from the City of Darien regarding the Citizen of the Year. She also reported that she received an email from Mr. John

Poteraske asking if the District ever considered bid proposals for snow and grass removal. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she responded to Mr. Poteraske stating that she discussed the idea with Superintendent Strickler and that it is more economical to have the work done by staff. She also stated that Mr. Poteraske was informed that the snow plow makes money for the District.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received an email from a resident congratulating the District on the signing of the Hawks three year contract. He stated that the resident also had a question regarding the Huskies banners hanging in the Sportsplex. The resident asked if there were any plans to have a football program within the District.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he responded to the email stating that he would bring it up in the Committee meeting but that there were limited fields available for football.

Commissioner Christensen also stated that he received an email from John Poteraske regarding the terms of the Commission. He stated that he took a look at the terms and after the next election in 2007 it may be something to discuss and reexamine at a future Committee Meeting.

President Campagnolo reported that she received an email from John Poteraske regarding an article in the Suburban Life reporting that Westmont received a grant from the Clean Energy Foundation. She stated that she passed the information to Assistant Director Katsougris. Assistant Director Katsougris reported that she informed Mr. Poteraske that 2 years ago we received \$19,616 in grant money from the IL. Clean Energy Foundation.

OFFICER REPORTS

- A. **President** – President Campagnolo reported that on January 30, 2006 the Board unanimously approved a multi-year contract valued at over \$1.4 million with the Chicago Hawks Hockey Club. She reported that to date the District has had the ability to abate the tax because the building pays its own bills. President Campagnolo stated the contract covers a quarter of the entire revenue for the building. She reported that the Huskies were always asked to secure a long term contract but they always declined. President Campagnolo stated that the attorneys, staff and the Hawks have worked very hard to develop the contract and the Board is committed to maintaining the abatement of Sportsplex. She stated that it is unfortunate that the Huskies moved the program elsewhere but the goal is to have financial stability. She thanked staff for all their hard work and welcomed the Hawks to Sportsplex.
- B. **Vice President** – No report.
- C. **Secretary** – No report.
- D. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer's report dated January 31, 2006. He reported that calendar year 2005 is over and that \$405,000 was paid down of the principal debt at Sportsplex. He further reported that the amount represents over 50% of the total debt reduction.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he questioned the \$2,200 annual fee that the District pays to US Bank. He stated that the fee is to pay US Bank as a trustee in 1996 for the bond

issue. Commissioner Christensen stated that this amount does not reflect in the debt payment reschedule and the fee will be annual until the year 2016.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this was the only bond that the District has that yearly payment.

Commissioner Simester questioned the amount left on the debt.

Commissioner Christensen reported that at the end of 2005 \$2,305,000 of \$2,965,000 was left.

President Campagnolo directed Executive Director Gurgone to contact Speer to take a look at the fee to see if there is anything that can be done.

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending January 31, 2006.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Simester, Noverini, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed community center options. She reported that she was in contact with District 61 regarding Fairview School and awaiting an appraisal on the property. She further reported that Superintendent Strickler would be contacting architects to acquire accurate estimates for upgrading Marion Hills.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed spending the budgeted money for additional skate park equipment and that staff will be getting cost estimates for additional skate park equipment as well as landscaping at Sportsplex for future discussion.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received an updated Capital Asset Replacement plan for upcoming projects. She reported that the Board discussed some additional projects and the document would be revised as part of the budget process.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed the current financials for Sportsplex as well as the upcoming capital projects for the building. She reported that the Board tabled any future discussion regarding the renaming of South Grove Park as well as discussion regarding the term length of Commissioners.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board directed her to work with the Darien Chamber regarding Darien Fest. She reported that the Board agreed to place the increase for bid limits from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for Park Districts on the Consent Agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that all of the Committee Meeting Minutes once approved were posted on the website.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Coleman stated that she had no report.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she would be meeting with Speer Financial to discuss possible bonding scenarios for purchasing a community center. She stated that she would report back on the outcome at the Committee Meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she and Superintendent Strickler would be meeting with Tom Sailer from the Darien Chamber to discuss the District's participation in Darien Fest. She further reported that Bob Pindar, SEASPAR Director will retire in June and that the SEASPAR Board unanimously selected Susan Friend to be the new Director. Executive Director Gurgone reported that Ms. Friend has faithfully and effectively served as SEASPAR's Superintendent of Recreation for the past 27 years and is well qualified.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported 68 girls and their dads attended the Daddy-Daughter Date night. She thanked Ashton Place for the use of the facility, and Jim Tikalsky for providing the music.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the next winter garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th. She reported that the Spring/Summer Brochure will be mailed to residents on March 31st and resident registration beginning April 17th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that registrations are being accepted for fall preschool for ages 2 ½ to 4 year olds.

Commissioner Christensen asked if there was any additional information regarding the grants from the State of Illinois.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that she mailed out a letter and that there was no further communication other than that the funds were not available.

G. Superintendent of Finance

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she provided the Board with a tentative budget schedule for discussion at the Committee Meeting on February 27th. She reported that the final

draft/public hearing would be presented to the Board at the March 13th Board Meeting, discussion regarding any changes if necessary at the March 27th Committee Meeting and final approval of budget at the April 10th Board Meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the March 27th Committee Meeting would be moved to March 20th at 6:00 p.m.

H. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff is continuing to work on the Meyer Woods Barn. He reported that he is looking into the cost for windows and also windows on the high level.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he is working with the City of Darien regarding the pond at Birchwood Park. He reported that the pond has increased in size and has weeds and trees growing on the banks of the pond. Superintendent Strickler reported that jointly both parties will be looking to install a rip wrap of rock all around the pond and will be approximately \$40,000 and a 50/50 split.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he would be meeting with two architects regarding Marion Hills and would provide the Board with a report at the Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Christensen commended Superintendent Strickler and staff for having the lots perfectly plowed and salted early on Saturday morning after snow fall. He questioned if Superintendent Strickler was looking at summer staff.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he would be mailing out letters in March. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the summer salaries would be discussed during the budget discussion.

H. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Hendersen reported that the new hockey club held a well attended parent meeting at Sportsplex. He reported that there were approximately 170 parents, Board Commissioners and staff present.

General Manager Hendersen reported that the Little Huskies are a Park District program and that it will continue next year under a different name the Little Hawks and will be the same day and time.

General Manager Hendersen reported that he is in the process of discussing ice needs with three high school hockey teams and that he has met with Hinsdale Central. He reported that he met with Lyons Township and Hinsdale South and they are both interested in time. He further

reported that Illinois Suburban Hockey League is in transition and not capable of a three year agreement. He stated that he explained to them the one year term would be at a higher rate.

President Campagnolo questioned if there were any other schools contacted.

General Manager Hendersen reported that he has been in contact with other schools and will determine their needs and find them time.

President Campagnolo questioned if General Manager Hendersen contacted Montini. She stated that a lot of Darien residents attend Montini.

General Manager Hendersen stated that he would be meeting with Montini by the end of the week.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff wants to keep some ice time available for the Hawks to grow.

General Manager Hendersen reported that Nordic Energy, a local natural gas supplier is interested in buying four dasher boards. He further reported that he is finalizing the summer program for the field house and working with Kids First to put the programs together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gloria Andersen, Darien questioned what communication was between the Huskies and the District.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board gave notice to the Huskies that their contract was up on March 31st. She stated that since the Hawks signed, the Huskies are upset because they cannot buy ice time. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the Huskies were notified that they could buy whatever ice is left after February 28th.

Commissioner Christensen stated that staff is committed to work it out if the Huskies want to purchase ice but that the Hawks need to be accommodated first.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Warrants, January 9, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes, January 30, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes, and Purchasing Policy Update-approval of bid limit increase to \$20,000.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Gillespie, Noverini, Simester, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DSC Tournament Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the DSC contract for the Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day tournaments the weekends of February 10-12th and March 17-19th. She reported that General Manager Hendersen is looking to set up a 3 year contract with them so that the contract does not have to be approved every year. She stated that the total amount for the contract is \$24,960.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the DSC contract in the amount of \$24,960 for the Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day Tournaments.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Gillespie, Noverini, Simester, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Christensen to convene into executive session under Section 2(c)21 for the review and release of Closed Session Minutes and Section 2(c)1 for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District