

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

February 9, 2009

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

ABSENT: Frank Noverini

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

Guests: Dave Phillips, Speer Financial
Lillian Lela, Darien
Roy Jovien, Darien
Becky Russo, Darien
Ann Vesely, Darien
Mary Beth Fencil, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting.

A. Dave Phillips, Speer Financial

Mr. Dave Phillips, Speer Financial presented the sale results. He reported that Harris Bank presented a rate of 2.70%. He stated that this was a great rate for such an unusual market and that he recommends acceptance and adoption of the Ordinance.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District issues a General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bond every year. She reported that there is an approximately \$500,000 payment on an old bond and that the remainder is used for the capital projects.

President Christensen stated that the bonds are a timing issue and allows the District to borrow short term.

Mr. Phillips stated that he toured the new Community Center and that it is outstanding. He congratulated the staff and the Board.

President Christensen thanked Mr. Phillips and his team. He stated that Speer always does what is best for the District and that Speer has exceeded all expectations.

President Christensen opened the meeting to anyone wishing to present public comment.

Ms. Lillian Lela, 906 69th Street, Darien stated that she was before the Board expressing her concerns regarding the bridge group at the Community Center. Ms. Lela stated that she forwarded her concerns to staff and the Board in an email regarding the cold temperature and the non residents who will not be allowed back as of March 2nd. Ms. Lela stated that staff informed her that some rooms in the building were very warm. She suggested closing the vents in the warmer rooms so that the bridge area could be warmer.

Ms. Lela stated that the club appreciates the tables, cards, coffee, etc. She asked if the Board would reconsider allowing non residents to continue playing at the Community Center.

Mr. Roy Jovien, 8483 Sandlewood Drive, Darien stated that he has been a poker player for 7 years and that it has been great for him since his wife passed away. He stated that he too agreed that the area was very cold but that he was shocked at the letter that was mailed out regarding the changes. Mr. Jovien stated that he did not care for the tone of the letter and wondered why the card players have been singled out. Mr. Jovien stated that non residents are welcome at all the other nearby park programs.

Ms. Becky Russo, 8S175 Washington Street, Darien stated that she has been in Darien for 38 years and is proud to be part of the community. She stated that the letter that was mailed out was mean spirited. She asked that the Board reconsider and not punish the entire group for a couple of people. Ms. Russo stated that the senior groups are welcome in Downers Grove, Hinsdale and Burr Ridge and that the Board compromise so that the many friendships that have been formed are not broken.

Ms. Ann Vessley, 18W155 Bellaire Ct., Darien stated that she has been a resident for 40 years and has always been proud to live in Darien. She stated that this is her ninth year with the same bridge group and that half of the players live outside of Darien. Ms. Vessley stated that she was surprised at how unkind Darien has been to the seniors.

Ms. Vessley stated that the high ceilings were terrible planning and that the building is cold. She stated that she was concerned that Darien was eliminating the non residents because there is not adequate parking. She questioned why there were so many things going on at once.

Ms. Vessley stated that there should be better facilities for the seniors and that Darien is not considering any feelings.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that maybe there can be some compromise.

President Christensen explained the function of the Board. He explained that the Board hires experienced and professional staff to run the District. He further explained that the Board represents the taxpayers.

President Christensen stated that Executive Director Gurgone and her staff provided a new Community Center without any tax increase and that this is a phenomenal undertaking. He stated that the Board does not want to “micromanage”.

President Christensen stated that it is important that the group designate a person or two to sit down to discuss the concerns. He stated that presently there are individuals who are opening the side doors and smoking inside the facility both which are major liability issues and something that the District will not tolerate.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that it is important that the Board is held accountable to the residents. She stated that the Board answers to the residents and listens to their concerns. She further stated that policies are established and that the Board is kept aware of all situations and if policy needs to be adjusted the Board directs them to the Executive Director.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that the issues seem to be the cold temperature, the parking and most importantly elimination of non residents. She stated that smoking in the vestibule is a security issue and will not be allowed.

Mr. Jovien stated that there is one abuser and he has been told. He questioned why the entire group was being punished for one person. He also stated that the side doors are opened for a wheel chair when it is extremely cold. Mr. Jovian stated that there are no rules posted in the room and that the District took extreme and unnecessary action.

Ms. Lela stated that she has been in touch with Executive Director Gurgone and Assistant Director Katsougris regarding the heating issue and that she was told that the temperatures in the room are all set at 68 degrees.

President Christensen stated that the area for the seniors was designed with handicapped accessibility in mind.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he will monitor the heat. He stated that there are 13 monitors on the roof and that the HVAC system is energy efficient and that each thermostat is set at 68 degrees.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that every area of the building was calibrated at 68 degrees.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he will speak to the company and make sure the area is checked.

Ms. Lela asked the Board to address the non resident concern.

President Christensen stated that staff determined that presently the attendees were 70% non residents. He stated as of March 2nd non residents will not be able to play at the Community Center. He further stated that parking is an issue and that the Board and staff appreciate all their time and energy to come to the meeting.

Ms. Mary Beth Fencil, Darien stated that she was concerned that there is no Saturday Yoga. She stated that in November the Board stated that there were lists of instructors to teach.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff is continuing to look for the right instructors for Saturday classes.

President Christensen stated that the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Yoga classes are filled and that overall the participants are happy with the new instructors.

Ms. Fencil stated that the participants were promised a class on Saturday and there are none.

President Christensen stated as soon as staff finds a qualified instructor we will open the class on Saturday.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Christensen reported that he received correspondence from Wayne Scharnak, Darien Lions Club thanking Assistant Director Katsougris and her staff for their assistance in the annual food drive for needy families.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – No report

B. Vice President –Commissioner Campagnolo provided a report on recent purchases made by the Save the Barn Committee. She reported that the Committee will be purchasing a bronze plaque to put on the side of the barn explaining a brief history of the barn. She further reported that they will also be purchasing a security light with a bulb that will last five years and that they would also like to purchase coach lights if there is a way to find power.

Commissioner Campagnolo reported that the Save the Barn Committee will hold Movie Night on June 12th.

C. Secretary – No report.

D. Treasurer –Commissioner Jablonski presented the Treasurer's report ending January 31, 2009. Commissioner Campagnolo noted that the report read 2008 instead of 2009.

Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Campagnolo to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending January 31, 2009.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: 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 January was a fantastic month for the Fitness Center.

B. Assistant Director

Executive Director Gurgone reported for Assistant Director Katsougris. She reported on the upcoming planned trips and on the Preschool Open House.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin reported that the budget will be presented to the Board at the February 23rd Committee Meeting.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that he received an email from Alderman Poteraske with concerns regarding a recent recall on Playland International Swings. He reported that there are no Playland International Swings at any of our sites.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the Learn to Skate hockey session begins March 3rd and that classes are offered on Tuesday and Saturdays for one hour and sessions running for six weeks. He reported that registration fees range from \$95 to \$130 for residents and \$105 to \$145 for non residents. He further reported that the sessions are offered throughout the entire year.

General Manager Henderson reported that Skate School begins March 12th and that classes are offered on Thursdays and Saturdays for 30 minutes with an additional 30 minutes of practice time. He reported that the sessions run for 8 weeks with registration fees ranging from \$45 to \$105 for residents and \$50 to \$115 for non residents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants and the January 12, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Jablonski, Campagnolo, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to approve

- A. **Ordinance 2008-09-08: An Ordinance providing for the issuance of \$882,325 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2009, of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois, and providing for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax for the payment of the principal and interest on said bonds.**
- B. **Ordinance 2008-09-09: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2008 to pay the principal and interest on \$2,497,050.60 General Obligation Alternate Bonds, Series 2000B of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois.**
- C. **Ordinance 2008-09-10: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2008 to pay the principal of and interest on \$7,500,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2007B of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois.**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Jablonski, Campagnolo, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

D. Public comment (before vote)

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

CLOSED SESSION

None.

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 8:13 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District