

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

February 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Nancy Campagnolo

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

GUESTS: Rob Sarocco, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Christensen reported that the Board received correspondence from Matt Corso from SEASPAR.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. Rental Rates Chalet Room

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Sportsplex Chalet Room rates were updated. She stated that previously, there were no weekday/weekend rates and that the rates proposed also include an additional fee if the kitchen is used.

Commissioner Noverini asked if a deposit is required.

General Manager Henderson reported that a \$250 deposit is required to cover any damage to the room.

The Board agreed to place this on the consent agenda.

b. Sportsplex January 09 Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the Sportsplex financials.

President Christensen asked if all three sheets of ice are being used.

General Manager Henderson reported that the prime hours are filled but the non prime are not all filled, and some programs still have openings. He reported that the Hawks spring numbers are greater than anticipated.

c. Sportsplex Budget Draft 2009-10

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the Sportsplex Budget Draft. She further stated that they budgeted conservatively for income, due to the economy. Executive Director Gurgone reported the Contract Ice makes more money but without Skate School there would not be contract ice. She reported that staff is looking at the programs and how to maximize profit.

Commissioner Jablonski questioned the full time employees working in the evening.

General Manager Henderson reported that over the past two months all full time salaried employees are working nights in order to save money on extra employees. He stated that this was budgeted accordingly.

President Christensen questioned if there is a way to equate ice time in dollars for the Little Hawks.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is looking at this and how to maximize the dollars.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the only thing that was budgeted for in Capital was for the payments on the new Olympia machine.

d. Advertising

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the current advertising rates. She stated that \$7,200 was brought in this year. There was some discussion from the Board regarding exploring military advertising on the Olympia machine. The Board agreed to further explore advertising options. Staff stated that they would gather a proposal for future discussion.

e. Sportsplex Loan Repayment

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the cash flow has been projected out for Sportsplex. She reported that in the past the loan would be made from the District to the Sportsplex to cover the amount of the bond payment due in November. She further reported that the loan had not been needed recently until the chiller failed this summer.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the loan was made for \$426,000. Staff recommended to transfer a total of \$226,000 for February and March. Staff further recommended not transferring the remaining \$200,000 because the summer cash flow is not as strong. She reported that the losses for the chiller were approximately \$200,000 and that staff is awaiting an answer from the insurance company regarding coverage.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that if the entire amount is not transferred before April it will show on the audit. She stated that the Board can place the \$226,403 on the consent agenda at the Regular Board Meeting.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Rental Rates for Parks, DPDCC

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is recommending to not increase the rates for the rental of the pavilions. She stated that the rentals are fairly consistent but a bit of a decrease each year. She further stated that staff discussed ways to promote renting the pavilions. Executive Director Gurgone stated that people are using the pavilions if they are not in use and not paying for a permit.

Commissioner Jablonski asked if there was a way of enforcement.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the cost to hire someone would outweigh the permit costs.

President Christensen suggested advertising on cable and in the newspapers.

b. Field Rental Policy

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff surveyed park districts regarding fees and charges and that there is a large range of rates being charged. She provided the current rates and stated that the District should probably raise the rates.

There was some discussion regarding the residency percentage.

Commissioner Jablonski reported that the residency percentage for NYC was approximately 60%. Mr. Rob Sarocco stated that he believed the percentage was higher.

After discussion, staff agreed to leave the percentage at 70%.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the teams are requesting times for the fields and they are not using them. She stated that those times can be rented. She further stated that the District needs to reinforce the policy and reminding groups of the rules.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested requiring the teams to turn in their rosters and their schedules.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that it is very difficult to keep the DYC teams off of the fields when they are wet.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested adding in specific language noting that the infield and outfield should not be used under wet conditions.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that a security deposit was written into the policy, effective next year.

c. Darien Fest Rate

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received a call from Julio stating that if the Park District does not reduce the fee Darien Fest may be cancelled.

Commissioner Jablonski asked why Darien Fest can't be moved to a paved area such as Chestnut Court.

President Christensen stated that he was not in favor of reducing the rate. He suggested keeping it at \$6,000 for the next year.

President Christensen suggested that after this year the Board should reevaluate with a multiplier per year.

d. Renaming of Westwood Park

Executive Director Gurgone reported that renaming of Westwood Park came about when the T-Mobile flag pole at 75th and Fairview was proposed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Assistant Director Katsougris provided a brief history on the naming of the parks. She reported that the parks started out being named as trees.

President Christensen stated that because of the flag poles he would love to see it as Memorial Park. There were also suggestions to name it Veteran's Park or Freedom Park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the flag pole is not up yet and that this could be up for discussion after it is completed. The Board agreed to table the item.

e. Program Updates

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there is a Yoga instructor for Saturday. She reported that the instructor presently teaches on Wednesday and that she will be teaching two classes on Saturday beginning in May.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the senior card group will be starting up again beginning on Monday. She stated that since the meeting Lillian Lela asked what changes were made since they last attended the meeting. Executive Director Gurgone informed Ms. Lela that the room temperature is consistent with the other rooms in the building and that moving the group to another area as requested would not be possible.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is looking at changing the card times when it is less crowded at the Community Center.

3. Admin

a. DPD Budget Draft 2009-10

President Christensen stated that the District is very fortunate to have Executive Director Gurgone and her staff and how they are adjusting to the present economic changes.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District is looking for creative means to save dollars. She reported that the IMRF is mandatory for any employee who works 20 hours or more per week and that reducing as many employees as necessary and keeping some at 19.5 hours per week will be a significant savings.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District is anticipating receiving a 4.61% increase in tax dollars in 2009-10, but that there will be no increase in 2010-11.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is recommended dropping out of the Illinois Association of Park Districts in order to save \$6,000 per year. The board agreed.

b. Amended 2008-09 Budget

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Amended Budget is because of the refinancing of the bond at Sportsplex and the related expenditures as well as the expenses for the chiller which were not budgeted. She reported that because of the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, anything over 10% over budget will require a public hearing. She further reported that the public hearing will be in March and on display and then it will be approved in April.

President Christensen asked staff to provide an update on the bond issues for discussion at the April Committee Meeting.

c. DIPI Update

President Christensen reported on DIPI. He explained how we have been working well together with other government entities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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 8:47 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District