

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

January 30, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in Room 5 of the Marion Hills Community Center, 133 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director; Chris Katsougris, Assistant Director; Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks; Matt Hendersen, Sportsplex General Manager; John Murphey, Attorney

GUESTS: William J. Niles
John Janda
Al Torres
Patrick Walsh
Joseph Messina
Dave Phillips, Speer Financial
Jennifer Duda, *The Doings*
John Poteraske
Sharon Poteraske
John Gurry
Joe Cielinski

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Mr. John Poteraske, Darien asked for some clarification regarding the tax levy issue regarding the bond rating. He also asked for clarification regarding the direct federal tax.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – OPEN MEETINGS ACT IN-SERVICE PRESENTATION

Attorney Murphey reported that last spring the District was faced with controversy regarding irregularities at the Board Meetings and the difficulties the Dupage County State's Attorney felt was a concern. Attorney Murphey reported that because the State's Attorney felt that the action could warrant possible litigation that the situation be handled quickly and with minimal expense to the taxpayer.

Attorney Murphey reported that the contract with respect to the Open Meetings Act would be followed to insure that the public was aware of all the terms and compliance and awareness of the Open Meetings Act. He reported that the Board agreed that they would not violate the Open Meetings Act and would attend continuing education regarding the issues of the Open Meetings Act, consult with attorney as necessary, provide the State's Attorney's Office with evidence that the meetings are posted properly by submitting an Agenda Compliance Worksheet, forward all approved minutes and Executive Session minutes after they have been approved and released, and provide a copy of the Executive Session deliberations and periodic reporting indicating that the Board is complying over a 3 year period.

Attorney Murphey reported on what should be discussed in Executive Session and reported that the Board is aware that discussion amongst one another is prohibitive.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the order was placed on the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 2005-06-06

Mr. Dave Phillips, Speer Financial reported on the bond rating of the Park District. He stated that the rating was not a stand alone rating. He explained the meaning of the direct annual tax and reported that there would be no increase in taxes.

Mr. Phillips explained that the District is going through a new process and seeking an average of four or five bids for every competitive sale. He stated that competition is available and recommended that the Board accept the low bid from Oak Brook Bank.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to accept the low bid of 3.45% to Oak Brook Bank.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2005-06-06, AN ORDINANCE providing for the issuance of \$876,450 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2006, 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 of and interest on said bonds.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Mr. Phillips reported that the bonds closing date was scheduled for February 15th.

B. Ordinance 2005-06-07

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2005-06-07, AN ORDINANCE abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2005 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,497,050.60 General Obligation Alternate Bonds, Series 2000B of the Darien Park District, DuPage County, Illinois.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

C. Sportsplex Ice Rates

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the ice rates for 2006-2009. She reported that the charts reflect different recommendations and that the pricing is set at a rate of \$290 per hour from September 1 – March 31st. Executive Director Gurgone reported that there were three recommendations with three options and that staff recommended option A or B.

There was some discussion on the rates and keeping the rates competitive.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he wanted to see the Hawks Hockey Club off to a good start and that he had concern regarding the personnel expenses and utilities going up significantly. He stated that he was comfortable with Option B but that he wanted more time to look at it more closely. He further stated that the other rinks such as Seven Bridges, All Season, etc. were not on the comparison and that it is important to remain competitive.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff is looking to clubs to buy time for spring and summer and that staff is aware that if it is priced too high the clubs may go somewhere else.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the spring hockey was too high and that he had no trouble with Option A for summer and Option B or C for prime ice. He stated that there should be more flexibility.

President Campagnolo stated that she phoned Seven Bridges to inquire on ice time.

Mr. Joe Messina, Hawks Hockey Club stated that Seven Bridges signed a seven year contract at a \$306.00 rate with the Sabres.

President Campagnolo stated that the costs need to be covered and that her biggest concern was covering the utilities.

Executive Director Gurgone suggested approving the Hawks spring/summer rate and change the prime rate later.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he needed to look at true competitor pricing before getting into the process.

Commissioner Noverini stated that he preferred just approving the Hawks pricing.

General Manager Hendersen reported that he has initiated discussion with the high schools.

President Campagnolo stated that she was in favor of setting a rate with the high schools because of the timing issue.

General Manager Hendersen stated that he wanted to take care of the users that bring in bulk.

President Campagnolo stated that the goal is to acquire multi year contracts.

Commissioner Simester questioned if Option A would cover the costs.

Mr. Al Torres, President, Hawks Hockey Club introduced himself and stated that the Hawks are excited and want to secure a venue that is conducive to youth hockey. He stated that hockey is an expensive sport and that the club will try to keep the costs down with fundraisers. He further stated that the Hawks Hockey Club looks forward to being a tenant.

Commissioner Christensen stated that when he saw that Mr. Torres was involved with the Hawks that he brings credibility and that the Hawks will not be an organization where the kids are running wild.

The Board agreed to support Option A and to rely on Executive Director Gurgone and General Manager Hendersen for yearly pricing.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve Option A for the Sportsplex Ice Rates for 2006-07.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

D. Chicago Hawks Ice Use Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Hawks contract is a 3 year contract from April 2006 through March 2009. She reported that the Hawks are aware that for spring ice they will get a minimum of 30 hours per week and that can buy more but no later than February 28th. She further reported that Sept 1 – March 31 ice contract will be a minimum of 50 hours per week and the final hours for additional ice no later than May 15th.

Commissioner Simester questioned if there was an extension in the contract deadline.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the contract ends March 31, 2009. She stated that they would look at year three into signing a new contract for an additional three years.

President Campagnolo stated that it was a pleasure seeing a contract before February.

Mr. Messina thanked the Board, Executive Director Gurgone and General Manager Hendersen. He reported that they have approximately 275 interested kids not counting the Hawks. He stated that the club also has a huge commitment to the Little Hawks. Mr. Messina stated that they feel very confident looking to buy more ice in the spring and fall. He stated that he will schedule a meeting with General Manager Hendersen to discuss future Hawks Camps for the summer.

Mr. Pat Walsh, Hawks Hockey Club, stated that the Hawks would like to see the right of first refusal to Tier II teams to be added to the contract. He stated that the Hawks would like the Sportsplex to be the Hawks home.

The Board agreed to the right of first refusal. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would work with the attorney for the wording.

President Campagnolo stated that the officers of the Hawks Hockey Club were present and that the contracts will be signed and official. She stated that the club has done a tremendous amount of work and that there has been good planning and good people and welcomed the Hawks Hockey Club.

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Christensen to approve the Hawks Hockey Club Contract Exhibit A subject to adding the right of first refusal to Tier II teams to the contract language.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

President Campagnolo explained the history of the discontinuation with the Huskies Hockey Club. She explained that the Huskies contract was the single largest contract at the Sportsplex valued at over \$600,000 or a quarter of the entire budgeted revenue for Sportsplex. President Campagnolo stated that the Board wanted to assure a revenue stream and push for a long term contract thus signing with the Hawks Hockey Club. She stated that signing with them is a tremendous relief.

President Campagnolo stated that it is unfortunate that the Huskies chose to not enter into a long term agreement and that they were asked to stay but they chose to move and build their own facility.

President Campagnolo stated that the Board wants to continue to abate the tax and look out for the best interest of the taxpayers. She also stated that the Board wants to provide youth hockey for Darien.

President Campagnolo provided a timeline of the relationship with the Huskies Hockey Club from February 2003 – January 2005. She stated that the timeline is referenced in the minutes and any interested party can view the documents through the Freedom of Information Act and request a photocopy of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Walsh stated that there were still rumors that all of the ice would be changed to soccer fields.

Executive Director Gurgone assured the audience that there has been zero discussion regarding changing the ice to soccer fields.

General Manager Hendersen stated that the ice revenue is what runs the facility.

Mr. Messina asked if the District would be willing to send out a press release noting the three year contract and long term commitment to hockey in the area. He stated that they are trying to communicate to the public that it is not just a three year deal. He further stated that they would like to look at the contract yearly and that they are committed to be in for the long run.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District