

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

March 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,
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: Lillian Lela, Darien
Becky Russo, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Ms. Lillian Lela, 906 69th Street, Darien stated that she attended the last meeting concerning her disappointment with the Park District. She read aloud a letter to the Board stating that the room which they used at the Community Center was 64 degrees. Ms. Lela stated that she was disappointed that there has been no communication from the District and that she was submitting a letter containing twenty names of individuals who are not happy with the "shabby" treatment. She stated that the group never believed that they would be discriminated against by the Park District Board and staff.

Ms. Lela questioned if they were the only group who had to sign in. She stated she observed people just walking in and not having to check in.

Executive Director Gurgone explained that all groups are required to sign in. She stated that all the classes also have rosters.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that those who walk in are attending classes and that the instructors have rosters with names of those individuals. She explained that the bridge group was told that they needed to sign in as others do for emergency reasons so that the District knows who to contact in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Lela stated that none of the groups including the residents of Darien will be returning. She stated that asking the District for a letter of apology for such rude treatment would be too much to ask. She submitted the letter to Secretary Tikalsky and asked that the letter be submitted into the minutes.

Ms. Becky Russo, Darien stated that the group has been graciously welcomed at Downers Grove and Burr Ridge and that they are going out of their way for seniors. She stated that she was very sad and that she hoped there were no ulterior motives.

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

A. Public Hearing for 2008-09 Amended Budget & Appropriations Ordinance

At 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Campagnolo to open the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Campagnolo, Jablonski, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the budget was discussed at the District's February 23, 2009 Committee Meeting and was placed on display Friday, March 6, 2009. She reported that the notice of public hearing was printed in the February 28, 2009 Suburban Life.

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

At 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Campagnolo to close the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Campagnolo, Jablonski, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing for 2009-10 Budget & Appropriations Ordinance

At 7:05 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.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District is anticipating receiving \$2,490,856 in tax dollars in 2009-10. She stated that this is a 6% increase from 2008-09. She reported that in the main operating funds, the District is budgeting a 5% increase in revenues and a 5% increase in expenditures. She further reported that the District is anticipating spending \$320,808 for capital projects in 2009-10, which includes \$150,000 for the purchase of Fairview School.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Sportsplex budget shows an anticipating net income after debt of \$809, which includes debt payments of \$972,408 and capital projects of \$20,616. She stated that the Sportsplex budget has revenues about 11% lower and expenses about 18% lower than last year.

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

At 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to close the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Jablonski, Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Budget & Appropriations Ordinance would be placed on the consent agenda for the April 13, 2009 Board Meeting for approval.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she received a phone call from Ms. Maureen Bland of Darien asking why there is not an outdoor skating rink and outdoor swimming pool. She stated that she explained to the resident that the District does not have enough capital funds for such projects and that Darien currently has three indoor ice rinks.

President Christensen announced that he received a phone call from the Director of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, and that the District would not be renewing the Illinois Association of Park Districts annual membership in the amount of \$6,000. He reported that the District decided to forgo the membership and use the funds to serve the community.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – President Christensen stated and reassured the citizens of Darien that the Board is cognizant of the economy and that the District is staying within means and that he has full confidence in Executive Director Gurgone and her staff.

- B. Vice President** –No report.
- C. Secretary** – No report.
- D. Treasurer** –Commissioner Jablonski presented the Treasurer’s report ending February 28, 2009.

Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending February 28, 2009.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Noverini, Campagnolo, Jablonski, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

No Report.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

Executive Director Gurgone reported that at the Committee Meeting the Board discussed the 2009-10 budget and related rental rates for the facilities. She reported that all main funds are balanced in the budget and that staff announced that they are doing everything possible to reduce expenditures in tough economic times. She further reported that the budget would be placed on display and a public hearing would be held at the Regular Meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received updates on Sportsplex and the current financials for the facility. She reported that the Board discussed the fee for the 2009 Darien Fest and that they agreed to keep the fee the same as last year at \$6,000 for the entire weekend.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board tabled the topic of renaming Westwood Park. She reported that staff provided updates on programs and announced that the Saturday Yoga classes would be starting in March. She further reported that the Board discussed the DIPI group and ways which the District can work with other taxing bodies in Darien to benefit the taxpayers.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the consent agenda was established for the Regular Meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported T-Mobile has started construction at Westwood Park with completion in four weeks (weather permitting). She reported that the Board received a copy of the SEASPAR report.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that there will be six concerts in the park scheduled for this summer. She reported that the 2nd Moonlight Egg Hunt will be held on Thursday, April 9th and Friday, April 10th at Sportsplex. She stated that since the event was sold-out last year and there is only one field at Sportsplex that a second night was added. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that Darien residents must pre-register to join the hunt and that the deadline for registration is Thursday, April 2nd.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11th at 9:00 a.m. She stated that this event is for Darien residents age 8 and under. She further stated that the hunts will take place at Darien Community, Lindenwood, South Grove, Smart Oaks and Westwood Parks.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Breakfast with the Bunny will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the new Community Center. She stated that the deadline to register is Monday, April 6th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the summer brochure will be mailed to residents on April 3rd. She stated that resident registration will begin April 14th.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin reported that Sportsplex is accepting applications for the front desk. She stated that the position is 18 hours per week.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff has been conducting "safety shorts". He stated that these are short demonstrations of important safety procedures.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that registration is still being accepted for the Little Hawks Learn to Skate program. He reported that the next session for Skate School will begin on March 12th. He stated that further information can be found by visiting the website at dariensportsplex.com.

General Manager Henderson announced the open skate hours.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants, February 9, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes, Rental Rates for Sportsplex Chalet Room, Sportsplex Loan Repayment, Field Rental Policy and the Darien Fest Rate for 2009.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Noverini, Jablonski, Campagnolo, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District

Letter to Park District Board:

I would like to update you on the card group that met Tuesday, March 3rd. There were 8 of us, (2 tables) that played bridge. Half of those were from the pinochle group. Temperature was 64 degrees in the area.

Since there has been no communication to our complaints about the cold area that the seniors and retirees gave, a petition of over 20 names, letters, email, our attendance and plea at the last board meeting, I feel obligated to publicly voice our displeasure to the shabby treatment given to the seniors and retirees.

The letter sent to all the Darien residents and non-residents was a shock to all and never would I believe we elderly would be ignored and discriminated against as we have by the park district board and staff. All other programs have residents and non-residents come, but the elderly were penalized a whole month of no card playing.

I would like to know and see what other groups had to sign in attendance sheets, the reason given that some undesirable people may come in.. What other groups sign in? I would like an answer. Are the card groups the only ones that MAY threaten our community?

You have disgraced our city by no action on your part to keep the card groups intact. None of the groups will return, including the residents of Darien. You have insulted us and you have not an iota made the world a better place.

The way you treated us, keep in mind YOUR aging will be upon you sooner than you think. By your example you set forth, take heed when YOUR children will treat you the way you treat us.

I suppose a letter of apology for the rude treatment to all the resident and non-resident card groups might be too much to ask?

I would like the secretary, James Tikalsky to record this letter into the minutes.

Lillian Lela, Resident