

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

May 8, 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, Shari Gillespie

ABSENT: Richard Simester

Staff: Chris Katsougris, Assistant Director, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Matt Henderson, Sportsplex General Manager; John Murphey; Attorney

Guests: Gloria Anderson, Darien
Andrew Eichler, Downers Grove
Jean Starshak, Lemont
Art Wernli, Darien
James Tikalsky, Darien
Ralph Moore, Darien
Sean Miller, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received correspondence from Mr. Ross Rice regarding the field set up at Westwood Park and how great the fields look. She thanked Superintendent Strickler and his staff for a job well done.

President Campagnolo reported that she received correspondence from Ms. Cynthia Veldman, President; Save the Barn thanking Superintendent Strickler and his staff for the work on the barn. President Campagnolo stated that the Save the Barn Committee met at the Barn and that they could not believe how different it looked. She thanked Superintendent Strickler and his staff for another job well done.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received correspondence from Joe Wielgos, Hinsdale South Hornet Hockey Club regarding acquiring ice on the weekends. He stated that he forwarded the request to General Manager Henderson.

General Manager Henderson stated that he would contact Mr. Wielgos.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Hornets are looking for ice to allow them to have home games.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – President Campagnolo stated that it was a very special evening because the District was honoring the volunteers who assisted the District during the last year. She reported on the changes that were made over the last year such as a live feed on cable to allow residents to be informed and view the meetings. She thanked Mayor Kathleen Weaver and City Administrator Bryon Vana for their support.

President Campagnolo highlighted the personnel changes with the hiring of Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone and Sportsplex General Manager Matt Henderson. She thanked them both and also Assistant Director Katsougris and Superintendent Strickler stating that without them none of the successes would have been possible.

President Campagnolo highlighted the budget and stated that it was approved one month earlier. She announced the hiring of Attorney John Murphey and reported that she believed that the legal fees were reduced by 70%.

President Campagnolo stated that despite the way the Suburban Life reported she stated that the Board was confident that the residents had the tools for information via the District's website and cable television. She stated that she looked forward to another great year.

B. Vice President – No report.

C. Secretary – No report.

D. Treasurer – Commissioner Christensen reported that last year the District and Sportsplex paid \$120,000 in legal fees. He reported that although the April numbers are not final, it appears that the legal fees for the District will be \$30,000 and \$10,000 for the Sportsplex. He further reported that it appears that the District will be \$200,000 in the black. Commissioner Christensen stated that the Sportsplex is showing a profit of at least \$100,000 and also paying down debt of \$400,000.

Commissioner Christensen reported on the real estate tax bills and stated that the tax money going to the District has decreased 7-10%. He presented the Treasurer's report as of April 30, 2006.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending April 30, 2006.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Gillespie, Noverini, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board received copies of correspondence from a Birchwood Park resident concerned with golfers in the park. She reported that the Board directed staff to place signs in the park prohibiting any golf from being played.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board directed staff to have PHN complete a feasibility assessment of Fairview School including structural, mechanical, ADA, potential for expansion, offices and accommodation of programs currently offered by the District and programs to offer in the future including possible cost to make changes to the facility to make it meet the District's needs. She further reported that the Board also directed staff to give PHN the conceptual drawing for Westwood Park so that they could determine if what was being proposed would fit into Fairview.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board received the Sportsplex Financials through March 2006. She reported that Commissioner Christensen distributed a year-to-date report.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board agreed on the rate to charge the IHSL league for a 3-year ice contract. She reported that the Board agreed to place approval of the contract on the consent agenda.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that General Manager Henderson reported that a potential board advertiser was looking for exclusive advertisement. She reported that the Board agreed that no advertiser would be given exclusive exposure unless there was a large sponsorship package.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler informed the Board that staff recently discovered that many years ago the District constructed tennis courts on three District 61 school sites. She reported that Superintendent Strickler also reported that only the courts at Eisenhower Jr. High were in use but that they needed repairs. Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler provided the Board with a quote to replace the courts as well as a quote to repair the courts. She reported that the Board directed Superintendent Strickler to seek additional quotes to only repair any safety issues. She further reported that the Board also directed staff to contact the insurance carrier regarding liability exposure.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board received an Ordinance annexing the Mayada Subdivision into the District. She reported that the Board agreed to place the Ordinance on the consent agenda.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that she reviewed staff's intentions for the volunteer recognition. She reported that the Board agreed to keep the same schedule of dates, time and locations for the monthly meetings and to place it on the consent agenda.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported on the items for the consent agenda.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Murphey stated that he did not have a report.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the District is accepting registration for summer programs and that there are currently 986 patrons registered. She reported that Day Camp begins June 12th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the next Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th at Darien Community Park. She reported that the Mother's Day Tea Party is scheduled for May 10, 11 and 12th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the preschoolers raised \$5,395 for Muscular Dystrophy bringing the total over 9 years to \$50,743. She reported that the preschool graduation will take place on Friday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Sportsplex. She stated that there are eighty graduates and thanked the teachers for a great job of preparing the children for Kindergarten.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the next day trip will be held on Thursday, May 25th at Arlington Park Racetrack. She stated that the deadline for registration was May 10th.

B. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that he is working with the architect from PSA and that he will report back when information is available.

Superintendent Strickler reported that Mr. Chris Pollack, Landscaper for the Parks Department was hired and began work on May 1st. He reported that Mr. Pollack comes to the District with 6 years of experience.

Superintendent Strickler reported that 5 memorial trees were planted for Arbor Day. He reported that all signs have been posted regarding no golfing in the parks and that there have been no other reported incidences.

President Campagnolo stated that the Board wanted to address the golfing issue to the residents. She stated that golfing in the parks is a safety issue and that residents should refrain from using the parks and find other options.

Commissioner Christensen asked for an update on the schedule for fertilizing the parks.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the parks were treated two weeks ago with weed and feed control in a granulated form. He stated that some of the parks still have dandelions but that staff will keep addressing them.

Superintendent Strickler reported that Mr. Pollack's first project is to clean up and reestablish the landscaping and that his second project will be to work on the landscaping at Marion Hills.

D. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the Chicago Hawks and the Sportsplex will be hosting a free learn to skate class on May 21st to introduce individuals to instructors and the on ice format the program will be using in the fall. He reported that the first of three sessions will be in late May and two more scheduled for June and July. General Manager Henderson stated that reservations will be taken at Sportsplex or via email to the hawkshockeyclub@aol.com.

General Manager Henderson reported that the Sportsplex will be hosting six hockey tournaments during the 2006-07 season. He reported that four of the tournaments will be for ages 6-13, one High School Invitational and one International AAA Invitational.

General Manager Henderson reported that Clarendon Chiropractic Center in Clarendon Hills expressed interest in purchasing corporate sponsorship space. He stated that he discussed the exclusivity topic with them and that he believed they would be purchasing sponsorship in the building in one way or another.

General Manager Henderson reported that the Sportsplex received the new scissor lift last week and that he would be setting up training for staff. He reported that the June 2nd circus was cancelled by the organization due to low turnouts at other locations. He stated that he would try to reschedule the event.

General Manager Henderson reported that Superintendent Strickler and his staff will be working on the outside of Sportsplex and that the inside will also be getting a facelift with updated locker rooms and bathrooms and fresh paint.

General Manager Henderson stated that any information regarding the learn to skate is on the website and that it is open to residents and non residents. He stated that equipment is needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Warrants, April 10, 2006 Meeting Minutes, IHSL 3 year Contract, Mayada Subdivision Annexation, and Establish Meeting Dates, Time and Locations.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Noverini, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Comment

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

B. Special Board Meeting 5/22/06 - 6:30 p.m. – Marion Hills

President Campagnolo announced that the Special Board Meeting on May 22nd has been changed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the request of Executive Director Gurgone.

C. Volunteer Recognition

President Campagnolo honored the volunteers who took a very integral part in the District’s success and for their dedication and support. She thanked everyone and welcomed the volunteers to a reception after the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Christensen 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 7:40 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District