

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

**November 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, Frank Noverini, Ray Jablonski, James Tikalsky,  
Rob Sarocco

**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

**PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Christensen reported that he received correspondence from Mr. Stan Niemiec regarding trash at the parks. He reported that Executive Director Gurgone would address this subject during her report.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

- A. President** –President Christensen reported that staff prepared a letter to the City regarding the impact of the utility tax increase.
- B. Vice President** –No report
- C. Secretary** – No report
- D. Treasurer** –Commissioner Jablonski presented the Treasurer’s report ending October 31, 2009

**Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Sarocco to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report ending October 31, 2009.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Tikalsky, Sarocco, Jablonski, Noverini, Christensen**

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Murphey reported that the Governor recently signed into law changes to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He stated that over the last five to ten years that the press and the public interest were concerned that there were too many government entities not abiding by FOIA and producing what was requested. Attorney Murphey reported that the legislature tightened the timeframe and eliminated the two-step process of appealing and appointed a Public Access Counselor who will serve as the statewide advisor or judge. He stated that the time to respond to a FOIA request will be shortened to 5 business days and the second level of appeal eliminated with appeal directly to the statewide advisor.

Attorney Murphey stated that the burden is on local government. He stated that the District has received few FOIA requests and that almost everything is easy to comply with.

Attorney Murphey suggested that the Board formally appoint a FOIA officer (Executive Director) and an alternate (Assistant Director) at the December meeting. He stated that the officers will have to attend training and that the District's website brought up-to-date.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **A. Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there have been numerous inquiries regarding the removal of the garbage cans in the parks. She reported that the winter policy is that all garbage cans are removed from the parks and put away until spring. She further reported that the cans are removed because of limited staff during the winter. Executive Director Gurgone reported that residents are leaving their dog waste near the area where the garbage can was and that residents must have their dogs on leashes and must pick up after their dogs and remove the waste from the park.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the cans were put back temporarily because of the warm weather but that they will be gone as of December 1<sup>st</sup> and not returned until March or April.

Commissioner Sarocco questioned the number of garbage cans.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the District has 100 garbage cans and that during the summer months, it takes two staff members 8 hours twice a week to empty the garbage.

President Christensen asked how long the District has been removing the cans.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the cans have been removed in the winter for the past 5 years.

President Christensen reported that Mr. Niemiec suggested that the District work with the garbage company to pick up the trash.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the City is going to bid in 2010 for garbage services, and the District is planning on being included in the bid. She stated that she would contact the City and ask for consideration for this idea.

#### **B. Assistant Director**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Kid's Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Community Center. She reported that there are currently 15 sellers.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Dicken's of a Holiday Craft Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Grand Geneva resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the fee is \$91 for residents and \$96 for non-residents.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Holiday Sweets & Surprises trip is scheduled for Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and is \$65 for residents and \$70 for non-residents.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Water Tower on the Magnificent Mile trip is scheduled for Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and is \$69 for residents and \$74 for non-residents.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the deadline for submitting requests for letters from Santa is December 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that the collection boxes for the Needy Family Drive will be out at the Police Department, Community Center and Sportsplex. She further stated that there will also be a collection box for canned goods.

#### **C. Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Deldin reported that the Finance Department is reporting more usage of the Webtrac, and that residents can visit either Sportsplex or the Community Center to receive their username and password. Proof of residency is required.

#### **D. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Strickler reported that because of a wet October that staff has been unable to mow. He reported that staff will be completing a final mow of all of the parks within the next two weeks.

President Christensen questioned if the soccer season is over.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the soccer season should have ended but due to the rain that the end of the season will be next Sunday.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Veteran's Day Memorial service will be at Community Park (weather permitting) on Wednesday, otherwise it will be indoors at the Community Center.

#### **E. Sportsplex General Manager**

General Manager Henderson reported that staff was busy hosting the Nike Bauer Invite and assisting with the Darien Lions Club Halloween Party.

Commissioner Tikalsky thanked the District on behalf of the Lions Club for staff's wonderful assistance. He stated that there were 800-1000 who attended.

#### **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 Noverini to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants, October 26, 2009 Committee Meeting Minutes, October 25, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes, Seaspar Tax Levy and the DPD Tax Levy: Truth in Taxation Resolution 2009-10-05.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Tikalsky, Noverini, Jablonski, Sarocco, Christensen**

**NAYS: None**

**President Christensen declared the motion carried.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**A.2(c)1: Discussion of the employment, performance and compensation of the Executive Director.**

President Christensen stated that there would be no action taken when the Board returned from closed session. The Board exited to closed session at 7:32pm. The Board reconvened at 8:02pm.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Jablonski moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sarocco that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.**

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Neil Christensen, President  
Darien Park District

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James Tikalsky, Secretary  
Darien Park District