

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

**October 23, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Chalet Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) at Sportsplex, 451 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**GUESTS:** Gloria Anderson, Darien

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS**

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting. There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

General Manager Henderson introduced Sportsplex staff George Hayes, Brandon Humphreys and Jordan Rossi to the Board.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a thank you note from the Gillespie Family as well as from a resident thanking staff for the quick response regarding a tree that was struck from lightening.

## **SPORTSPLEX FACILITY TOUR**

General Manager Henderson took the Board and any interested public on a short facility tour to view the improvements that were made over the summer. He informed the Board that both the rinks were painted and that staff was working on painting the beams and the benches. He stated that the Waales rink was completed.

General Manager Henderson reported that new bathroom partitions would be installed in the locker room and that the lower level bathrooms were repainted. He stated that staff would also be painting the upper level floor within a few weeks.

General Manager Henderson reported that the lobby area was completed and that he is finalizing new signage. He stated that the two upper level offices were redone with new carpet and paint. He stated that because the work was accomplished in house and not with an outside vendor that a considerable amount of money was saved. He further stated that having an outside vendor would have cost approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 but by doing the work in house the cost was approximately \$10,000.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the paint on the upper level floor is a temporary fix. She stated that when staff determines what will be done with the area and if there will be room to build out the space a rubber floor would be an option.

Commissioner Gillespie questioned if the front stairwell was painted.

General Manager Henderson stated that the front stairwell was completed as a joint venture with Elite Hockey.

President Campagnolo asked if staff received any comments regarding the changes.

General Manager Henderson stated that most comments were positive but that most patrons were not fazed by the changes.

Commissioner Simester questioned if there were any problems with Get Fast in the hallway.

General Manager Henderson stated that Get Fast has everything self contained.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if staff thought about making the Wales rink more viewer friendly.

General Manager Henderson stated that staff has discussed ways to make the viewer area more viewer friendly, but building something would cost a considerable amount of money, and there is not much available space.

## **COMMITTEE TOPICS**

### **A. Long Range Goals**

#### **1. Recreation Center**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is still working on all the pieces to the puzzle and that she prefers to bring all the information to the Board at once. She stated that staff is doing research on what other districts have and that they are meeting regularly with the architects regarding preliminary timelines.

President Campagnolo asked if the timing is on track.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the preliminary goal is to apply for a development grant for Southgrove Park in July. She stated that staff will most likely end up writing the grant because outsourcing hasn't been very beneficial.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if staff has had any other communication with the school district's superintendent.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she has not had any recent conversation but that the school district's newsletter reported that the District took four months to make a decision and that in reality the school district wanted a quick answer that the District could not provide.

President Campagnolo stated that the newsletter sounded as though the District was leading on the school district.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the school district was well aware that the District was taking time to do a full evaluation.

President Campagnolo stated that staff received a call from a resident regarding the school district's newsletter.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the resident suggested that the District provide an update on the progress of the recreation center in the next District brochure.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that there was only one newsletter published and that she would like to see resurrecting it again. She stated that it was a good tool to keeping the residents informed.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that depending on timing that staff would try to get a newsletter out with the next brochure. She stated that if it was too late, she would look into a newsletter. She further stated that the District does not intend to go to battle with the school district.

### **B. Short Range Goals**

None.

## **C. Operational Issues**

### **1. Sportsplex**

#### **a. Sportsplex Financials**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the Sportsplex financials. She reported that the financials show that Sportsplex is over the budgeted figures for repairs and maintenance. General Manager Henderson had provided budget numbers for repairs and maintenance but it is always a guessing game. She also reported that some expense accounts are under budget.

#### **b. Fieldhouse/Soccer League Updates**

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she felt confident that the projected numbers were close to the meeting the budgeted revenue numbers.

President Campagnolo stated that she liked that things are more under control and that staff can counteract any future surprises. She stated that she was not alarmed by the repairs and maintenance numbers.

General Manager Henderson stated that there are things that are breaking down because they were not taken care of in the last six years. He stated that a Sportsplex Replacement Plan will be in place in the future and that staff is doing a lot of in-house work to save the District money.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is working with Constellation Energy to take a look at a utility savings.

General Manager Henderson reported that since his report, he has had additional soccer teams sign up for the soccer league. He reported that last year there were 82 registered as compared to about 95-100 for this year.

President Campagnolo questioned what brought in additional teams.

General Manager Henderson stated that it was a timing issue last year. He stated that this year there will be a cap in the leagues and all field time will be used.

### **2. Parks and Recreation**

#### **a. Lindenwood Dedication**

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Lindenwood dedication is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the asphalt was removed and a new basketball court as well as the parking lot restriped and the grass reseeded. Superintendent Strickler further reported that the playground landscaping is complete and that the shelter is scheduled for installation.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the VFW Memorial project has been slowed down due to weather. He reported that the retaining walls will be installed by the end of the week as well as landscaping all completed by November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff has completed one of the windows at the Barn. He explained that there are 4 windows and that each will take approximately 20 hours. Superintendent Strickler stated that staff will not install the windows until all of the windows are constructed.

Superintendent Strickler provided an update on South Grove Park. He stated that there is money budgeted to do aeration at South Grove Pond but that it may be on hold until spring.

**b. Library Snow Plow Contract**

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Board received a copy of a letter to the Indian Prairie Public Library regarding the snow removal agreement. He stated that the rates were increased 3% due to the increase in fuel costs but that the clean up and the price of salt would remain the same. He further stated that he would like to offer the library a 3 year contract instead of a 2 year contract. Superintendent Strickler reported that the library was in favor of the agreement and a 3 year contract.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

**3. Administration**

**a. Capital Projects Update**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that \$30,000 was budgeted for South Grove Pond as well as asphalt work, both of which will probably be on hold until Spring. She reported that staff is looking at a bond issue for next year for approval in January/February and that more information would be available at the next meeting.

Commissioner Christensen asked if PHN sent in any bills.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that PHN has billed the District in phases.

**b. No Smoking Proposal**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that a few months ago, the board discussed no smoking at the parks. However, recently a resident suggested installing “Thank you for not smoking” signs in the parks. She stated that staff discussed this with City Staff because the City’s Environmental Committee was preliminarily discussing a possible city-wide no smoking ban. Executive Director Gurgone stated the committee is no longer looking at a city-wide ban, but they did suggest the signs at the parks. She stated that a no smoking policy would be hard to enforce.

Commissioner Gillespie questioned if a sign would prevent people from smoking. President Campagnolo agreed that it would probably not stop people from smoking.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if another sign was necessary.

**c. SEASPAR Tax Levy**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the SEASPAR board voted to approve the SEASPAR levy rate for 2007-08. She stated that the requested SEASPAR rate is .016% or \$131,821 for the District. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the overall increase is 13.78% overall increase in tax revenues for SEASPAR. She further stated that as the new treasurer of the SEASPAR board that she is working with the board and staff on financial planning for SEASPAR including increasing SEASPAR's operating reserves as well as establishing a capital fund.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

**d. Park District Tax Levy**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the tax levy follows the same timelines as in prior years. She stated that if the resolution is passed at the November Board Meeting then a notice of public hearing will need to be published in the newspaper for a hearing at the December 11, 2006 Board Meeting. She further stated that a copy of the proposed Tax Levy Ordinance will then be on display and ready for approval at the December Board Meeting after the public hearing.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that for the 2006 levy that the CPI is 3.40%. She stated that if there was no change in the District's Assessed Valuation and no new growth, the District would receive an increase of 3.40% in taxes over last year (\$40,197).

Executive Director Gurgone reported that based on last year's figures and staff projections, that staff is anticipating receiving a .68% increase in new growth resulting in an increase in operating funds of \$47,889 or a 4.05% increase. She recommended doing a balloon levy and levying at the 20% rate to capture all new growth.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the District's hands are tied and that the District has to follow the procedure.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

**e. Remote Attendance Ordinance**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting there was discussion with Attorney Murphey that the Board needs to determine if the Board wants to allow participation remotely and also place any additional restrictions.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that in the past remote participation was extremely difficult to hear.

Commissioner Gillespie asked staff to find out if the City has the equipment to handle remote participation.

President Campagnolo stated that she preferred not to have it offered at the regular meetings and that as an elected official the taxpayers should see the individual attending the meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would speak to the City regarding the equipment needs and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Christensen stated that an absent board member could email their thoughts.

President Campagnolo stated that the Committee Meetings involve a lot of discussion and by the time it gets to a Board Meeting it is usually on the consent agenda for a yes or no vote and if a Board Member is absent it is not a big deal. She suggested changing the language on the policy to read that a member should notify the Executive Director or Assistant Director if not available.

**f. Establish consent agenda for 11/13 Meeting**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board agreed to place the Library Snow Plow Contract, the SEASPAR Tax Levy and the Park District Tax Levy (Truth in Taxation Resolution) on the consent agenda for the November 13, 2006 meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Gloria Anderson questioned if the meeting was being audio taped.

President Campagnolo stated that there was no audiotape and that the Board Secretary, Elizabeth Lahey was taking minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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Nancy Campagnolo, President  
Darien Park District

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Richard Simester, Secretary  
Darien Park District