

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

October 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:35 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, Judith Kolman; Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting.

A. Brian Kiefer

Mr. Brian Kiefer stated that he was before the Board to express his concerns regarding the Polar Express. He stated that he is a non-resident, but his daughter attends preschool at the Darien Park District and that the family participates in many of the programs in Darien paying the non resident fees. Mr. Kiefer stated that he thought that it was wrong that his daughter could not attend the Polar Express event with her classmates because they are not residents of Darien. He stated that although there have been abusers in the past that he would like the Board to reconsider.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that some events and programs at the park district are subsidized and that's why they are limited to Darien residents. She stated that the Polar Express is limited to the number of seats and that the cost does not cover the expenses. Executive Director Gurgone stated that there were issues in the past with residents signing up multiple family members who were non residents. She stated that the District feels that

subsidized events should be offered to Darien residents. She further stated that Downers Grove and Clarendon Hills have the same policy.

Mr. Kiefer stated that he would like the Board to reconsider. He stated that people who religiously utilize the facility should have priority but also those in the schools as well.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there is a tough line to draw and that she does not have an answer.

Mr. Kiefer suggested charging an unsubsidized cost.

President Christensen stated that there may not be an answer that will make everyone happy and that it is a tough situation.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they would discuss setting a deadline for residents in the future so that non residents can also have an opportunity to participate.

President Christensen stated that Mr. Kiefer raised some issues and although it is too late to address this year that this something for discussion for the future.

Commissioner Jablonski asked why there can't be a second car added.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they would not be able to staff the event. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that it takes 16 staff members to work the event.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that he would commit to working a second car if staff could get it.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that the event is planned in February, so this year it is too late to have two cars. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would place it on the agenda for discussion at a future committee meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the response from recent correspondence received from Kelly Garcia.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that the resident did not provide her address.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President –President Christensen stated that the City recently raised the utility tax rates. He stated that the District is one of the biggest utility users in town. President Christensen stated that he asked staff to put some numbers together on how it will impact the District. He reported that the Community Center will have an increase in taxes of approximately \$5,000 per year and \$16,000 per year at the Sportsplex. He stated that this increase will hit during the current fiscal year and as the new budget begins, staff will have to look at and cut other expenses.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the increase will go into effect in November and was not budgeted for this year.

B. Vice President –No report

C. Secretary – No report

D. Treasurer –Commissioner Jablonski presented the Treasurer’s report ending September 30, 2009.

Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report ending September 30, 2009.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Noverini, Sarocco, Jablonski, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Christensen declared the motion carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

No Report.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. She thanked the Darien Police Department for all their time and help in providing seminars, CPR and talks to the preschool.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that over a year ago the SEASPAR Eagles program moved into the Sportsplex, and recently celebrated their year anniversary. She stated that it is a fantastic program and a model for other agencies.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Hoe-Down was a successful event with approximately 750 in attendance. She thanked the student volunteers from Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South High School and staff for all their hard work.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Kid’s Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday, November 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Community Center. She reported that the Holiday Craft Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Winter brochure will be mailed to residents on November 25th with resident registration beginning on December 9th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Horseshoe Casino trip is scheduled for November 6th and is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents which includes a lunch buffet and \$5

instant cash back. She reported that the Tastes of Chicago North Shore trip is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th featuring stops at a famous bakery in Evanston, a progressive lunch at a catering kitchen and a winery. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that the fee for residents is \$70 and \$75 for non residents and the deadline to register is October 28th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Entertainment books to benefit SEASPAR are available for purchase for \$20 at the Community Center during regular business hours. She reported that the preschool is selling value cards for discounts at Teddy's Red Hots, Family Video, Burger King, Buona Beef, Dairy Queen and Fuddruckers to name a few.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Fitness Center is offering a trial membership special for \$69 for residents and \$79 for non-residents for 3 months. She reported that the offer expires October 31st. She further reported that during November that anyone interested in a 1 hour trial workout with the personal trainer can do so for a discounted rate of \$33 for residents and \$48 for non-residents. She stated that this offer expires November 30th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that in December college students can take advantage of the \$28 for residents and \$36 for non-residents for 31 days from the day of joining to utilize the fitness center. She reported that the offer expires on December 31st.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin reported that Webtrac is up and running and that residents can register for programs online. She reported that user names will also be available at Sportsplex soon.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that the skeleton crew begins now that all remaining part time staff is gone. He reported that they continue to mow once a week.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Eagle Scout Jimmy Sabiszak from Troop 101 completed park improvements to Smart Oaks Park.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the Darien Lions Club will be hosting its annual Halloween party at Sportsplex beginning at 6:30 p.m. with skating from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that a trolley will be available from the library if parking is not available.

General Manager Henderson reported that the numbers for the fall session of the adult men's hockey league look good.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sarocco to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Warrants, August 24, 2009 Committee Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes, Little Hawks Hockey Club office lease, Surplus Equipment Resolution, Sportsplex Loan and the State Wars Inline Hockey Contract.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Sarocco, Jablonski, Noverini, 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 8:12 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District