

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

March 13, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Noverini 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: Frank Noverini, Neil Christensen, Richard Simester, Shari Gillespie

ABSENT: Nancy Campagnolo

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director, Chris Katsougris, Assistant Director, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Matt Henderson, Sportsplex General Manager; Gina Madden, Attorney

Guests: Gloria Andersen, Darien
Ken Vaughn, The Vaughn Group

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

Acting President Noverini opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. for Ordinance 2006-07-01: the District's 2006-07 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance.

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:
Noverini, Christensen, Simester, Gillespie**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District is anticipating receiving \$2,204,646 in tax dollars which is an 11% decrease from 2005-06. She reported that the District will receive \$56,341 more in operating funds and \$321,335 less in bond funds from last year because prior to this year the District was paying off bonds which were issued prior to the tax cap in 1991.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that excluding capital and bond accounts, the District is budgeting a 6% increase in revenues over last year and a 5% increase in expenses. She further reported that the District is anticipating spending \$360,678 in capital projects in 2006-07.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Sportsplex budget shows an anticipated net income of \$8,809 which includes debt payments of \$872,000 and capital projects of \$35,000 and that the Sportsplex budget has revenues and expenses 2% lower than last year. She reported that the decrease in revenue and expenses is mainly due to leasing out the concession stand.

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

At 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Gillespie, Simester, Christensen, Noverini

NAYS: None

Acting President Noverini declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received a thank you card from the Gillespie Family to the Commissioners and Park District Staff for the beautiful flower arrangement.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – No report.

B. Vice President – No report.

C. Secretary – No report.

D. Treasurer – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer's report for February 28, 2006.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending February 28, 2006

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Gillespie, Noverini

NAYS: None

Acting President Noverini declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed the community center options and financing. She stated that staff is still in contact with District 61 regarding Fairview School and awaiting an appraisal. She further stated that the Board also discussed having an architect evaluate Marion Hills and that staff was instructed to obtain other quotes. Executive Director Gurgone reported that this item was placed on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed spending capital project money for skate park erosion control and landscaping at the front of Sportsplex. She reported that the Board agreed that staff get additional quotes for both projects and that the items would be placed on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed capital projects for 2006-07 budget and that the Board also discussed the current financials for Sportsplex as well as the proposed 2006-07 budget. She further reported that the Board discussed the rental rates for the parks and Marion Hills for 2006-07 and the only increase being company picnics. She stated that this item would be placed on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed Darien Fest and instructed the Executive Director to send a letter to the Chamber regarding the fees for this year's fest. She also reported that complete minutes once approved would be available on the District's website at www.darienparks.com.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Madden stated that she had no report.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Committee Meeting of the Whole on March 27, 2006 was cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, March 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at Marion Hills.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that summer brochure would be mailed to residents on March 31st and resident registration beginning on April 17th. She also stated that the brochure would be available on the website on March 31st.

C. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that he received a letter from PlayPower LT Farmington, Inc. (formerly Little Tikes Commercial Systems, Inc.) and that they asked that the swings and chains from the Max Play Swing frame be removed. He reported that this was being done in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and that they found that the weld between the side end supports and the top beam stub can fail. Superintendent Strickler stated that PlayPower LT will provide the District with a repair kit to make the repairs so that the swings will be safe.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Michael Griffith, Senior Planner, City of Darien and Mr. Dan Lynch, City of Darien Engineer regarding the best way to make the repairs to the bottom of the basin near skate park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that this item was removed from the consent agenda.

Superintendent Strickler reported that skate park is officially open because of the warm weather. He reported that he has been in contact with other park districts in the area and they too have opened. He stated that staff would be monitoring the park daily.

Superintendent Strickler reported that there was some graffiti removed from skate park and that anyone trespassing or in the skate park after closing will be subject to a citation for trespassing on park property.

D. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the Hawks organization finalized the spring league registration and there are currently 265 players. He stated that last year the Huskies had 220 participants. He also reported that there will be approximately 19 teams for spring and that the Hawks will be closer to 40 hours per week in the spring and 60 hours per week on average in the fall.

General Manager Henderson reported that he is finalizing the high school ice contracts for 2006-2008. He reported that Hinsdale South, Hinsdale Central, Lyons Township and the ISHL are interested and that he is looking for ice time for Montini, Lemont and Fenwick.

General Manager Henderson reported that the high school spring league begins April 1st and that the registration deadline is March 15th. He reported that there are currently four varsity and four junior varsity teams and that there should be approximately 15-20 teams in the spring.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if the high school league had the same ice as last year.

General Manager Henderson reported that Lyons Township is taking a bit more ice than last year. He reported that he would like to discuss with the Board the ISHL contract at the next committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Skate Park Equipment

Executive Director Gurgone provided the Board with four different quotes from TrueRide for additional half-pipes.

Commissioner Christensen questioned the status of selling back some of the equipment.

Commissioner Gillespie reported that the return program no longer existed and that it could possibly be sold on Ebay.

Acting President Noverini questioned if there would be equipment taken away.

Superintendent Strickler reported that TrueRide would be moving things around to make additional equipment fit.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he would like to see skate park as good as it can be but that he was unclear on what will need to be expended for landscaping and that he would have a difficult time voting right away. It was agreed that the Board table the TrueRide estimated price quotes until the next meeting.

Commissioner Simester questioned which half-pipe was preferred.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that she did not think there was a preference and that the users would be happy with any half-pipe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the skate park erosion was removed from the consent agenda. She stated that the three items not to exceed would still apply and that when the quotes were received the bids will go to the lowest qualified bidder.

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

Warrants, January 30, 2006 Special Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes, Architect proposal for Marion Hills evaluation not to exceed \$7,700, Sportsplex front entrance landscaping not to exceed \$18,000, Sportsplex front entrance retaining wall not to exceed \$6,000 and Rental Rates for Parks and Marion Hills.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Noverini, Simester, Gillespie

NAYS: None

Acting President Noverini declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Maintenance Landscaper Job Description

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the Parks and Grounds Landscaper description for review.

Superintendent Strickler explained that one of his goals is to beautify the landscaping within the parks such as the front entrance at Sportsplex, Smart Oaks, Community Park, etc. He stated that staff can put in a lot of plantings but that if they are not maintained they will die. Superintendent Strickler stated that this position will be responsible for the basic care and maintenance of all the park sites. He further stated that this position will also be responsible for snow removal.

B. Public Comment (before vote)

Ms. Gloria Andersen questioned if the position was in the current budget.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Parks and Grounds Landscaper position was in the current budget.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the budget will be on the agenda for approval at the April board meeting.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he has seen the affects of personalized landscaping and how much nicer things look.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Parks and Grounds Landscaper position.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Gillespie, Noverini

NAYS: None

Acting President Noverini declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board would not be adjourning into Executive Session. She reported that the subject for discussion under 2(c)11 was regarding the Huskies Hockey Club not making their final payment. She reported that since the Agenda was posted, the payment was received, so no action was necessary. She further reported that the Board could approve the Closed Session Minutes at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Frank Noverini, Acting President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District