

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

November 14, 2005

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,
Richard Simester, Shari Gillespie

ABSENT: None

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director, Chris Katsougris, Assistant
Director, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, John Murphey,
Attorney

Guests: Gloria Andersen, Darien
Lane Kelly, *Suburban Life*

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GUESTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received an email from a Hinsdale Central student regarding doing a project for school. She stated that she passed the information along to Executive Director Gurgone.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that she contacted the student and that they are discussing a potential project.

President Campagnolo reported that she received an email from Rob Saracco-DYC President regarding the room that the DYC currently rents. She reported that the DYC is currently in the

process of emptying the room and that they will have it done by December. She further reported that the DYC is in the process of handling late registrations and that there is some confusion regarding late fees and that they are unclear what is owed. President Campagnolo stated that she forwarded the information to Executive Director Gurgone.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she would contact the DYC and provide the Board with an update.

President Campagnolo reported that she received correspondence from a preschool parent regarding the security at Marion Hills and allowing individuals to move freely about the building.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she responded and explained that the building is equipped with cameras that are monitored at the front desk and that they do not intend to provide additional security. Executive Director Gurgone reported that she has not received any feedback after responding.

President Campagnolo stated that she spoke with the parent and that he did not have any other concerns.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received a verbal communication from Ms. Lola Zee, Eagle Scout mom praising Superintendent Strickler and his staff.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received email from Mr. Stan Nemiec, Hudson Street regarding Birchwood Park and the trash receptacles.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he contacted Mr. Nemiec and after looking at the site placed a garbage can back at Birchwood. He reported that staff pulled 90% of the garbage cans after Thanksgiving. Superintendent Strickler stated that there is one garbage can at each shelter and one garbage can in each parking lot. He reported that Mr. Nemiec was satisfied.

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 October 31, 2005. He reported that Sportsplex compared to last year indicates \$104,000 ahead factoring in debt service repayment \$125,000 from last year and that it appears should be the best year ever.

Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending October 31, 2005.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Gillespie, Christensen, Simester, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed the current state of the District's master plan update. She reported that staff agreed to add additional information to the update looking for approval within the next six months.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board tabled the discussion regarding the additional skate park equipment. She reported on the Sportsplex financials through September 30th and that the figures are staying within budget.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed vandalism that occurred at the Community Park shelter and that the parents of the juveniles involved were sent bills for the damage and are disputing the amount due. She stated that the Board agreed not to reduce the amount owed to the District and agreed to spend money to repair the entire roof.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Superintendent Strickler updated the Board on vandalism at the Community Park bathrooms, Meyers Barn, Holly Park dedication, ball field renovations and the Sportsplex hallway. She reported on the SEASPAR and Darien Park District tax levy and stated that the Board agreed to do a balloon levy in order to capture all new growth.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed Darien Fest and the work that staff does for the event. She stated that the Board agreed to continue to perform maintenance work for the fest but to ask the Darien Chamber for a cost of living increase each year above the limit of \$2500 charged to the Chamber this year.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed continuing education and agreed to attend the Illinois Association of Park District's upcoming legal symposium to satisfy requirements imposed by the State's Attorney's Office.

Executive Director Gurgone reported on what items would be placed on the consent agenda.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Murphey stated that he had no report.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Special Board Meeting scheduled for November 28, 2005 has been cancelled because there is an issue with the Bond that was issued in 2000 as an alternate revenue bond but should have been a general obligation bond.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the District would have to issue a GO Bond to pay the alternative revenue bond.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Commissioner Christensen's statement was correct and that there would be a public hearing at the January Committee meeting to issue a GO Bond. She stated that the District will collect tax revenues to pay this GO Bond.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Monday, December 19, 2005 Committee Meeting is cancelled. She reported that she received a check for \$960.00 from Darien Fest.

Commissioner Gillespie requested that staff get a breakdown of profit and loss and who else was provided donations.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the winter brochure will be mailed to residents on Friday, November 25th. She reported that staff will be assisting the Darien Lions Club with the needy family drive and that delivery will be on Saturday, December 17th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the deadline for submitting requests for letters from Santa is December 2nd. She reported that the Polar Express trip to the North Pole will be on Sunday, December 4th and will leave from the Downers Grove train station. She further reported that there are currently 105 participants.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Chicago Trolley Mansion Tour is scheduled for Thursday, December 15th and the deadline for registration is November 28th.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that SEASPAR is selling Entertainment Books that can be purchased from Marion Hills. She stated that the books are \$25 with locations for the west and north.

C. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Meyer Barn was refurbished and that staff is working on cleaning the inside removing steel and old items that have been stored. He reported that he has 55 gallon drums available for free to any resident.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the ball fields are completed and look great. He reported that all the painting and woodwork has been completed at Sportsplex and that they are awaiting delivery of the carpet.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that they are looking at other possibilities for the bottom half of the wall because it is already showing wear and tear.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the portable toilets have been removed and will not return until April of next year. He stated that the bathrooms at Community Park are closed for the season. Superintendent Strickler stated that staff will reevaluate the service and that two additional port a potty's will be added to Birchwood Park and Lindenwood Park because of soccer.

President Campagnolo questioned if there were any comments regarding soccer and the use of Lindenwood.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he has not heard anything but that the field is being used because the grass is torn up.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Sue Krause a resident near Lindenwood stated that the children that use the field are well behaved. She suggested maybe having benches for the games. Assistant Director Katsougris reported that anyone who is playing on the ballfields has to leave when soccer is scheduled.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he has seen the ball field use and there is no way else to lay out the fields. He stated that it all depends on how the DSA approaches the District in the spring.

Commissioner Gillespie reported that the teams are using the parking lot and the parking lot at the bank.

Commissioner Simester asked if there was room for bleachers because benches would disappear.

Superintendent Strickler stated that permanent bleachers will work for baseball but not for soccer. He stated that he will investigate the possibilities for next year.

Superintendent Strickler reported that skate park will be closed effective November 30th due to weather conditions and that it will reopen in April or unless there is warm weather it will be monitored.

Superintendent Strickler reported that Holly Park is completed. He reported that the total expense was \$74,142.31 and that \$85,000 was budgeted for a total savings of \$10,857.69.

Commissioner Simester questioned the condition of the Sportsplex glass that is stored at the barn.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the aluminum is there and the cardboard is deteriorated. He stated that they are not planning to move it out.

Commissioner Campagnolo asked how much weight was stored above in the barn.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the doors, windows and glass are on the ground. He reported that the two tons of steel were upstairs.

D. Sportsplex General Manager

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she had no report.

Commissioner Christensen reported that Mr. Joe Pedota, President Huskies Hockey Club was contacted by Gurgone regarding meeting on November 30th. He stated that Gurgone reported that the Huskies have not yet responded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM GUESTS

Ms. Gloria Andersen, stated that neither Attorney Murphey nor the Board mentioned that there is a major court hearing in Wheaton on November 15th Room 2005 regarding violation of the Open Meetings Act and that it is open to the public. She stated that the Board was not keeping within their open and honest government philosophy and that it should have been announced..

Attorney Murphey stated that he mentioned the hearing at the last meeting and that Anna Harkins State's Attorney will appear at the session herself to advise the judge of the existing settlement agreement. He reported that if the judge needs more information he will appear at the second meeting.

Ms. Andersen stated that Ms. Harkins told her differently and that Attorney Murphey was unavailable to attend and that it is unclear if the judge will accept with the agreement. She stated that it is not a done deal.

Attorney Murphey reported that Ms. Andersen's statement was correct and that is why Ms. Harkins is going to ask the judge if the judge wants to review it. He stated that if the judge needs additional information or clarification with the agreement that may be revised slightly by Ms. Harkins which is captured in the court order the judge will approve it.

Ms. Andersen stated that this information should have been reported.

Attorney Murphey stated that it was reported at the October meeting.

Ms. Andersen stated that it should have been reported because the court hearing is tomorrow and it is November.

Ms. Andersen questioned the problems with regard to the DYC payments. She questioned if DYC is caught up or if this is in addition to what they already owe.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that this is not in addition. She stated that as mentioned in Rob's email that the District staff is no longer taking DYC registrations and that registrants are directed to an area and registration forms placed in a box.

Ms. Andersen asked if they were caught up with the previous amount.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that they were caught up for the most part but that there is an outstanding balance which was prior to Mr. Saracco taking the President position.

Ms. Andersen questioned how long the payment has been outstanding.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that it has been outstanding for approximately 15 months because the District records and the DYC records do not match.

Ms. Andersen stated that Assistant Director Katsougris' answer was not adequately being addressed. She stated that anyone not paying for 15 months would be turned over to a collection agency. She questioned why it was taking so long to collect.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that in order to resolve the situation staff has to create a spread sheet showing the payments.

Ms Andersen questioned if the spread sheet would be forthcoming.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that they have to work on it and currently they are short staffed.

Ms. Andersen questioned the amount.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the amount is under \$1,000.

Ms. Andersen referenced the bond issue and questioned why under previous Attorney Kreger staff was not aware of bond situation.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the documents were never seen until now. She stated that now there are separate duties for financial advisor, bond counsel, and legal counsel where in the past Attorney Kreger served as all three.

Commissioner Christensen stated that Ms. Andersen is referring to a bond issue that took place in 2000 and when the Park District Board did not have on staff legal representation. He stated that at the time the Park Board relied upon outside counsel who also served as bond counsel and financial advisor. He further stated that now the Board is utilizing three separate individuals and that it has come from the surface of something that happened five years ago.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Simester noted that there was an incorrect statement from Mayor Carmen Soldato on page 14 of the May 23, 2005 meeting minutes stating that Commissioner Campagnolo was not present for the voting of the Sergeant of Arms position. He stated that she was present to vote.

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

SEASPAR Tax Levy, Truth in Taxation Resolution #2005-06-03, DCP Shelter Roof Repairs, IAPD Credentials, Warrants, May 23, 2005 Minutes, October 10, 2005 Minutes and October 24, 2005 Minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Simester, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to convene into executive session under Section 2(c)21 for the review and release of Closed Session Minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Gillespie, Noverini, Simester, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

President Campagnolo reported that the Board would be taking action in open session.

ACTION OF CLOSED SESSION

At 8:02 p.m. President Campagnolo reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to release the Closed Session Minutes subject to deletions as marked for the following:

January 10, 2002, January 15, 2002, February 19, 2002, March 19, 2002, April 2, 2002, June 20, 2002, June 25, 2002, July 16, 2002, August 20, 2002, October 22, 2002, November 5, 2002, November 19, 2002, December 17, 2002, January 22, 2003, February 18, 2003, March 18, 2003, April 15, 2003, May 1, 2003, May 13, 2003, June 5, 2003, June 17, 2003, July 21, 2003, August 12, 2003, August 19, 2003, August 28, 2003, October 21, 2003, November 18, 2003 and December 16, 2003.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Simester, Noverini, Christensen, Gillespie

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District