

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

**October 24, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 5 of the Marion Hills Community Center, 133 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, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks

**GUESTS:** Jean Starshak, Darien  
Donna Carter, Darien  
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.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **COMMITTEE TOPICS**

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

#### **1. Master Plan**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary of the Master Plan. She reported that the Master Plan started in 2003 and that there have been changes done to the plan but that it is not in final form. She reported that in order to apply for any grants the Master Plan needs to be finalized, approved and passed by the Board.

Commissioner Gillespie suggested that staff provide the Board with an update on what has been done.

President Campagnolo stated that the Master Plan was disappointing. She stated that she thought the Master Plan would serve as a forecasting tool to use district-wide and used to project out for the next ten years. She further stated that the Master Plan appears to be a demographic study and is not practical for forecasting.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the present Master Plan has a lot more data versus previous years.

President Campagnolo expressed that she was hesitant to use the company again.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the work done for the Capital Asset Replacement was much more superior.

President Campagnolo stated that she preferred to see additions to the Master Plan.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that timing for the grant cycle is in July.

#### **2. Capital Project Suggestions**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a blank form to complete for any suggestions for future capital projects.

President Campagnolo questioned the timing of discussion regarding the budget.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff will work on the Master Plan and put in the Capital Asset Replacement and that two years should be sufficient. She stated that the operating budget should probably be looked at in February.

## **B. Short Range Goals**

### **1. Skatepark Equipment**

The Board agreed to table this topic until the November Committee Meeting.

## **C. Operational Issues**

### **1. Sportsplex**

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

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the Sportsplex financials through September 30<sup>th</sup>. She reported that there were no real maintenance issues to date and that they are staying within the budget.

Commissioner Christensen reported that through September the financials indicate approximately \$105,000 ahead from last year.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the concession stand rent will not show up in concessions but will show up in facility lease. She reported that the concessions have been very busy and it appears that the food is well liked.

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

#### **a. DCP Vandalism**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that there was vandalism to one of the roofs at Community Park in July. She stated that staff received quotes for repairs and that the cost was divided among the families. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that there were four juveniles involved but one of them was a young sibling.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that she received a call from one of the parents concerned that they were paying for repairing the entire roof and not for the small area of missing shingles. Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the parent was informed that she did not have the authority to reduce the price and suggested that the parent contact the Board of Commissioners.

The Board unanimously agreed that no one had been contacted regarding this issue.

Assistant Director Katsougris distributed photos of the roof conditions to the Board. She reported a similar incident at Meyer Woods in the past where juveniles were found breaking into the barn. She further reported that the District pressed charges and the families incurred the legal fees and repairs to the barn. Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the District was not contacted to press charges on this issue.

President Campagnolo stated that the pictures do not represent the vandalism. She stated that there are other underlying issues and that she had concerns regarding the charges.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there are and will be vandalism to the parks and equipment and setting a precedent is important.

President Campagnolo questioned if it is fair to ask Darien residents to pay for the damages.

Commissioner Gillespie suggested community service.

President Campagnolo stated that community service is sometimes a drain on staff especially if the workers are young.

Superintendent Strickler reported that that skateboarders climb onto the shelter and skate on it. He stated that unfortunately the juveniles removing the shingles were caught on an area which was damaged by other individuals. He stated that he contacted three licensed roofers with proposals.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that the shelter roof problem has been going on for years.

President Campagnolo stated that she had difficulty having the families pay for damage that they did not cause. She stated that they should be held responsible for the portion which was damaged.

Commissioner Christensen questioned how many shingles were missing.

Superintendent Strickler guessed that there were approximately one square of 10 ft. x 10 ft. missing. He stated that a bundle usually covered a 100 square foot area.

President Campagnolo questioned if the roof would need repair if the incident had not occurred.

Superintendent Strickler reported that it will have to be repaired within the next five years.

Commissioner Christensen stated that most homeowner's insurance policies apply to this type of incident without a deductible. He stated that if the District backs off there is no enforcement.

Superintendent Strickler recommended that the repairs take place prior to winter.

The Board agreed to place the entire roof repair for \$4,505 on the consent agenda for the November Board Meeting. The Board also agreed to keep the repairs at \$1,845 to be paid by the families of the juveniles.

Commissioner Christensen questioned chaining down the tables at the park.

Superintendent Strickler reported that they were chained down and the chains were removed because the tables are not very useful. He stated that he would ask the police department for additional assistance.

Superintendent Strickler reported a vandalism incident in one of the bathrooms at Community Park. He stated that staff found stenciled faces of men in the women's bathroom. He further stated that a police report was filed and that a high pressure washer removed the paint. Superintendent Strickler reported that the bathrooms will be locked by Halloween but that they were not locked up at night.

**b. Meyer Woods Barn Update**

Superintendent Strickler reported that the barn is finished except for a board on the overhang which still needs to be painted. He reported that the barn looks great.

President Campagnolo reported that she was contacted by several residents who were pleased with the outcome.

**c. Holly Park Dedication**

Superintendent Strickler thanked Executive Director Gurgone for helping at the dedication. He reported that the crowd appeared to be satisfied with the results.

**d. Ballfield Renovations Update**

Superintendent Strickler reported that Westwood Park has been leveled and graded and that there is work being done at Hinsbrook. He reported that the material has been brought in at Community Park and the work continuing weather permitting.

**e. Sportsplex Hallway Improvements**

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff has been busy patching and painting the yellow wall. He reported that the work is 75% complete and that staff has also added trim to the doors and windows.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the paint is a huge improvement. She reported that new carpet has been ordered.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the shield was added to the light at Skatepark. and that the scout troop completed the beautification to the Smart Oaks sign. He reported that the troop also moved wood carpet in the playground. Superintendent Strickler stated that the troop worked very hard and that there are three more scout projects for next year and that he will continue with the beautification to the parks.

President Campagnolo commended Superintendent Strickler and his staff for making the process a learning experience on the proper way to plant.

Superintendent Strickler also reported that the scout troop cleaned and spray painted the grills.

Commissioner Christensen inquired on what was being done to the parking lot islands at Sportsplex.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that quotes were received for sod in the areas but that the quotes were too high. She stated that staff would look at sod again in the spring to see if there is money available in the budget.

President Campagnolo suggested seeding the area.

Superintendent Strickler reported that seeding has a 50/50 chance but that he would seed the areas.

President Campagnolo questioned if there were any more incidents to the parties at Sportsplex.

Executive Director Gurgone reported no further incidents and stated that there was one remaining alcohol related party in January.

**3. Administration**

**a. SEASPAR Levy**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary of the SEASPAR Levy request. She reported that the SEASPAR Levy was removed from the tax cap (SB1881). She further reported that SEASPAR asks all the member entities for a sum of money and it is up to the District to on the Levy to the taxpayers. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the current year the District paid \$110,055 and next year \$115,600 or a 5% increase. She stated that it is based on the assessed valuation from year to year.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if the District over assessed for SEASPAR.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District did not over assess for SEASPAR but that there is a fund balance in the SEASPAR account. She stated that SEASPAR typically operates on a bare bone budget. She further stated that the goal is to get the fund balance to a reasonable amount.

The Board agreed to place the SEASPAR Levy request on the consent agenda for the November Board Meeting.

**b. Darien Park District Tax Levy**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a timeline for the tax levy. She stated that the tax levy process was long and that it needs to be approved at the November Board Meeting. Executive Director Gurgone reported that typically the District asks for everything. She stated that the District cannot go above the tax cap and that the District will get the cost of living which is 3.3% and new growth.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the SEASPAR levy and the bond levy is the same every year but the District is given 1% higher to account for uncollected taxes. She stated that no matter what scenario the tax rate will go down because of the bonds.

**c. Darien Fest Wages**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary detailing what staff does for Darienfest. She reported that the District has an agreement with the Chamber to pay the District \$5,000 for rental of the park and up to \$2,500 for labor. She further reported that labor every year has been over \$2,500.

Commissioner Simester stated that he preferred to see the Chamber charged for the labor.

President Campagnolo stated that she had a problem charging the Chamber because Darienfest is a community event.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she was not clear if other organizations charged.

Commissioner Noverini stated that he would look into if other organizations charged.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Eyes in the Skies is run by Bob O'Brien previous Superintendent of Parks. She stated that they hire an outside organization but that the parks department is involved and that whatever the staff puts in they get reimbursed dollar for dollar.

Commissioner Gillespie suggested that something needed to be done.

Executive Director Gurgone suggested that the District request the cost of living every year so that there is some insurance for staff costs.

Commissioner Christensen suggested soliciting in advance volunteer groups to help in the clean up.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Boy Scout groups are mostly 9-12 year olds and that they cannot work on Darienfest.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the scouts were used in the past but that they backed off because it was not worth the time the scouts were putting in.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would speak with the Chamber and the request for the \$2,500 plus the cost of living increase and report back to the Board.

**d. Board Member Continuing Education**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she spoke with the State's Attorney's Office and that they will be offering a low cost seminar regarding the Open Meetings Act. She also reported that the Dupage Mayors and Managers also conduct a seminar and it is usually scheduled around election time.

President Campagnolo stated that there is time to attend and that she hesitates spending money for the legal symposium because the cost is high.

**e. Establish Consent Agenda for 11/10 Meeting**

Executive Director Gurgone reported the consent agenda items for the November 10, 2005 Board Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**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 8:20 p.m.

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Nancy Campagnolo, President  
Darien Park District

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Richard Simester, Secretary  
Darien Park District