

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

September 12, 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

ABSENT: Richard Simester, Shari Gillespie

Staff: Chris Katsougris, Acting Executive Director/Assistant Director; Stephanie Gurgone; Superintendent of Finance/Acting General Manager/Sportsplex, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, John Murphey, General Counsel

Guests: Debby Heniff, Darien
Joseph Just, Burr Ridge
Jennifer Duda, *The Doings*
Erin Sauder, *Suburban Life*
Estelle Kirsanoff, Darien
Rob Sarocco, Darien
John Cederlund, Union
John Gonery, Darien
Sharon Poteraske, Darien
John Poteraske, Darien

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GUESTS

Mr. John Lederland, President and Mr. Mike Lederland, Vice President, Miracle Playground Equipment introduced themselves and stated that Miracle Playground Equipment was the largest playground manufacturer in the Country. Mr. John Lederland stated that the playground equipment recalls were all voluntary. He referred to the injuries and the animal swings and that the recall was also voluntary.

Mr. Lederland stated that Miracle stands behind their equipment and it is not their intent to build a product to hurt a child. He stated that all playground equipment manufacturers have problems

Mr. Lederland stated that he has a history working with Superintendent Strickler and the set that was ordered for Darien is an excellent set.

President Campagnolo referenced the letter received from Mr. Dan Reevey, General Counsel stating that Miracle has been the leader in playground equipment. Mr. Lederland stated that McDonald's and Burger King equipment is Miracle Playground Equipment.

President Campagnolo questioned if there was an inordinate amount of recalls.

Mr. Lederland stated that all of their recalls were voluntary and that they cannot force anyone to take out their equipment. He further stated that Miracle has the least amount of problems and that they stand behind their product.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he did some independent research and that he was very comfortable with Miracle. He stated that they are publicly conscious and offer solutions to the problems.

Ms. Gloria Andersen, Darien stated that she was concerned about the reputation of Miracle and that they had six recalls. She stated that she was not saying that Miracle did not have good equipment but questioned if there was another company that did not have the recalls.

Mr. Lederland stated that he appreciated Ms. Andersen's concerns and that it was tough being the leader.

Mr. Mike Lederland stated that they have had six recalls since 1926. He stated that children find the most imaginative ways to doing the wrong thing. He further stated that Miracle tries to stay ahead of the game and voluntarily recalls.

Ms. Andersen stated that she would rather not see the children getting hurt at all. She stated that Miracle had the most recalls.

Mr. John Lederland stated that recalls were not bad.

A resident in the audience stated that for the percentage of business six recalls did not appear to be much. She stated that children do things that are unimaginable.

President Campagnolo stated that the Board needs to look at the big picture. She stated that Miracle is one of the largest and has been in business for over 80 years. She further stated that a lot of their equipment is designed and copied by competition after the kinks are worked out. President Campagnolo stated that it is unfortunate that children have hurt themselves but that the number of injuries was not alarming.

Ms. Andersen stated that one child dying is one too many.

President Campagnolo stated that she did not want to see any injuries in Darien and that Miracle's recalls have been voluntary and that they have fixed the problems. She stated that Miracle is a company that is responsible and that she could not see that the injuries were out of negligence.

Mr. Don Jiskra, Darien stated that the park district catalog was incredible.

Mr. Joe Just, Remax Elite introduced himself and stated that he was interested in the property at 7600 Lemont Road. He stated that the City's Comprehensive Plan was confusing and that he had a plan for the property.

Mr. Just presented the Board with a proposal designed for elderly people over 55 years of age with enough land available for access trails, a small concert area and retail. He stated that they could also provide enough retail centers for organizations in town.

President Campagnolo stated that the City's Plan Commission rejected the change of zoning.

Mr. Just stated that there were a lot of reasons why it was not approved and not just for zoning.

President Campagnolo suggested that Mr. Just work with Superintendent Gurgone. She thanked Mr. Just for his presentation and stated that it represents a change and something that the Board can consider.

COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that she received an email from the DYC thanking the District and the staff for the invaluable assistance. She also reported that correspondence was received from Chris Meister, Director of Legislative Affairs/Associate General Counsel with an update regarding the Illinois First grants.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received correspondence from Mr. Stan Nemiak, Darien regarding the Posejpal property and that he had problems sending a message by email.

Superintendent Gurgone reported that staff is looking into the email problem.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – President Campagnolo presented an update on the Huskies and their future needs at Sportsplex. She stated that the Huskies plan to move and that they are getting closer to having their own facility by next fall. She further reported that the Huskies revenue is a significant amount of money and that the Board wants to protect the Darien residents and make sure there are assurances. President Campagnolo read a letter aloud written to the Huskies Hockey Club Board stating that the District fully intends to honor the contract as written and provide the Huskies with ice time through March 31, 2006.

The Board agreed that the letter was acceptable and copies were forwarded to the newspapers.

B. Vice President – Commissioner Noverini stated that he worked Darienfest for the Lions Club and commended Superintendent Strickler and his staff for a job well done.

C. Secretary – No report.

D. Treasurer – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer’s report ending August 31, 2005. He reported that the Sportsplex is \$66,000 ahead from the prior year and factoring in the reduced debt, \$79,000 ahead from one year ago. He stated that Superintendent Gurgone and the Sportsplex staff are doing a nice job and showing better numbers than last year.

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Campagnolo to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending August 31, 2005.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Gurgone presented letters that were written by parents of Sportsplex contract ice skaters requesting additional ice time. She stated that the hours that the skaters had previously were cut by the previous General Manager and sold to the Huskies. She further stated that reconsideration of the hours would be addressed after March 31, 2006 when the Huskies contract expires.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Gurgone reported that she is scheduled to meet with the City to discuss joint interest in the Posejpal property. She also stated that Superintendent Gurgone provided the Board with information regarding the necessity for a GO Bond and that the staff would be providing a list of capital projects and that she was looking into bond counsel referrals.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Gurgone met with the Huskies and their interest in renting for the 2006 Spring/Summer session. She reported that Commissioner Christensen stated that the high schools may be interested in hours.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Gurgone reported on the renovations to the concession stand and opening on September 1st.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Commissioner Christensen inquired about interest in corporate advertising. She stated that Superintendent Gurgone reported that there was interest but no commitment.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Gurgone provided the Board with the Sportsplex financials and that Commissioner Christensen noted that the first quarter revenue was up and expenses were down.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler reported that he received a new proposal for \$650 for the millwork for the Meyer Woods barn siding and that he would contract with someone to install and paint the siding.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler reported that he received a low bid of \$3,332 for a new snow plow, part of the proposed vehicle replacement program. She stated that Superintendent Strickler distributed a detailed breakdown of the ball field renovation. She reported that Commissioner Noverini supported improving the maintenance of the fields without installing the drainage and that Commissioner Simester preferred spending the money only at Community Park. Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler stated that he preferred to do the maintenance without the drainage.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler provided the Board with an update on Holly Park and that the City requested the installation of a sidewalk from 71st Street to the park entrance.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that Superintendent Strickler reported on the security lighting and installation for skate park.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris reported that the Board was meeting on August 27th to conduct the first round of interviews for the Executive Director and that she provided an update on the recent additions to the website.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris provided the Board with a list of the consent agenda items. She stated that under public comments that resident Gloria Andersen brought to the Board's attention a number of recalls from Miracle Playground Equipment. She reported that Superintendent Strickler stated that he would check into the incidents.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

STAFF REPORTS

A. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris provided an update on the website stating that the Board minutes through July 11, 2005 could be viewed and that the entire fall brochure is online and can be downloaded by age and interest. She stated that the events calendar was also updated for the fall.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that there are currently 157 children enrolled in the preschool program and that there were still openings. She reported that the Get Acquainted Days raised \$250 and would be donated to the American Red Cross for the Hurricane Katrina victims.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that value cards are being sold and that the Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 a.m. She reported that the Hoe-Down is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th and that the Skate Shack is conducting lessons.

B. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Gurgone reported that

C. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Community Park bathroom renovation was completed and that he is looking into the costs for a hand dryer or paper towels. He reported that the bill would not be paid until one of the partitions is replaced.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the bats were made by Dean Bohlen at a cost of \$650. He reported that he contacted Bob Gargus from Marquis Painting, Inc. and received a quote of \$2,800. He further reported that the total dollar amount for work done is \$3,450 and a \$320 refund to the Save the Barn Committee.

Superintendent Strickler reported that Holly Park construction is underway and that he is working with the City to install the sidewalk. He reported that the playground equipment installation would begin no later than Wednesday and that the deadline for opening the park is October 3rd.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the District will again have firewood for free to Darien residents to burn in their fireplaces. He reported that the wood is not split but that it comes from the trees that needed to be taken down in the parks. Superintendent Strickler reported that 14 residents used the wood last year.

D. Sportsplex General Manager

Acting General Manager Gurgone reported that registration for the indoor soccer leagues is until October 12th and is posted on the Darien and Sportsplex websites. She reported that the last Friday night public skate for the season will be held on Friday, September 30th from 7-9 p.m. She reported that they are looking at ideas to raise money for the hurricane victims.

Acting General Manager Gurgone reported that they have not been able to collect any money from MVP United and that she will continue to pursue the outstanding balance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Campagnolo reported that she would like to remove item E from the Consent Agenda regarding the purchase of a snowplow and move it to item D under Unfinished Business.

A. Ball field Renovation

President Campagnolo read an email to the Board from Commissioner Gillespie stating that she was against spending any money on Hinsbrook and West Wood Parks. She stated that Commissioner Gillespie referenced that she had no response from Superintendent Strickler regarding complaints and questioned why the work could not be done by staff.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he visited the ball fields and some outside Darien and that the Darien ball fields were the worst he had seen. He stated that the fields appear saucer like and that he believes that the District owes it to the community and the NYC to make the best fields possible. Commissioner Christensen stated that if West Wood is targeted for a Community Center in the future it is 5-10 years away. He stated that he supports Superintendent Strickler's recommendation.

Commissioner Noverini agreed with Commissioner Christensen and that he too supports Superintendent Strickler's recommendation. He stated that Hinsbrook needs work.

Mr. Rob Sarocco, NYC stated that Community Park is great but that West Wood needs work and that nothing has been done there for years. He stated that the drainage at Hinsbrook is poor. Mr. Sarocco stated that the NYC spends approximately \$50,000 per year to maintain NYC fields.

President Campagnolo asked if the NYC received grant money through the District.

Mr. Sarocco stated that he did not believe that the NYC received any grant money.

President Campagnolo questioned if the NYC maintained the District fields.

Mr. Sarocco stated that whenever there is a rain issue the DYC is there.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if any of the fields had trenches.

Mr. Sarocco stated that they did not have trenches because the fields have fairly good crowns.

President Campagnolo questioned the timelines if the District went forward with a Community Center at West Wood Park.

Superintendent Gurgone reported that the Marion Hills lease is up in 2012. She stated that decisions need to be made within the next two years with ground breaking in 2010.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the Board received an option with drainage and an option without drainage. He stated that without drainage the fields may have to be redone again within 2-3 years.

President Campagnolo stated that she was concerned with the cost and hesitant if it might be torn down in less than 5 years. She stated that she preferred to see a temporary fix that will last 2-3 years and later decide to rework the field if needed.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the drainage can be done at any time once the fields are crowned.

Commissioner Christensen questioned the drainage cost per field.

Superintendent Strickler reported that it varied but approximately \$3,000 per field.

Commissioner Christensen suggested doing one field as an experiment and in the interim provide the Board with a study on the outcome.

President Campagnolo stated that she was not comfortable using a field as an experiment if it is going to be ripped up. She stated that the District made an investment for playground equipment on leased property and that Hinsbrook is a long-term lease and would be worth the investment to improve the drainage.

Acting Executive Director Katsougris suggested just crowning on all the fields and to take another look at it as a capital project next year.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve an amount not to exceed \$33,000 for the recrowning and regrading of Hinsbrook South, Hinsbrook North, Community Park, West Wood West and West Wood East and the Blended Ballmix and Soilmaster at Hinsbrook South.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

B. Sportsplex Cleaning Contract

Acting General Manager Gurgone reported that she received five bids back from the RFP with the costs ranging from \$36,150 - \$56,808. She reported that the lowest bid was from Perfect Cleaning Service, Inc., which is the company that it being used. Acting General Manager Gurgone reported that the contract will be \$36,150 per year and if a decision is made to extend the contract for years two and three the price will remain the same. She reported that the new contract will begin October 1, 2005 and end September 30, 2006. She further reported that she recommended a year to year contract.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to award the bid to Perfect Cleaning Service, Inc. in the amount of \$36,150.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

C. Letter to the Huskies

President Campagnolo stated that the Park District Board unanimously approved a one year contract and will honor the contract with the Huskies through March 31, 2006. She stated that the letter stated that the Huskies agreed to respond by November 30, 2005 regarding future ice time at the facility.

D. Purchase of Snowplow

President Campagnolo reported that the Board received correspondence from Commissioner Gillespie stating that she did not believe that a new snow plow was needed. She questioned the replacement program and why a new vehicle was needed.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the District has a 1994 Ford 350 with a plow that is recommended to be replaced. He stated that a new truck was purchased before he accepted the position and it is without a plow. Superintendent Strickler reported that they would not be purchasing a new truck but would replace a plow. He stated that there are 4 plows total and 3 used.

President Campagnolo recommended holding off on purchasing a plow now. She stated that there are 4 plows and not enough staff to use them. President Campagnolo stated that she needs to have a better feel for the replacement program and suggests holding off until next year to purchase a truck and plow together.

Commissioner Christensen recommended tabling the issue until further information is provided. The Board unanimously agreed.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM GUESTS

A question was asked if the next Board Meeting would be held on October 10th because of Columbus Day. President Campagnolo announced that the Board Meeting was scheduled for October 10th at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Christensen to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Approve July 25, 2005 Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Approve August 8, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approve August 22, 2005 Committee Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approve Warrants**
- E. Approve Sportsplex Concession Stand contract**
- F. Approve NYC field usage contract at Sportsplex**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Meyer Woods Barn Painting

Superintendent Strickler reported that he received three proposals for painting the barn. He stated that he went with Marquis Painting Inc. because they were recommended and they would stain two times versus one time.

President Campagnolo asked Superintendent Strickler to confirm that the barn committee would prefer stain or paint.

Mr. John Pteraske, Save the Barn Committee was present and stated that the committee prefers whatever will give the barn its historic look.

Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to award the bid in an amount not to exceed \$2875.00 to Marquis Painting Inc.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:
AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen
NAYS: None
President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:55 p.m. Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to convene into executive session under Section 2(c)21 for the approval of the August 8, 2005 Closed Session Minutes and review of the unreleased Closed Session Minutes and Section 2 (c)1 for discussion of employment, compensation of specific employees of the District.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:
AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen
NAYS: None
President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING

At 10:01 p.m. Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to reconvene the regular meeting.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:
AYES: Campagnolo, Noverini, Christensen
NAYS: None
President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

ACTION OF CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District