

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

August 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview Avenue, 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, Ray Jablonski, James Tikalsky

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks, Della Deldin; Superintendent of Finance, Matt Henderson; Sportsplex General Manager; Judith Kolman; Attorney

GUESTS: Donna Carter, Darien
William Repole, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Mr. Will Repole stated that the Commissioners received an email from him stating that he was opposed to the third sheet of ice at Sportsplex. He stated that eliminating the field takes away a field from the DYC and from other residents. Mr. Repole stated that adding the third sheet of ice costs a lot of money and that he does not care about hockey and how much money will be generated. He further stated that it is not about the dollars and that he feels that Sportsplex is not for the residents but rather non residents using it. Mr. Repole stated that if the issue is about money then the District should sell Sportsplex and not take out any more bonds.

President Campagnolo stated that the Board has changed and staff has changed except for one staff member since Sportsplex was built. She explained that when she was elected to the Board that policies were put in place to turn around the Sportsplex. President Campagnolo stated that

the building has been breaking even and that one of the Board's main concerns is not to have a negative impact on the NYC. She explained that by adding a third sheet of ice to Sportsplex will provide the NYC with a better arrangement and that they will have first priority for field time. President Campagnolo stated that the NYC has expressed no opposition to the third sheet of ice.

Commissioner Christensen stated that Sportsplex is turning people away from the field house from November 1st – February 28th but the other months have no users. He stated that the DSA is not returning to Sportsplex and that they are going elsewhere.

President Campagnolo stated that if Sportsplex is sitting vacant, it is a disservice to the residents and that revenue has to come in to keep the facility going. She stated that the ice side of Sportsplex has more utility expenses and the reason that users can be charged more for ice time.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that one sheet of ice makes as much as both fields combined.

President Campagnolo stated that with the third sheet of ice Sportsplex will not only be able to break even but will generate money to put into the aging building. She stated that it is difficult to secure a long term contract for 12 months in the field house.

Mr. Repole stated that he looks at it as an opportunity cost and that once the field is gone it's gone. He stated that the NYC tournaments will take too long to play with only one field.

President Campagnolo stated that the NYC has no problem with playing on one field. She asked Mr. Repole if he has attended any NYC Board Meetings.

Mr. Repole stated that he had not attended any meetings.

President Campagnolo stated that the McCook facility nearby is a new state-of-the-art facility that Darien cannot compete with. She stated that the numbers show that the revenue is on the ice and that the facility needs to be looked at as an enterprise fund.

Mr. Repole questioned why it was looked at as an enterprise and why the District is not running youth sports programs. He stated that the mission statement states that the District runs recreational programs. Mr. Repole questioned how many Darien residents will play on the third sheet of ice.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Sportsplex is self sustaining and that that it pays all of the expenses and employees and it has retired \$800,000 of debt. Commissioner Christensen stated that Hinsdale South High School and Downers South High School skate at Sportsplex and that the District is trying to do what is best for the City and recreation in the City. He stated that the District has to be very conscious of the inflow of cash and the outflow of expenses.

Mr. Repole stated that the District pulled out a very good playground at Fairview. Superintendent Strickler stated that the playground was removed out of safety for the residents.

Mr. Repole stated that he assumed that since the school's insurance company said it was ok that it was safe.

President Campagnolo stated that if at any point the DYC wanted the District to take over the sports the District would. She stated that the District does not run sports so that there is no conflict with the DYC.

Mr. Repole stated that other districts run sports leagues.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that the DYC has been around longer than the District and that about 10-12 years ago, no one wanted to be president. He stated that the District commissioned a study to see what would need to be done and that the results showed that there would need to be an increase in staff as well as an increase in fees. Commissioner Jablonski stated that at that time it was agreed that the District would help the DYC along with the help of the three school districts. He stated that the District did not want to compete with the DYC.

Mr. Repole stated that the people on the streets feel that the District should run the sports.

President Campagnolo stated that after hearing the District's side that maybe Mr. Repole could make the residents with concerns understand the District's position. She stated that the District has a commitment from the Hawks and other organizations to buy the ice even before it is up and running and with three year contracts. She further stated that on the field side the Sportsplex has never been able to get any long term contracts. President Campagnolo stated that the older the facility becomes the more expensive the repairs. She stated that the revenue from a third sheet of ice can help cover these expenses.

Mr. Repole stated that he was concerned about the parking once the third sheet of ice is built.

General Manager Henderson stated that with the third sheet of ice that they do not expect any more cars than are there now, but in the event overflow parking is needed, the Sportsplex has an agreement with Hinsdale South High School.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the entire Board knows that the District must live within its means and everything that the Board is trying to accomplish is while under the tax cap and without going to the taxpayers for more money.

President Campagnolo asked Mr. Repole if the Board addressed his concerns.

Mr. Repole stated that there needs to be more publicity on what the District does for the DYC.

President Campagnolo stated that the DYC is self sufficient. She stated that it is not a division of the District and that the District has not been approached by the DYC to run their programs. She further stated that she would not feel comfortable taking over the DYC programs.

President Campagnolo stated that the District has spent a lot of money on the baseball and soccer fields for the benefit of the DYC.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested that Mr. Repole attend a DYC meeting and look at their finances.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received communication from Dorothy Campbell who has been in communication with Ross Rice from DYC regarding field issues.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Sportsplex

a. Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the financials for July.

Commissioner Christensen reported that the Sportsplex financials year to date is \$12,000 ahead from last year.

b. Metro West Hockey Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the contract is for \$23,010.

Commissioner Christensen stated that Hinsdale South High School went to Metro West two years ago and Hinsdale Central is now moving there as well.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

c. Adding 3rd Sheet of Ice

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she and General Manager Henderson met with a contractor and that the revised drawings would be available within a week. She reported that there was some discussion with staff regarding the soccer league and that there will be time to allow for 70 teams in the fall and 50 teams in the winter. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the times can be sold if there are not enough teams in the fall.

Commissioner Christensen asked if the DSA time has been sold.

General Manager Henderson stated that there is a football group interested in one weekend.

B. Parks and Recreation

a. Phase 2 Improvements for Community Center

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the essential layout of the Center should remain the same. She stated that as costs come in there may have to be some changes but that staff is awaiting some of the additional hard costs.

b. Parks Projects Updates

Superintendent Strickler reported that mowing will be done on a reduced schedule. He stated that the playground at the Community Center is complete. Superintendent Strickler reported that there were some trees in the parks damaged from the storm and that the drainage project at 802 Plainfield is complete with the exception of fencing. He further stated that the Skate Park was under water and that it has drained.

C. Admin

a. Seaspar Joint Agreement Revisions

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the SEASPAR Joint Agreement revisions. She reported that SEASPAR has been operating under an agreement from 1976 and that the director has revised the agreement and that all the member entity boards must approve. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the attorney questioned the change from 8 months to 20 months for a member entity to pull out. She reported that this is so that there is enough notice given to adjust SEAPAR's budget.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Establish agenda for 9/10 meeting

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Metro West Hockey Contract and the SEASPAR Joint Agreement revisions would be placed on the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Ray Jablonski, Secretary
Darien Park District