

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

**December 10, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Darien City Hall, 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, 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, John Murphey; Attorney

**Guests:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS**

**A. Public Hearing for Tax Levy Ordinance #2007-08-04**

President Campagnolo opened the Public Hearing for Tax Levy Ordinance #2007-08-04 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District determined at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting that the District would levy at the 20% new growth rate which is equivalent to a 20% increase in operating funds and a 0% increase in debt service; a combined total increase in property taxes of 12%. She further reported that the District is levying at the high amount in order to capture all new growth in the community.

There was no one in the audience for public comment.

**Commissioner Tikalsky made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to close the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Tikalsky, Jablonski, Christensen, Noverini, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

### **B. Speer Financial Report on Sale of the Series 2007B Alternate Bonds**

Mr. David Phillips, Senior Vice President/Director of Marketing, Speer Financial, Inc. reported that the sale was successful and better than anticipated. He stated that there were 5 bids, and recommended that the Bonds be awarded to the bidder with the lowest true interest rate of 4.0618%. Mr. Phillips stated that the District will save over \$300,000 over the life of the Bond. He explained that the rating upgrade was very instrumental and was a stronger benefit than the insurance and that Executive Director Gurgone did a great job.

President Campagnolo thanked Mr. Phillips and stated that she was very pleased.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he and Executive Director Gurgone watched the process over the internet and the bidding process was fast and furious. He stated that looking at the numbers and the life of the Bond there will be \$259,000 saved in interest for the Community Center, \$157,000 saved in interest for Sportsplex for a total of approximately \$416,000 in interest savings. Commissioner Christensen stated that the up front expenses were less than expected and that Speer Financial and staff did a great job.

President Campagnolo announced that she was pleased with the A+ rating and explained the rating rationale. President Campagnolo stated that the Darien Park District received the rating based on strong tax base growth and the maintenance of good financial operations. She stated that other credit factors include strong reserves, moderate debt burden and sound budgeting practices. She further stated that this document was available on the Park District Website.

Commissioner Christensen asked Mr. Phillips to explain the process for the roll over Bond issue for the January meeting.

Mr. Phillips explained that the Bonds are issued annually and that the public hearing is a requirement governed by the state. He stated that he suggests that the District do a multiple year authorization which will cover the District for the next three years and reduce some of the fees. He stated that instead of an authorization for \$900,000 each

year, the amount would be \$2.7 million. The District will still sell the \$900,000 each year, but a new public hearing each year will not be necessary.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

- A. President** –President Campagnolo stated that there was an article on the front page of the *Suburban Life* regarding Sportsplex and the District’s efforts to turn the Sportsplex Soccer Field into an ice rink. She stated that the article implied that the District will not allow residents to walk indoors after the construction.

President Campagnolo read aloud some of the article to the public and stated that in her opinion that the article misleads the public and that not only does it have grammatical errors but that the story is incorrect.

President Campagnolo explained that there are currently two soccer fields and one is going to be turned into an ice rink. She stated that if the reporter attended the District meetings he would get the correct information and details. She further stated that the photo with the article clearly shows a second soccer field and that the field is visible.

President Campagnolo stated that the reporter has not contacted staff to verify the facts because if he did he would have been told that staff has made arrangements for the walkers. She stated that she contacted the Editor of the *Suburban Life* to post a correction and to explain that the reporter very rarely attends Board Meetings, doesn’t call, does not view the video tape and questioned how he could write an accurate article. President Campagnolo questioned how such inaccuracies could be front page news reviewed by the Editor. She stated that this defies logic.

President Campagnolo stated that she offered the Editor to attend and speak at this meeting but it is clear that neither the Editor nor the reporter are in attendance. She asked that the public interpret the articles cautiously and contact the Park District staff or email a Commissioner if there is a question or concern. President Campagnolo expressed her disappointment in the *Suburban Life*.

- B. Vice President** – No report  
**C. Secretary** – No report  
**D. Treasurer** – Commissioner Christensen highlighted the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending November 30, 2007.

**Commissioner Jablonski made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending November 30, 2007.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Jablonski, Noverini, Tikalsky, Jablonski, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **A. Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District received a letter from PDRMA announcing an annual review score of 95.38%. She stated that she is very excited with the score and if the District scores well again next year, the District can get accredited and would not have to go through the process for three years.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2008. She reported that there will not be any Committee Meetings in December or January.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that construction has started at the Community Center and that residents should obey the "Do Not Enter" signs.

President Campagnolo commended staff for the PDRMA rating and that there was not a department score under 90%.

#### **B. Assistant Director**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that staff is working on the Needy Family Project and that 159 families will be receiving gifts on Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. She reported that registration for the winter programs for residents started and that residents who did not receive a brochure should contact the post office. She stated that additional copies are available at the Community Center, Sportsplex, City Hall and the Library.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> trip is to the Ameristar Casino and the deadline for registration is December 28<sup>th</sup>. She announced that the cost is \$30 for residents and \$35 for non- residents.

#### **C. Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Deldin reported that the Board received the Sportsplex Financials for October.

Commissioner Christensen reported that from May through October that the Sportsplex is \$74,000 ahead from last year.

**D. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Strickler presented the Parks report and asked if there were any questions.

President Campagnolo asked if the proposed mower was bigger and if it would save mowing time.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the mower can cut 80 acres per day on a flat surface. He stated that Community Park will be done in half the time and that the unit is road worthy. He further stated that it will be stored in the back barn.

**E. Sportsplex General Manager**

General Manager Henderson provided the Board with a few photos of the construction at Sportsplex. He stated that staff is working on the cosmetic upgrades to the locker rooms and that he would provide the Board with monthly updates. General Manager Henderson stated that the project should be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

General Manager Henderson reported that he has discussed the ice needs with the majority of the groups and that after he meets with the Hawks that he will proceed with scheduling the other groups. He stated that the Hawks will be increasing from 50 hours to 65 hours next season and that there will be room to expand the existing high school programs and offer more public skates and learn to skate programs.

General Manager Henderson reported that he has been in contact with the lacrosse groups regarding future fieldhouse time and that he has a meeting set to discuss the future of the Koi Show. He also has a group interested in a golf show. General Manager Henderson stated that there may be a way to host the shows on the ice rinks this year, if the ice is taken out at the right time.

President Campagnolo asked for an update on the NYC.

General Manager Henderson stated that he has been in contact with the NYC and that he is awaiting their final soccer times for next year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA)**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:**

**Warrants, November 5, 2007 Special Committee Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2007 Special Committee Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes and the Tax Levy Ordinance.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners votes:**

**AYES: Christensen, Tikalsky, Jablonski, Noverini, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Jablonski moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.**

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Nancy Campagnolo, President  
Darien Park District

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Ray Jablonski, Secretary  
Darien Park District