

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

February 22, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen 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: Neil Christensen, Frank Noverini, James Tikalsky (8:15 p.m.),
Ray Jablonski, Rob Sarocco

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

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting.

A. Mary Sullivan, Cass School District #63 Foundation Permit Request

Ms. Mary Sullivan representing Cass School District #63 Foundation was present along with Mr. Charlie Lombardo, Board of Director – Cass School District #63 Foundation and Mr. Steve Hynek, Founding Member – Cass School District #63 Foundation. The Board received a synopsis of the organization and Ms. Sullivan provided a brief presentation of their request.

Ms. Sullivan explained that the Foundation is not a PTA. She stated that they raise funds for various projects to benefit students and faculty. She stated that since 2002 the Foundation raised \$312,000.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the Foundation is planning to organize a golf outing in June and an Oktoberfest in the fall.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she provided the Board with the details of their request to use a park for their Oktoberfest event. She stated that the policy presently allows beer and wine and not hard alcohol.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the Foundation is willing to just serve beer and wine, if that is what the park board decides. She stated that the details have not yet been finalized and that they have not decided on if they will hire a DJ or have a band. She further stated that they will be putting up a tent approximately 1 1/2 hours prior to the start of the event.

President Christensen stated that he would like to alert the homeowners near the park that the Board will be voting on the policy at the March Regular Meeting. He stated that this would give the residents an opportunity to voice their opinion.

Commissioner Noverini asked if the times are confirmed and if the event will end at 11:00 p.m. with clean-up until midnight. He asked if this is a one time event or if it will be organized annually.

Mr. Lombardo stated that the Foundation would like to make this an annual event or alternate it with the circus.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that he does not have a problem with the event. He asked if the District will incur any out of pocket expenses.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there would be no expense to the District. She stated that the Foundation will be responsible for removing all of the garbage.

President Christensen stated that he was concerned with the nearby residents as well. He stated that he hoped that they will look at the event as a great cause for the children.

There was some discussion regarding the timing of soccer and the event.

The Foundation stated that they could set up the tent away from the soccer fields and wait until soccer has ended for the day before bringing in all other equipment.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested that staff's recommendation for the \$500 fee be discussed. He stated that donating the park would set a precedent.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that this type of permit could be limited to only Darien-based government organizations.

President Christensen suggested the fee at \$180.

Commissioner Sarocco proposed not to exceed \$200.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the tentative date for the event is October 2nd. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she will put together a recommendation and that the homeowners will be informed. She stated that this item would be placed on the agenda at the Regular Meeting on March 8th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Sarocco reported that he received feedback regarding the condition of the bathrooms at Sportsplex.

General Manager Henderson stated that often times the restrooms on Saturday are very messy after a days' worth of use. He stated that staff is working on trying to clean them more often. He stated that the type of partitions and mirrors are used because of the heavy abuse the bathrooms take.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. Sportsplex January 2010 Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the January financials. She reported that year to date the numbers look really good compared to last year and the previous year.

President Christensen questioned if Sportsplex is getting any compensation for the Eagles program.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the compensation is in the Park District budget. She stated that any money budgeted for SEASPAR Eagles Facility Expenses will go into Sportsplex. She further stated that a portion of the electrical at Sportsplex will come from the District budget.

b. Sportsplex Budget Draft 2010-11

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a budget draft. She stated that T-Mobile was included on the revenue side for Sportsplex and that all of the documentation has been turned into the City.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the utility taxes were included and if the City decides to rebate next year Sportsplex will be able to reduce utility expenses. She stated that they hope that the utilities are over budgeted.

President Christensen asked about the 3% program fee increase for consumers. He asked if that covers the contract with the ice.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that those who pay for large contracts for ice do not pay by credit card. She stated that the majority of the regular consumers pay by credit card.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the public hearing on the budget will be on the agenda in March following approval of the budget at the April meeting.

c. J&R Amusement Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that J&R has been the vendor for arcade games at Sportsplex for a while. She stated that they have been very responsible and continually update their equipment. She further stated that staff is recommending extending the contract by three years. The Board agreed to place this item on the Consent Agenda for the March 8th meeting.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Rental Rates for Park, DPDCC, Sportsplex room

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is recommending again this year to not increase the rental rates for the parks.

Executive Director Gurgone also stated that the DPDCC and Sportsplex new rates that were developed last year for room rentals will also not change.

The Board agreed to place this item on the Consent Agenda for the March 8th meeting.

b. Darien Fest Rate

Executive Director Gurgone reported that assuming that Darien Fest has no changes that the Board should discuss the rate.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that last year the fee was \$6,000 and that the Board stated that they may set a multiplying rate increase for future years.

President Christensen stated that \$5,000 was held for several years and that it was increased to \$6,000.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that for five days the park is closed.

Commissioner Sarocco questioned where the \$6,000 fee came from.

Superintendent Strickler stated that all of the full time Parks staff spend all of their time at the park to get the park ready for the event. He stated that this takes away from other things.

Commissioner Sarocco asked if we incur any overtime pay to employees to get the job done.

Superintendent Strickler stated that this happens on occasion.

Executive Director stated that they are renting an entire park for four days.

President Christensen stated that most communities that have festivals go to a parking lot. He stated that the Chamber chooses to have it in the park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there is a lot of wear and tear on the park and that it is hard to quantify. She stated that there are a lot of people going through the park.

Superintendent Strickler stated that if there is rain the \$6,000 will go very quickly to fix damage to the park.

Commissioner Jablonski asked if there was a surcharge for the City utility tax.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that it may be hard to quantify their electricity use.

Superintendent Strickler stated that they bring in generators to the band and everything else is wired from the park. He stated that they run the ballfield lights and the power runs from the boxes.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff will take a look at the electricity bill. She stated that any additional information would be provided before the next meeting.

The Board agreed to place this on the March 8th meeting agenda and to keep the fee at \$6,000 and possibly a fee for utility tax.

c. Historical Society Request

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she was contacted by Mr. John Poteraske on behalf of the Darien Historical Society to see if the District would be interested in having their event coincide with a concert in the park.

Ms. Jeanette Campo, Historical Society was present. She provided the Board with a brief explanation of their event.

President Christensen stated that he did not have a problem combining both events. He stated that staff should pay attention to choosing the appropriate music.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that when the band schedule is set that she will forward to John Poteraske and work out a mutual date and time.

d. Skate park pass reimbursement

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received information regarding the possibility for reimbursement for usage of the skate park. She stated that \$500 is included in the recreation budget for an option for reimbursement. She further stated that if the District is trying to cater to those who truly use the skate park for skating all year long then a season pass would be purchased.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if an individual was interested in receiving the reimbursement they would have to go to Westmont, purchase a pass show a receipt and proof of residency and they would be reimbursed \$50. She stated that trying to reimburse on a daily basis would be difficult up front and difficult to enforce.

Commissioner Noverini asked if staff has received any phone calls regarding the skate park closing.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they have not received any phone calls. She stated that if this program is popular, it can be discussed for next year.

President Christensen asked if the reimbursement would be cut off or if that is what is budgeted.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that once the \$500 is reached, it is cut off. She stated that if there are more residents that come in, then staff could always bring the item to the board for discussion.

Commissioner Sarocco stated that staff will probably have some calls once the weather gets warmer.

3. Admin

a. DPD Budget Draft 2010-11

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the District budget draft. She stated that the biggest item is that most of the tax dollars are slightly higher than last year except for the corporate fund where money was transferred from the liability fund. She further stated that the numbers are consistent with last year and the budget shows balanced budgets for corporate and recreation.

President Christensen asked about the fitness center in the budget.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the fitness center revenue line item now includes fitness classes also.

b. Bond Issues Update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the update on bond issues. She stated that the Board discussed when the building was purchased and when the bond was issued to renovate the building that debt certificates would need to be issued because of the way the bond payment was structured. She further stated that the debt certificates cover the next three years capital projects.

She further stated that there will be a sale for the debt certificates in the next few months.

c. Announce Budget Display Date – by March 12th for approval April 12th

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there are not major changes to the budget so the ordinance will go out soon. She stated that it will be on display before the March 8th meeting.

d. Establish consent agenda for 3/8 meeting

Executive Director Gurgone announced that J&R Amusement Contract and the Rental Rates for Parks, DPDCC, Sportsplex room, and Darien Fest will be place on the Consent Agenda for the March 8th meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone announced that the Cass School District #63 Foundation Permit will be placed under New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District



James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District