

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

**January 9, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:01 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,  
Richard Simester, Shari Gillespie

**ABSENT:** None

**Staff:** Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director, Chris Katsougris, Assistant  
Director, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Matt Hendersen,  
Sportsplex General Manager; John Murphey, Attorney

**Guests:** Gloria Andersen, Darien  
Warren Andersen, Darien  
Lane Kelly, *Suburban Life*  
Jennifer Duda, *The Doings*

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GUESTS**

**President Campagnolo opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. concerning the intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to sell not to exceed \$900,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:  
Noverini, Christensen, Simester, Gillespie, Campagnolo**

Commissioner Christensen questioned the amount of \$900,000.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the number was a little lower than the District's Levy ability under the tax cap to keep a safe haven. She stated that the District's debt service limit has always been discussed as being \$892,000. When new bond council renewed documents, it went up to \$901,000.

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment. President Campagnolo stated that all persons desiring to have been heard have been given the opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the bonds.

**At 7:02 p.m. Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to adjourn the Public Hearing.**

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

**AYES: Simester, Noverini, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Christensen reported that President Campagnolo was the primary recipient of an e-mail from Hinsdale Central Hockey expressing interest in additional ice if available.

President Campagnolo reported that she did receive the email and that all of the Commissioners were copied.

President Campagnolo reported that she received an email on January 1, 2006 from Mr. Rob Sarocco, President of DYC asking if the District would be interested in purchasing Lace School. She stated that Mr. Sarocco noted that this is of great concern to the DYC because of the baseball fields and the use of the gym for basketball and volleyball.

President Campagnolo reported that she responded to Mr. Sarocco stating that there would be a representative at the meeting and that the District would be closely monitoring and discussing it in the future.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that a thank you card was received from the Cattaneo family.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

A. **President** – President Campagnolo stated that the District looks forward to a new year and serving the Park District residents. She stated that with the sale of the bonds and the public hearing it is the District's hope to improve the parks and provide quality recreation for all District residents. President Campagnolo stated that the fiscal year budget process will begin

May 1<sup>st</sup> and that the Board will be discussing and considering capital projects. She reported that this is taken very seriously because there is limited funds and the Board wants to make sure the funds are utilized that will benefit the residents. She further stated that the Board looks at input from the staff but also from the residents. She stated that the input from the survey provided valuable information but that residents can also communicate with staff and the Board by attending a Committee Meeting or a Regular Meeting or by accessing the District's website.

**B. Vice President** – No report.

**C. Secretary** – No report.

**D. Treasurer** – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer's report for December 31, 2005. He reported that he has been reporting on the progress of the Sportsplex. He stated that November was the first month that fell behind what was attained from the prior year. Commissioner Christensen stated that the Sportsplex is still running approximately \$100,000 ahead and factoring in debt service payments \$120,000 ahead from last year.

**Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending December 31, 2005.**

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

**AYES: Simester, Noverini, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Murphey stated that he had no report.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **D. Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Gurgone introduced the Sportsplex General Manager, Mr. Matt Hendersen and that he has been employed for the past few weeks.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that a Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2006 with a Special Meeting prior to the Committee Meeting to pass the bond ordinance and for a review to the public from Attorney Murphey regarding the State's Attorney order. She stated that because there are too many conflicts, she recommended rescheduling the Committee Meeting to January 30<sup>th</sup> and at that time also hold a Special Meeting prior to the Committee Meeting to pass the bond ordinance and for the review from Attorney Murphey.

The Board unanimously agreed to have the Special Meeting to pass the bond ordinance and for a review from Attorney Murphey regarding the State's Attorney order to be held on Monday, January 30, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at Marion Hills. Following, will be the rescheduled Committee Meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board would also be discussing the capital projects at that meeting.

#### **F. Assistant Director**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night is scheduled for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at Ashton Place and the deadline is Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the staff is working on the spring-summer brochure and that it should be mailed on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Indoor Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Marion Hills. She reported that a trip is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> to visit a baking company, spice house and candy shop as well as a visit to the Merchandise Mart to tour the newest high-tech kitchens and enjoy a gourmet lunch at the culinary school. She stated that the deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the deadline for Movin' Out at the Auditorium Theatre on June 29<sup>th</sup> is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if there would be a separate brochure for Sportsplex.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that because the District brochure goes out so early and because General Manager Hendersen is new there would be a separate Sportsplex brochure.

#### **G. Superintendent of Finance**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there was not a separate report.

#### **H. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff is continuing to work on the Meyer Wood Barn. He reported that the three trees at South Grove have been removed.

Superintendent Strickler reported that he has received numerous calls regarding dogs running without a leash in the parks. He stated that the Parks & Facilities Regulations state that a dog must be on a leash. Superintendent Strickler reported that he will be looking into signs at all of the parks stating the regulation. He further reported that there have been Coyotes sited at Meyer Woods and that they are not harmful to people but that the Coyotes or any other wild life should not be fed.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if the District anticipates any equipment that falls under the rebate program.

Superintendent Strickler stated that there are four parks which fall under the rebate program.

## **H. Sportsplex General Manager**

General Manager Hendersen reported that the public skates have been a big success bringing in \$11,000 over the holidays. He stated that a special public skate will be held on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

President Campagnolo welcomed General Manager Hendersen.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Huskies Hockey Club Contract**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board directed Attorney Murphey to review the Huskies contract. Executive Director Gurgone stated that there are many rumors circulating and that the ice will be turned into fields, which she stated is not true.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Attorney Murphey drafted a letter to the Huskies that on January 9, 2006 the Board voted to terminate the Sportsplex Facility Use Agreement with the Huskies Hockey Club on March 31, 2006. She stated that this will allow any interested clubs to come forward knowing that they are not breaching on any contract.

Commissioner Christensen questioned the renting of ice in the spring and summer if the Huskies do not have a finished facility.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Huskies have expressed interest in the spring and summer but that a new club should have first priority.

**Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to authorize Attorney Murphey to send a letter to the Huskies Hockey Club terminating the contract expiring on March 31, 2006.**

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

**AYES: Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A woman from the audience asked when the contract ends with the Huskies. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the contract will end on March 31, 2006.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:**

**Warrants and the December 12, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes.**

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

**AYES: Christensen, Gillespie, Noverini, Simester, Campagnolo**

**NAYS: None**

**President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. 2003C Sportsplex Bond Abatement Ordinance**

President Campagnolo reported that the Board will wait to vote on this after public comment.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that when the Sportsplex was built a bond was issued which had the ability to levy taxes for the bond if the payments cannot be paid. She stated that every year the District has to abate the bond in order to not receive the taxes. Executive Director reported that this is a yearly occurrence.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if it was done prior to the tax limitations.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that it was issued as an alternate revenue bond and it was done with a back door referendum.

#### **B. School District #61 Property.**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received an update regarding School District 61. She stated that the school district is looking to consolidate Lace, Mark Delay and Fairview. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the school district may be interested in selling Fairview School which has an open floor plan. She reported that Commissioner Simester and Commissioner Gillespie attended the School District 61 meeting and that there are a lot of possibilities of what the school district can do.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if the Board is interested in pursuing Fairview that it should be taken to the school board because it may change their thought process.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that she was interested in exploring Fairview.

Commissioner Noverini questioned the timeframe.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the school district stated that they would like to do what they need to by the next school year.

President Campagnolo questioned the school district's position on a referendum.

Commissioner Simester reported that most agreed that they would vote yes to a referendum,. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the school district has a special meeting scheduled for the end of the week to discuss planning.

Commissioner Simester reported that there was no discussion at the meeting he attended regarding the sale of Fairview.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she spoke with the Superintendent and that he suggested that if the District was interested to present it to the school district that there is some kind of intent.

Commissioner Simester stated that they are working on getting appraisals for all three properties.

Commissioner Noverini stated that he would have to wait and see the dollar amounts.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would contact the school district informing them that the District has an intent to explore the options.

Commissioner Christensen reported that if the District financed the acquisition the District is looking at another Sportsplex debt payment or approximately \$600,000 to \$650,00 per year. He stated that right now the tax levy authority is utilized to 2012 and there is the necessity of a referendum and a 25% tax increase to the residents.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that maybe a referendum is not necessary. She stated that in 2012 the \$2.5 million bond will be paid off and the full ability of \$900,000 yearly. She further stated that the sooner the bonds are issued the more they will be paid on. Executive Director Gurgone also stated that the Marion Hills property can also be sold.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there would be a benefit to the residents if the District can buy the property from the school district instead of both groups going out for a referendum.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that \$8 million was listed as the price of Fairview in one of the school district's report.

### **C. Public Comment (before voting)**

Ms. Gloria Andersen, Darien stated that she attended the School District 61 Board meeting and that the district will be bankrupt in 2009. She stated that the District should keep in mind that the school district is looking to do something fairly soon.

**Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to authorize Executive Director Gurgone to go before School District 61 School Board to explore the possibility of purchasing Fairview School.**

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

**AYES:** Campagnolo, Gillespie, Noverini, Christensen, Simester  
**NAYS:** None  
President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to abate the Bond Ordinance for 2003C Sportsplex Bond issue.

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:37 p.m. Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to convene into executive session under Section 2(c)21 for the review and release of Closed Session Minutes and Section 2(c)1 for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

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

President Campagnolo reported that the Board would be taking action in open session.

**ACTION OF CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:58 p.m. President Campagnolo reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to release the Closed Session Minutes for the following:

January 20, 2004, February 17, 2004, March 5, 2004, March 16, 2004, April 20, 2004, May 4, 2004, June 15, 2004, July 19, 2004 and November 14, 2005.

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

**ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

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Nancy Campagnolo, President  
Darien Park District

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Richard Simester, Secretary  
Darien Park District