

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

June 25, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 5 of the Marion Hills Community Center, 133 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois. She moved item 4-C-1-a to the bottom of the agenda before Public Comment.

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

ABSENT: James Tikalsky

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

GUESTS: Donna Carter, Darien
Jean Starshak, Lemont

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received communication from Mr. Mark Stepic who runs FISH, the local food pantry in the Downers Grove Township Office where the food is stored. She reported that Mr. Stepic is a resident of Darien and heard that the District is moving to Fairview and since they are losing their space in the Township building if the District would have any space. President Campagnolo reported that Mr. Stepic communicated their needs and space requirements and that she did not think that the District could accommodate them.

Executive Director Gurgone agreed that the District would not have the space. President Campagnolo reported that she suggested that Mr. Stepic contact the group purchasing Marion Hills.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Long Range Goals

None.

B. Short Range Goals

None.

C. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

b. April & May Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the April and May financials. She stated that the financials are unofficial until the audit is complete in August. She reported that the current 2006-07 year end report shows a loss of \$4,000.

Commissioner Christensen stated that with the new hockey club at Sportsplex and the capital project improvements and incurred unexpected repair costs, it is still a positive. He stated that May's financials are good and that the District always loses in May but that this is the best May ever.

Commissioner Christensen asked if staff researched if high school spring hockey is down everywhere. General Manager Henderson reported that the numbers are down and that staff is cutting back on expenses to minimize the loss for the month.

c. Concession RFP

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff went out for concession RFP and received one bid back and not at the minimum bid requirement. She reported that General Manager Henderson contacted several of the interested parties about the RFP and the majority of them indicated that the monthly rent was too high and from a business stand point wouldn't work with the current revenue generated. She stated that staff is recommending that the District issue a new RFP for a minimum monthly rent payment of \$2,000 and that the public notice can appear in the Wednesday June 27th paper and the RFP's would be opened on July 9th. Executive Director Gurgone stated that this timing will allow the District to award the concession contract at the July 9th Board Meeting.

Commissioner Christensen asked if reconsideration should be given to running the concessions again.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District was making the same money as if it was rented out but without the headaches.

General Manager Henderson stated that one vendor suggested that concessions only stay open for 10 months.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the only way to make it work is to get a good Manager. She stated that the current vendor never put up any signage.

Commissioner Christensen stated that \$2,000 seemed too low.

Commissioner Noverini suggested \$2,500 per month for 10 months.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they do not think there is a vendor who will bid at that amount.

General Manager Henderson stated that if the District does not secure a vendor by the next meeting that there may not be one in place in time.

The Board agreed to issue the new RFP, and approve a bid at the July 9th meeting.

d. Summer Programs Update

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the field house programs do not do well in the summer and that events are the way to go. She stated that if Sportsplex converts the field to the 3rd Sheet of ice staff feels that the ice should be taken down for summer and use it for shows that won't work on the turf.

Commissioner Christensen asked if staff has offered an ice discount to the high school teams to start practicing.

General Manager Henderson stated that staff has offered the high school discounted rates but that summer is a hard sell.

e. Summer Projects Update/Capital Projects for 07-08

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the lighting grant has been extended to summer 2008 and that staff is working on how much the District's portion will be. She stated that the other project that staff would like to do is the parking lot and that it should be under \$20,000 to seal coat and repair certain areas. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the money is in the budget to replace flooring in the Chalet Room and that the money can go towards this project. She stated that the District can wait for quotes and bring the Chalet Room flooring to a future meeting.

f. Capital Projects for 07-8

Executive Director Gurgone provided the Board with an updated list of the 2007-08 capital expenditures and also the Capital Asset Replacement plan from November 2006. She stated that once phase 2 cost estimates for remodeling Fairview are received staff will be updating the Capital Asset Plan for the next 15 years.

2. Parks and Recreation

a. Name for Fairview School Building

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff was asked for suggestions for a new name for Fairview. She stated that the department heads prefer the building to be called a Community Center versus a Recreation Center because it sounds more inviting and not just for those wanting to participate in athletic activities. Executive Director Gurgone stated that naming the facility is a Board function.

President Campagnolo stated that she liked the Darien Community Center.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he preferred the Darien Park District Community Center to distinguish the District from the City.

President Campagnolo stated that the facility would be for all of the people of Darien.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that he did not like Darien Community Center and that it should be associated with the District.

The Board agreed to name the Fairview School as the Darien Park District Community Center and put it on the consent agenda for the July 9th meeting.

b. Parks Projects Update

Superintendent Strickler reported on the Fairview Playground, the seal coating of the parking lots, the 802 drainage project, the Skate Park drainage and the tree removal.

President Campagnolo asked for an update on any vandalism.

Superintendent Strickler reported that there has been some tree damage.

c. Capital Projects for 07-08

Superintendent Gurgone provided the Board with an updated list. She stated that the District had \$312,893 to spend and that the report indicates what the District has spent and estimates on upcoming projects. She further stated that staff is currently in the process of completely updating the plan.

Commissioner Christensen asked if staff has talked to Speer on when it would be an optimal time to do a bond issue.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff is waiting to see what the cost will be for Phase II at Fairview.

3. Administration

a. DPD Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Superintendent Deldin provided the Board with the year end financials for the District.

b. Budget Line Item Adjustment

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the financials will not be final until the audit and that any items over 10% over 10% on the budget will need to be adjusted.

Commissioner Christensen asked if the excess funds could be moved to capital.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff will look at it after the audit.

Commissioner Christensen stated that every year the District spends more on SEASPAR than what is taken in.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that we are depleting what we have in reserve. The board agreed to put the adjustment on the consent agenda.

c. Establish consent agenda for 7/9 meeting

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the following would go on the consent agenda: the renaming of Fairview School to Darien Park District Community Center, and the 2006-07 line item adjustment, and if the quotes are received for the Sportsplex asphalt work and the quotes are under \$19,500 then it can go on the consent agenda. The Board agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ray Barone, 1730 Gigi Lane asked about the grant that Sportsplex received.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the grant is for lighting through the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.

Mr. Barone stated that at the open house Mr. Casey stated that there would be changes to the ball fields at Lace School. He asked if there are plans to replace the ball fields by bringing them to Fairview.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she did not think so because the City granted the District a special use permit at Fairview and if the District makes any major changes to the exterior the District would have to go back to the City for approval.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Board did not want to build at Westwood because the District would lose a ball field.

Mr. Barone questioned if the playground will be closed off to the public and what is going to be done with the tennis courts at Fairview.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the playground will be open to the public and that staff is seeking quotes to restore the tennis courts.

C-1-a Adding a 3rd Sheet of Ice to Sportsplex

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff provided information on adding a 3rd sheet of ice at Sportsplex. She stated that staff divided the utilities on the report to show revenue that would be generated. Executive Director Gurgone stated that by doing this there would be a \$250,000 increase in revenue by adding the 3rd sheet. She reported that the preliminary cost estimates are \$1.45 to \$1.7 million for the project.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Sportsplex currently has ice contracts for multi years but not for field house contracts.

General Manager Henderson stated that in the past staff has put together soccer leagues and contracted out leftover time. He stated that he felt that the opposite should be done and contract out the field and run leagues on whatever time is left.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if the Board is interested staff can proceed and seek more solid quotes.

The board welcomed Mr. Joe Messina, Hawks Hockey Club, to the meeting. He stated that they just completed their second spring and just finished their first full hockey season. He stated that the Huskies had 424 kids when they left. Mr. Messina stated that the Hawks are concentrating on learn-to-skate rather than the older kids since they are going on to play high school hockey. He reported that the Sabres are moving to All Seasons.

Mr. Messina stated that the Hawks mission is to move in and that they are looking for long term and growth. He stated that last year they used 15 hours at Bridgeview and with a 3rd rink in Darien they could cut that off in Fall 2009. Mr. Messina stated that the Hawks want to maintain a 3-year deal.

President Campagnolo stated that this is something that she dreamed of and thanked staff for bringing it to the table.

Commissioner Christensen stated that if the District does this it will have to be comparable or better than the Campbell Rink.

The Board agreed for staff to proceed and seek more solid quotes.

Commissioner Christensen suggested looking at refinancing debt service up in 2017.

President Campagnolo asked if there was anyone wishing to present public comment for what was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Ray Jablonski, Secretary
Darien Park District