

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

March 21, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

President Durkin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in Room 5 of the Marion Hills Community Center, 133 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

PRESENT: Jack Durkin, Shari Gillespie, Don McGreal, Nancy Campagnolo, Richard Simester

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Warren Anderson, Sergeant at Arms

Staff: Roy Cripe, Executive Director; Chris Katsougris, Assistant Director; Stephanie Gurgone; Superintendent of Finance, Bob Strickler; Superintendent of Parks, Don Kreger; Attorney

Guests: Gloria Anderson, Darien
Eileen Budney, Darien
E. Kirsanoff, Darien
Phyllis Zimmer, Willowbrook
Kurt Mach, Darien
Frank Noverini, Darien
Neil Christensen, Darien
Debby Heniff, Darien

ACKNOWLEDGE GUESTS

President Durkin welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Ms. Gloria Anderson, 533 Chestnut Lane, Darien read a statement explaining that the registered voters of Darien had the right to know what is going on with the candidates for the upcoming Darien Park District Board election.

Ms. Anderson stated that Mr. Frank Noverini and Mr. Neil Christensen both organized petitions to dissolve the Park District. She stated that if the Park District was dissolved, every park in Darien would be put up for sale. Ms. Anderson questioned what changed both Noverini and Christensen. She questioned if Noverini and Christensen were going to turn the Park District over to the City or possibly still try to dissolve the Park District? She urged the Darien residents to think long and hard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the February 21, 2005 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the February 28, 2005 Special Meeting Minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

APPROVE CLAIMS, ACCOUNTS AND WARRANTS

Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie that the following Warrants be approved: Corporate Fund Warrant FY # 2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$21,695.68; Recreation Fund Warrant FY # 2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$19,354.70; Audit Fund Warrant FY #2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$90.00; SEASPAR Fund Warrant FY # 2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$1,312.00; Sportsplex Reimbursement Fund Warrant FY # 2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$9,643.80; Sportsplex Operating Fund Warrant FY #2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$74,341.50; Imprest Fund Warrant FY #2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$561.11; and the Recreation Refund Fund Warrant FY # 2004-2005-11 in the amount of \$340.00.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

- A. President – None.**
- B. Vice President – None.**
- C. Secretary –None.**

- D. Treasurer –Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending February 28, 2005.**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, Campagnolo, McGreal, Simester

NAYS: None

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Buildings and Grounds

None.

B. Finance

None.

C. Land Acquisition

None.

D. Police & Personnel

None.

E. Recreation

None.

F. Sportsplex

None.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

None.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cripe reported that he presented testimony at the Public Hearing for the Posejpal property located at 75th and Lemont Road at the City of Darien Planning and Zoning Commission. He further reported that a developer is seeking to rezone the property for multi-family development. Executive Director Cripe reported that the PZC said it would recommend to the City Offices not to approve the rezoning request. He stated that he was asking the Board to consider placing the land acquisition opportunity as priority and place South Grove Park as a second priority.

Commissioner Gillespie questioned the cost of the property.

Executive Director Cripe stated that the last appraisal was approximately \$3 million for the entire parcel. He recommended that the Board consider this as the Park District's highest priority.

Commissioner Simester stated that he was in favor of pursuing the property and suggested working with the Forest Preserve to purchase the property.

Commissioner Campagnolo agreed and stated that the Park District needed to aggressively pursue land and although the \$3 million was cost prohibitive she was in favor of intergovernmental agreements.

President Durkin stated that he was in favor of the property and asked Executive Director Cripe to contact him so they could schedule a meeting with individuals at the County who could provide some action.

Commissioner Simester asked if the Forest Preserve was pursuing a referendum.

Executive Director Cripe reported that there was an interest and that a referendum may be forthcoming.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th at Darien Community, Westwood, Lindenwood, Smart Oaks and South Grove parks beginning at 9:00 a.m. She thanked the Darien Lions Club for their participation.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the summer brochure would be mailed to residents on April 1st and resident registration on April 13th.

Commissioner Campagnolo questioned the picnic permit fee comparisons. She stated that Willowbrook was comparable and that the District's was almost double. She questioned if the numbers needed to be realigned.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the fees are not increased annually and that it has been a few years. She further reported that there are not a lot of empty pavilions and that the cost assists with clean up and maintenance.

President Durkin asked if there were any complaints.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that there were no complaints. She stated that when pavilions are booked staff tries to direct to other pavilions. She further stated that Meyer Woods has become more attractive.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Gurgone reported that the budget and appropriations ordinance was put on tentative approval and is on display at Marion Hills and the Library. She reported that the public hearing will be published in the newspaper before the April Board meeting so that the budget could be reviewed.

Superintendent Gurgone reported that staff is working on the website and that the goal is to have the site up and running by April 1st. She reported that the website address is www.darienparks.com.

Superintendent Gurgone reported that the Board received a new budget draft and the Budget Appropriations Ordinance.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that he found a company to donate 120 steel garbage cans which will be painted Hunter Green. He reported that the donation is over \$5,000 and that he will begin to replace the plastic containers with the steel cans but keep the plastic for Darien Fest.

Commissioner Simester questioned what prompted the donation.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the company offers scratched and dented cans.

Commissioner Campagnolo questioned the diagram regarding the ball field trenching and drainage in the outfield.

Superintendent Strickler reported that there is drainage in the outfield which is backfilled with masonry sand. He stated that the diagram is designed for the infield to keep the water level down.

Commissioner McGreal asked when the work would begin.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the best time to do the work is fall. He stated that he preferred to do all five fields at the same time. He further stated that they would try to make the fields as safe as possible for the spring and begin the work in the fall.

Commissioner McGreal asked if there was any word on summer staffing.

Superintendent Strickler stated that there was a sign posted at Sportsplex and that he may place an ad in the newspaper. He stated that Darien is paying \$7.50 per hour and other districts pay \$10.00 for 18 years and older.

President Durkin suggested that Executive Director Cripe speak to staff at the Sportsplex.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

Executive Director Cripe reported that the inline floor would be installed for an abbreviated season for the DYC. He stated that the change was time intensive but a good thing for the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discuss and Approve 2nd Draft Sportsplex Field and Ice Rental Policy

Executive Director Cripe reported that changes were made regarding the amount of additional charges if a contract cancelled. He reported that the cost would be a 30% fee. He further reported that the fees would apply to spring and summer rentals.

President Durkin questioned if the change would be prohibitive to get people.

Executive Director Cripe stated that it may be an issue but that they had trouble collecting the money in the past because there was not a policy in place. He stated that this would take affect upon Board approval.

President Durkin suggested that a clientele needed to be built first.

Commissioner Campagnolo suggested creating something if the Park District does not incur any costs and where the policy comes into play when a service is provided.

Executive Director Cripe stated that staff would prepare a new policy based on comments.

B. Discuss and Approve Ordinance to Commence IMRF Benefits

Superintendent Gurgone reported that the IMRF Rate would remain the same for the year 2005 and 2006 and a rate change in 2007. She reported that PDRMA legal counsel stated that the Park District can change the retirement plan.

President Durkin stated that he also spoke with a PDRMA attorney and that he was informed that employees had to be grandfathered in.

Superintendent Gurgone stated that a majority of staff were informed about IMRF and although they did not want to lose money overall once it was explained they were interested. She stated that that IMRF is positive for the Park District.

Commissioner Simester stated that he would like to see some competitive bids. He stated that the IMRF is expensive.

Superintendent Gurgone reported that IMRF is a fiscally sound organization. She stated that if the Board chooses to proceed with IMRF an Ordinance would have to be adopted and taken to the IMRF Board for approval. She further stated that ideally May 1st would be a good starting date.

Commissioner Campagnolo inquired about the timing of both Boards.

Superintendent Gurgone stated that if the Board approves the Ordinance IMRF would begin May 1st.

President Durkin stated that he was not comfortable and wanted to verify that employees could not be fired.

Attorney Kreger stated that an employee would not have a choice.

Executive Director Cripe reported that employees who are not vested may withdraw the money they paid into IMRF. He stated that the plan costs more money but it goes with the Park District forever. He further stated that there is one other park district other than Darien that is not an IMRF member.

Superintendent Gurgone stated that there is a general consensus that staff likes the plan. She stated that it is good for the District and attracts and retains quality employees.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that IMRF is very unique and industry wide above the rest.

Commissioner Campagnolo moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2004-05-14, AN ORDINANCE electing participation in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo

NAYS: Durkin, Simester

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

President Durkin stated that the Park District has hired good staff without IMRF and that he was not comfortable with the plan.

Superintendent Gurgone stated that the Board needed to appoint an Authorized Agent to the IMRF.

Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to appoint the Superintendent of Finance as the Authorized Agent to the IMRF.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried

C. Discuss and Approve Expenditure for a District Wide Attitude and Interest Survey

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that staff would like to print and mail the survey by April 4th. She reported that there were 7 bids mailed and three responded. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that two were local printers and that they were able to get the printing costs down with the additional quotes. She stated that she did not have a quote for the postcard.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that she did not see the postcard being affective two weeks after the mailing.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that she would not print the postcard. She informed the Board that there was a \$5 incentive to be applied to a Park District program if the survey is dropped off.

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner McGreal to approve the expenditure for a District Wide Attitude and Interest Survey.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss and Approve Picnic Rental Fee Schedule

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to approve the Picnic Permit Fees as presented.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

B. Discuss and Approve Marion Hills Rental Fee Schedule

Commissioner Gillespie moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to approve the Facility Rental Permit Fees as presented.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester
NAYS: None.
President Durkin declared the motion carried.

C. Discuss and Award 3-year Audit Contract

Superintendent Gurgone reported that five firms were mailed proposals and three were returned from Knutte & Associates, William F. Gurrie & Co., and Sikich Gardner & Co. She stated that Knutte was the lowest bid and that the Park District has been happy using them. She further stated that Knutte is a local firm, always accessible and that staff recommends remaining with Knutte.

Commissioner McGreal stated that Knutte has done a good job and that they have a great reputation. He agreed with staff's recommendation.

Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to accept the RFP from Knutte & Associates.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Campagnolo, Simester
NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried

D. Discuss and Approve Revised Safety Manual

Superintendent Strickler reported that a safety manual was presented to the Board in March 2004 and that it has been reviewed and revised and presented to PDRMA. He stated that once the manual is approved new hires will be issued the manual as well as safety training for staff. Superintendent Strickler thanked Joanne Pollack for working through the 6 drafts.

Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to approve Safety Manual as presented.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Compagnolo, Simester
NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried

E. Discuss and Approve Transfer of Bond Proceeds to Capital Projects Fund

Superintendent Gurgone reported that this was discussed with the Board last week. She explained the summary of the transfer stating that although the balances are relatively small the last 13 years accumulated \$117,727.

Commissioner McGreal moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Durkin to approve RESOLUTION # 2004-05-08, A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING EXCESS FUND BALANCES FROM DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,727 TO THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF THE DARIEN PARK DISTRICT.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Compagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried.

F. Discuss and Approve Lacrosse America Contract

Executive Director Cripe stated that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

G. Discuss and Approve Huskies Hockey Contract

Executive Director Cripe stated that the contract was the same language as the previous contract except for page 3 Section 2.2 regarding automatic rollover. He suggested that the Board may want to strike the paragraph. He stated that Exhibit "A" did not include the Lil Huskies.

Responding to a question Executive Director Cripe reported that Mr. Jim Nolan has reduced the earlier request for an \$85,000 administration fee to \$75,000. Mr. Nolan says that the instructor cost should be \$7,500-\$10,000. Executive Director Cripe stated that he was informed by staff that the instructor fees were paid in the past. He also stated that there is no longer credit for ice and the new contract will be check for check.

Commissioner Campagnolo stated that she had a problem with a lot of the negotiation and that Rocky is part of the agreement. She stated that the Park District is not making a profit margin and that we might be reaching the point of no return. She suggested giving the program back to the Huskies and charging them for ice.

Executive Director Cripe reported that Mr. Nolan stated that the Huskies would take the program back.

Superintendent Gurgone stated that keeping the program in house should be profitable. She stated that she would provide the Board with scenarios by Friday.

Attorney Kreger stated that there has to be someone that will keep the kids coming. He suggested beginning negotiations before January 31st with a notice. He stated that the Park District will have the same rights to terminate as the Huskies.

Executive Director Cripe stated that this signed agreement will allow the Park District the ability to work with the Huskies and look at the 2006-07 seasons and securing a multi year contract.

Commissioner McGreal suggested keeping the 2.2 paragraph so that it sets out the timeframe.

Commissioner Durkin moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Huskies Hockey Club, Inc. Contract.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Durkin, Gillespie, McGreal, Compagnolo, Simester

NAYS: None.

President Durkin declared the motion carried

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

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

President Durkin adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Jack Durkin, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District