

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

October 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

President Jablonski called the meeting to order at 7:01 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: Ray Jablonski, Frank Noverini, James Tikalsky,
Rob Sarocco, Neil Christensen (7:03)

ABSENT: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. September Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the September 2011 Sportsplex financials. She reported that staff anticipates finishing the year on budget.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Advertising in Brochure

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received a request from the NYC and from a traveling group for the District to promote/advertise their programs in the District brochure. She reported that staff surveyed other districts in the area and that the responses varied. She stated that of the District's surveyed, that none of them allowed advertising for free.

President Jablonski questioned if the District can allow advertising to just select groups.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that language would have to be specific.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that he would prefer that only NYC is in the brochure with strictly information about contact information for NYC.

Commissioner Sarocco also agreed to allow NYC but suggested allowing them to advertise the types of leagues offered.

There was more discussion regarding advertising and the Board unanimously agreed to advertise only NYC in the summer brochure, with limited content. They specifically want stated that NYC is not affiliated with the District.

There was also some discussion offering advertising to District affiliate groups such as the Hawks Hockey Club.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff will put together a list of guidelines.

Commissioner Christensen suggested advertising in the center four pages of the brochure for anyone who would like to buy advertising.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff would have to solicit for advertising and she did not think that enough advertising could be sold to cover the cost of the entire brochure. The Board decided to wait and see if other groups express interest before looking at selling additional advertising.

b. Bus Bid

Executive Director Gurgone reported that due to the success of our day trips and camp, that staff has been researching the purchase of a new bus. She reported that the District purchased a bus with Seaspar funds for the EAGLES program equipped with 20 seats and wheelchair accessible. Executive Director Gurgone stated that due to the success of the EAGLES program that the bus is only available in the evenings and on weekends.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that by purchasing a new bus that it could be utilized during the day and for larger groups of approximately 33 passengers and allowing the District to take small trips.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that with the purchase of a bus that there will be two trained staff with CDL's and to hire a school bus driver to drive for the regular trips and for the summer.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that research shows that the cost would range from \$75,000 - \$90,000 and that it would be paid between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years.

There was much discussion on what type of vehicle to purchase.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested looking into purchasing a diesel bus because it will last longer with the intent to keep it 10 -12 years. Executive Director Gurgone stated that we would bid this as an alternate.

Commissioner Christensen stated that until we can resolve the parking issue at the Community Center that he would be opposed to purchasing a bus.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she agreed that there tends to be parking issues but that parking is a long term plan.

Commissioner Christensen stated that parking is not conducive to residents who would like to attend a class and that the Board and staff needs to take this very seriously.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that Monday's tend to be the most crowded and that Westwood parking is also available.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested using the bus to shuttle people from the Westwood parking lot. Commissioner Christensen agreed, and stated that he would be in favor of the bus if we used it for this purpose during special events.

Commissioner Noverini questioned if there was a way to reconfigure the present parking.

Executive Director Gurgone stated we would have to add onto the parking lot to add additional spaces.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested that staff contact the City to put traffic surveyors in the parking lot to get a better calculation.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would contact the City and would speak to staff regarding preliminary plans and costs.

Commissioner Tikalsky questioned if the District would be loaning out the bus.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the bus will not be loaned out except to Seaspar.

3. Admin

a. Seaspar & DPD Tax Levy

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this year the information on reassessment and new construction is not available yet from the Assessor's Office. She stated that as soon as the information is received that she will present it to the Board. She further stated that she intends to have the final ordinance approved at the December 12th meeting and have it on display for 20 days prior to approval. Executive Director Gurgone reported that she will have a draft ready for the November 14th meeting, but that a public hearing will not be necessary because the District will not be balloon levying.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Seaspar's fund reserves are in a good position, so the Seaspar board was able to hold the tax rate the same as last year. She reported that the amount the District will pay went down slightly this year, and this will be included in the Park District Tax Levy.

b. Meeting Bi-laws

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the current Board By-Laws along with a recent agenda. She stated that the agenda format is what has been followed along with incorporating additional Public Comment under New Business. She further stated that staff is suggesting revising the agenda, per Commissioner Tikalsky's recommendation.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that there is an issue with Public Comment under New Business. He stated that as it reads it is listed as an item of New Business, which it is not. Executive Gurgone stated that she would removed this as a New Business item, but the President could still allow public comment at this time.

There was much discussion on where to place general Public Comment. It was decided that Public Comment would be remain at the start of the meeting and that if someone came in late it would be at the discretion of the President to allow comment.

B. Strategic Issues

1. Parks & Facilities

a. Long Term Plans

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Strategic Issues category was added to this agenda for long range items.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff met with Wight & Company regarding the District's fields. She stated that Hinsbrook has issues and Wight has recommendations on what the District can do to make it better and safer. Executive Director Gurgone stated that Hinsbrook needs to be looked at long term.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff also discussed Southgrove. She stated that the District needs a long-term plan for the property because the previous plans are dated. She stated that the Board received a copy of the proposal from Wight and that staff is looking for Board consensus to proceed with the first phase which includes looking at both properties.

It was questioned what lease agreement Hinsbrook had with the District. Superintendent Strickler stated that he would look into it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District

Rob Sarocco, Secretary
Darien Park District