

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

October 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers of the Darien City Hall, 1702 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners and staff were present:

PRESENT: Neil Christensen, James Tikalsky, Frank Noverini, 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, Judith Kolman; Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting. There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. August Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the August Financials.

b. September Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the September Financials.

c. Little Hawks Agreement

General Manager Henderson reported that the Little Hawks Agreement is an extension of the current agreement but will run for three more years.

d. Hawks Office Lease

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this is the agreement with the Hawks Hockey Club for the lease of their office. She reported that staff is recommending keeping the rent the same for the next year.

e. Sportsplex Loan

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this loan has been made in previous years due to the seasonal nature of payments at Sportsplex. She reported that the loan amount is the same or less than the previous years. She further reported that approval would allow the Darien Park District to transfer \$375,000 from the corporate fund operating reserves to the Darien Sportsplex fund for bond payments and to repay as scheduled.

f. State Wars Inline Hockey Contract

General Manager Henderson reported that the contract is for the State Wars Inline Hockey Tournament in August. He reported that the turf will be removed and replaced. General Manager Henderson reported that the turf was going to need to be replaced anyway and that this is a good time to do it. He reported that both ice arenas will also be used. General Manager Henderson stated that this tournament in two years will pay for the turf. He stated that he is presently receiving quotes for turf.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Surplus Equipment Resolution

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this resolution is to remove the Skate Park equipment. She reported that staff is trying to find buyers for the equipment and that he is securing quotes for fencing. She further reported that once there is a buyer staff will move forward with the other items.

Superintendent Strickler reported that there have not been any recent issues at the Skate Park.

b. Hinswood Neighborhood

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she was contacted by the Hinswood Homeowners Association asking that the District explore the possibility of having a long term lease/buy agreement for their property. She reported that the acreage total is about 15 acres and includes three playgrounds, a grass baseball field, two tennis courts, two grass volleyball courts and a sledding hill.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that some of the neighborhood is currently in the Darien Park District and some is not. She reported that the District receives just under \$20,000 in taxes currently and with the remaining residents would generate an additional \$46,000 in tax revenue. She further reported that the majority has to want to join the Park District in order for anything to happen.

Executive Director Gurgone asked the Board if there is interest in taking over the land. She stated that the Homeowners Association is looking for compensation.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that he discussed the scenario with the Executive Director and that he looked at the agreement with Hinsbrook. He stated that many of the properties in Hinswood are close to the parks and that he is concerned that some of the homeowners may not like seeing soccer games in their back yards.

Commissioner Tikalsky questioned if Hinswood incorporates with the City if the District could piggyback.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she was not sure if the residents are even interested in joining the City.

Attorney Kolman stated that she would check on incorporating.

Mr. Tim Banks, Hinswood Homeowners Association stated that he was present to listen to the discussion. He stated that Hinswood approached the District because the area has become an older community and that the parks are under utilized and an asset that the residents would like to share with the community. Mr. Banks stated that the Association is exploring their options and that they have had a lot of groups interested in renting the property.

Superintendent Strickler stated that mowing alone would be \$8500 without maintenance or improvements and would require additional staff. He stated that he looked over the area and that the tennis courts are in good condition but that the baseball fields and volleyball courts are grass and would have to be changed. He further stated that some of the playgrounds are in good condition but that some of the equipment would have to be removed for safety reasons as well as to meet the ADA standards.

Mr. Banks stated that they currently contract out to maintain the parks.

Commissioner Sarocco stated that he likes the idea but that he didn't know how the District could develop it.

Commissioner Noverini asked if the residents who are not in the District even interested.

Mr. Banks stated that there is no sense of urgency and that the subject has been brought up in meetings and if something could be done.

President Christensen stated that he would like Superintendent Strickler to take a closer look at the equipment. He stated that he would like to serve the community without taking on expenses. He further stated that if it is a break even proposition what can the District offer in return. President Christensen stated that he is in favor of looking into this further. The Board agreed.

c. 74th Street Property

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of a map detailing 74th Street that is currently owned by the City and the County. She stated that the properties were purchased to alleviate flooding in the area and that there is a drainage ditch running through the property as well as some trees.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the City is working with the County to have all the properties transferred through an Intergovernmental Agreement and that the City would like to know if the District is interested in the property for future use. She stated that the properties are divided by a street. She further stated that the area is wet and would need to go through the City Engineer before any development took place.

Commissioner Jablonski stated that if it cannot be regraded than nothing can be done in that area. He suggested maybe putting in garden plots but that there is no water there.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the lot was not big enough for one full size soccer field.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that we do not currently have funds to develop the property, and that we should not look at taking on the property right now because we would have to maintain it.

The Board agreed that they were not currently interested in the property.

3. Admin

a. SEASPAR & Tax Levy

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Tax Levy is done each year. She stated that the District has always done a balloon levy, but in the last few years, staff estimates have been very accurate. Executive Director Gurgone stated that once the resolution is passed a public hearing will take place and the appropriate notice published in the newspaper.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District