

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

October 27, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 were present:

PRESENT: Neil Christensen, Nancy Campagnolo, James Tikalsky, Ray Jablonski, Frank Noverini

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

Guests: None

PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS

President Christensen welcomed the guests to the meeting and opened the floor to anyone wishing to present public comment.

There were several concerned citizens in the audience who participate in the Park District's Yoga program. They stated that they were concerned that the present instructor is not returning because of financial reasons and that she is important to them and sensitive to health issues especially for the elderly.

President Christensen stated that his wife also attends Yoga and that she too is disappointed. He explained that the District is looking to expand services and that when staff did a survey of 42 other park districts, each district pays their instructors on an hourly wage versus a per student wage. Of the 42 park districts surveyed, the range was \$11 to \$35 per hour.

President Christensen asked the ladies what they thought was a fair hourly wage and they stated that the upper hourly wage was appropriate.

President Christensen stated that both Yoga instructors were offered \$35.00 per hour which is higher than the highest amount in the survey. He stated that they both turned down the District with one asking for \$65.00 per hour and the other \$85.00 per hour.

He stated that as a Board they are not being unreasonable. He further stated that the Board has to look at what is best for the District.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that none of the instructors at other Districts are paid on a per student basis and that the District felt it was necessary to change to an hourly rate to make it consistent and to give the District flexibility.

President Christensen stated that the District is trying to regain control. He stated that the District would love to keep the instructors but that the demands were unreasonable. Commissioner Campagnolo asked if there was any way that when interviewing to make sure that the concerns expressed were met.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they would and that references will be checked.

President Christensen asked the ladies to try the new instructors and give feedback to staff. He stated that the Board is committed to servicing the public.

A. Alderwoman Sylvia McIvor regarding Garden Plots at Southgrove

Alderwoman McIvor reported that a resident contacted her with the idea to have Garden Plots. She stated that his original idea was at Southgrove park, but he realized this wouldn't be feasible. He then suggested behind the Community Center.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that she explained to the resident that the field behind the building was too far out, where there was no water available.

President Christensen stated that this topic is something that can be placed on the list for short term goals.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that bringing in water would be a large expense, but that the staff could look into getting costs. She further stated that depending on the cost staff could look into applying for a grant.

The Board agreed to look at the idea further.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Christensen reported that he received an email from a resident stating that she was not overly thrilled with the Sportsplex soccer field turning into ice. He stated that Executive Director Gurgone sent a response stating that Darien turned the soccer field to ice because the soccer organizations left Darien and so that Sportsplex does not become a burden on the taxpayers. Commissioner Christensen also stated that the resident was

concerned with priority for DYC and that she was also informed that the DYC was given first priority on times.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she had not received any response.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested sharing the information with the DYC.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Sportsplex

a. Chiller Repairs/Insurance coverage update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there is no update except that PDRMA may send another company out for a second opinion. She further reported that the issue is not over yet.

b. September Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the chiller repairs affected the financials. She further reported that she would provide the Board with a comparison sheet.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. T-Mobile Update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the variation request is on the agenda for the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for Wednesday, November 19th.

b. Fitness Center

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that there are presently 51 members participating in the Fitness Center. She stated that the goal is 300 and that the interest is high only after two months. She further stated that Mr. Tim O'Brien was hired as the Fitness Director and that he begins in two weeks.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested placing a video on Channel 6.

3. Admin

a. DPDCC as early voting site

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that Alderman Poteraske suggested making the Community Center a place for early voting. She reported that after speaking with the Dupage Election Commission, the Community Center is too close to Five Seasons and also a site in Downers Grove.

b. DPD Budget to Actual

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she could answer any questions.

c. Seaspar & DPD Tax Levy

Executive Director Gurgone presented the information and stated that the CPI this year is 4.1% which helps the District. She stated that based on projections, overall there will be a 4.6% increase in taxes and that the District will still do a balloon levy at 20% to be safe.

d. DAPA/DIPI Update & Resolution

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the resolution is the City's sample which is a symbolic resolution stating that the Board is looking to commit to working with other government agencies.

President Christensen stated that he would like to approve the resolution to set the tone for other taxing authorities. The Board agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Neil Christensen, President
Darien Park District

James Tikalsky, Secretary
Darien Park District