

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

October 9, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

PRESENT: Nancy Campagnolo, Frank Noverini, Neil Christensen,
Shari Gillespie, Richard Simester

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, John Murphey; Attorney

Guests: Gloria Anderson, Darien
Jim Cavanaugh, Darien
Christy Cole, Knutte & Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Christy Cole – Knutte & Associates

Ms. Christy Cole, Knutte & Associates presented the Sportsplex financials. She highlighted page three of the report explaining that the end of April reflected a profit over \$200,000 and the end of the year cumulative retained earnings is now at a deficit under \$50,000. Ms. Cole stated that the financials are moving in the right direction and that next year Sportsplex may be in the black. She reported that the numbers remain consistent.

Ms. Cole reported on the Cash Flow Statement on page four of the financials noting that Sportsplex at the end of 2006 showed an increased cash position of \$120,000 from 2005.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the reason for the decrease in revenue from 2005 was due to the leasing out of the concession stand.

Ms. Cole presented the Park District financials stating that all of the major funds were in excess of expenditures and operated in the black. She reported that the General Fund balance was over \$900,000 and that the recommended operating reserve is on the high end. Ms. Cole also stated that the major funds are very strong and that there is \$1.7 million to put towards capital projects.

Ms. Cole reported that Sportsplex is the only fund with a deficit and that this was good because some park districts struggle with other funds.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the audit approval would be discussed under New Business.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received correspondence from Alderman Poteraske asking about the District's intentions for building a recreation center and that he would like the District to consider keeping open green space.

President Campagnolo reported that she received an email from a resident concerning Birchwood Park and a neighbor who is doing landscape work and damaging park property.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the resident is building an in ground swimming pool. He reported that he spoke with the resident and that they guaranteed that the landscaping would be renovated and repaired and that the only way to work on the pool was to go through the park.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she received a call from another resident regarding the pool and damage to the park.

Executive Director Gurgone also informed the residents that dogs need to be on a leash in parks.

OFFICER REPORTS

A. President – No report.

B. Vice President – No report.

C. Secretary – No report.

D. Treasurer – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer's report ending September 30, 2006. He reported that the numbers indicate that the November 1st bond payment will be made without receiving a loan from the District.

Commissioner Simester made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending September 30, 2006.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Simester, Noverini, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Executive Director Gurgone provided an update on the District's progress with PHN Architects regarding plans for a recreation center and development of South Grove Park. She reported that staff is continuing to meet with architects and that staff will bring plans to the Board when they are received.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff discussed Sportsplex issues including financials, a summer recap, cash flow, projects and advertising. She stated that staff also discussed the two field house contracts. She further stated that the Board discussed the contract approval process and clarified that the amounts approved are per year for contracts. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Superintendent Strickler provided an update on Lindenwood Playground and other parks projects including the VFW memorial, asphalt work, and South Grove pond aeration. She reported on the damage that occurred at Darien Community Park as a result of Darien Fest. She further reported that the Board agreed to send a letter to the Chamber to open up discussions for next year's fest.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she provided the Board with an update on the capital projects. She reported that she and Superintendent Deldin provided the Board with the bank proposals received in response to the RFP.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed the appointment of an Ethics Officer for the District and agreed to appoint the District's Attorney into the position. She reported that the Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board discussed the Board Member Policy Manual and agreed to place it on the consent agenda. She reported on the items establishing the consent agenda.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Murphey provided a report on the new changes to the Open Meetings Act effective January 1, 2007. He reported on the law regarding electronic communication and that instant chat or messaging is "Contemporaneous Interactive Communication". Attorney Murphey stated that a Board member can email their position on an item because discussion is eliminated but that messaging or instant chat is not allowed.

Attorney Murphey reported on remote participation and stated the Board will need to develop a policy regarding audio or video conferencing effective January 1, 2007. He stated that remote participation is allowed if there is a quorum present at the meeting and that the person conferencing can do it for 1) Personal illness or disability, 2) Employment travel or at a conference or 3) Family emergency. He further stated that there must be a legitimate reason and conferencing would not be allowed for convenience.

Executive Director Gurgone questioned if a Board member could call in an opinion.

Attorney Murphey stated that this would be acceptable because it is just like any other public comment but that the Board member could not vote.

The Board agreed to place this item on the agenda for discussion at the October Committee Meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the October 23, 2006 Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place at Sportsplex on the second floor in the Chalet Room. She reported that the other Committee Meetings will remain at Marion Hills.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received a call from Tom Sailer, President of the Darien Chamber of Commerce stating that the Chamber would donate a new tree to replace the old tree that was destroyed at Darien Fest. She thanked the Chamber and stated that the tree was a nice gesture.

Executive Director Gurgone read her response to Alderman Poteraske regarding the District building a recreation center and green space.

Commissioner Christensen referred to the recent newspaper articles regarding the recreation center and stated that staff visited a facility in Wood Dale that was built in 2001 for \$4 million. He stated that staff is not naïve and realizes the construction cost increases and that the District is trying to make a good decision. Commissioner Christensen stated that the more the District waits the better financial position. He stated that the District is not precluding Fairview but looking for the best option for the citizens of Darien.

President Campagnolo stated that the District is still looking at all options and in an information gathering process.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Consolidated Election packets are being prepared for the April 17, 2007 Consolidated Election and that candidates can pick up packets and begin circulating petitions November 7th. She stated that there must be at least 55 signatures of Darien Park District voters required on the petitions.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that a trip to the Horseshoe Casino is scheduled for November 17th and is \$25 for residents and \$28 for non-residents including a buffet lunch and \$5 voucher. She stated that the deadline to register is November 3rd.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Hoe-down was a success. She thanked all who helped and for those who attended.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin reported on the Active for Life Program. She stated that this year PDRMA as partnering with the American Cancer Society. Superintendent Deldin stated that there are 11 participating employees that individually receive points for any activities. She stated that she hoped to have double participation next year.

Commissioner Christensen inquired about the new registration software.

Superintendent Deldin stated that staff will be trained the week of November 6th and the system up and running at Sportsplex by the end of November.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported on Lindenwood Park. He stated that the playground, concrete and retaining walls are complete but that he was still waiting for the shelter which would be completed the week of October 23rd. He stated that staff intends to have the dedication on Saturday, November 18th, 2006 at 9:30am.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the work for the VFW memorial has begun with a retaining wall for the flower bed and a sidewalk. He stated that the work should be completed by November 11th.

Superintendent Strickler reported on the Barn progress and stated that he hopes to have the windows completed before Thanksgiving. He reported on Skate Park and stated that he is waiting for one replacement piece for the vandalized equipment, and that the park will be closed on October 31st for the season.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that staff is finishing up the new projects including the walls, bleachers and locker rooms and that all other projects will be completed by October 30th.

General Manager Henderson reported that he is working with an advertising group from Minnesota who will provide free 50" plasma televisions. He stated that the company will solicit advertising to local businesses that the District approves and that under the television will be coupons. He further stated that the TV will be in the lobby. General Manager Henderson stated that they have a 3-year contract with a \$3,000 guarantee or \$9,000 for the three years.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that this would be in addition to the community board.

General Manager Henderson stated that they provide the use of the television for Sportsplex schedules at no expense and it is a way to generate revenue. He stated that he will start with one television and a second possibly near the concession stand.

General Manager Henderson announced an added public skate on Saturdays from 6:20p.m. – 8:20 p.m. until the end of March. He stated that he was trying to schedule a DJ with a them every 6 weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Executive Director Gurgone stated that item E from the consent agenda would be removed so that it may be discussed and voted on under New Business.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Board agreed to appoint the General Counsel for the Park District as Ethics Advisor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Consent Agenda as amended as follows:

Warrants, September 25, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2006 Special Meeting Minutes, Board Member Policy Manual, Contract Approval Limits, Appoint Ethics Advisor.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Noverini, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Downers Grove Roadrunners contract is a 2 year field rental contract for \$21,870.00

A. Audit Report

Discussed.

B. Annual Treasurer's Report

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this report must be published in the newspaper every year. She stated that the report includes the first two pages from the audit report, expenditures and costs.

C. IAPD Resolution.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board needs to appoint a delegate and that staff recommends Executive Director Gurgone, to be appointed as delegate and Assistant Director Katsougris as Alternate.

D. Award Banking Services Resolution

Executive Director Gurgone reported that after the Committee meeting recommendation to pursue Citizen’s Financial, staff reviewed all proposals. In their cover letter, Charter One Bank stated they are willing to waive all banking fees if the District’s total balances are over \$550,000. She reported that after review the District fall into this category. She stated that Charter One will provide the District with an interest rate which is the Federal Funds rate, minus 50 basis points. She further reported that for the month of August the District would have earned an interest rate of 4.75%, compared to 4.45% at Citizen’s Bank.

E. Public Comment (before vote)

Ms. Gloria Anderson asked the status of the Board Member Policy Manual and if the Board was voting on absenteeism.

President Campagnolo stated that the Manual was voted on the consent agenda.

Ms. Anderson questioned if it was retroactive and Commissioner Christensen reported that it was not.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Downers Grove Roadrunners.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Noverini, Simester, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Audit Report.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Noverini, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the Annual Treasurer’s Report.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Noverini, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to approve the IAPD Resolution.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Simester, Christensen, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to award the Banking Services Resolution to Charter One Bank.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Noverini, Simester, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:46 p.m. Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Simester to adjourn to Executive Session under 2(c)1: Discussion of the employment, performance and compensation of the Executive Director and 2(c)21: Review, approval or release of Closed Session Minutes of August 14, 2006, August 26, 2006 and September 25, 2006.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Simester, Noverini, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Executive Director's Employment Agreement as presented.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Christensen, Noverini, Simester, Gillespie, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Simester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District