

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

March 20, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 and staff were present:

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks, Matt Henderson; Sportsplex General Manager, John Murphey; Attorney

GUESTS: Andria Bauer, Darien
Eric Bauer, Darien
Cindy Garcia, Darien
Jean Starshak, Lemont
Donna Carter, Darien
Kristin Hayes, Bolingbrook
Gloria Anderson, Darien
Rob Sarocco, Darien
Bill Carpenter, Darien
Jennifer Duda, *The Doings*

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Ms. Andria Bauer stated that her son Eric has been involved with DYC baseball since 2004. She stated that Eric played on the 12 year old team at age 11 and that she thought he was considered an above average player. Ms. Bauer explained that Mr. Rob Urbanik hand picked players to train at the Perfect Swing and that she felt that this was discriminatory. She stated that she was a single mother and that she has worked very hard to provide for her son. She further stated that when she contacted Mr. Rob Sarocco, DYC President he explained that he would look into the situation but that practices were not sanctioned by the DYC. Ms. Bauer stated that there are different rules for different people and the management of the DYC is doing nothing about it. She stated that she was concerned that the DYC gets free usage of the parks and that they should also be checking the rosters to make sure that 70% of the players are Darien residents. Ms. Bauer stated that she contacted the Perfect Swing and that the employee she spoke with explained to her that the Demons rented the practice time..

Ms. Bauer stated that the Board needs to tell the DYC that they are not doing things the right way and that the DYC is not a private club.

Mr. John Murphey, Attorney explained that the Park District does not get involved with individual decisions.

Ms. Bauer stated that her concern is discrimination and that she talked to an attorney regarding her options to sue the DYC and the Park District. She stated that she is a single mom and that she has not received a lot of respect from the men. She further stated that it is obvious that the community is divided.

President Campagnolo thanked Ms. Bauer and her son Eric for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns.

Mr. Bill Carpenter, Owner, Perfect Swing, DYC stated that a phone call was made to one of his employees and that the person he spoke to was told that they should speak to the owner. He explained that Mr. Ron Urbanik and the parents of the children paid for practice but not for the Demons team. He stated that his employee is not even aware of who the Demons are.

Ms. Bauer stated her business was not with the Perfect Swing but with the DYC and that she had a problem the way it was addressed.

There was some discussion among the audience members and President Campagnolo informed the audience that it was confusing to the Board if there were interruptions.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he did not interrupt Ms. Bauer when she spoke and that he appreciated the same in return. He stated that he would invite the Board to look at the contract. Mr. Carpenter explained that it was never under the Demons team. He stated that the DYC has many single parents and discriminating against Ms. Bauer is ludicrous and not a practice of the DYC.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the DYC maintains all of the fields and that monitoring the 70% resident rule would be great if someone had the time to do it. He stated that the DYC does not have the man power to police activity.

Mr. Carpenter also stated that when Ms. Bauer contacted the Perfect Swing it was recommended that she speak to the owner. He stated that Ms. Bauer spoke to a kid who was extremely nervous and was not aware of the circumstances.

Mr. Rob Sarocco, Darien, DYC President , stated that he apologized to the Board on behalf of the DYC that the Park District has been brought in to the situation.

Ms. Gloria Anderson, Darien stated that at the last meeting that Superintendent Strickler reported that there was a safety recall on the playground equipment. She stated that Superintendent Strickler referenced that Little Tikes is under the umbrella with Miracle and part of the PlayPower Family of Companies. She further stated that when the District is selecting playground equipment she urges the Board to not use this company's playground equipment because they were prone to safety recalls. Ms. Anderson provided the Board with a copy of her findings from the internet from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he was informed of the recall and that staff did what the manufacturer asked.

Mr. Rob Sarocco stated that the DYC would be available if needed in the future regarding any litigation. He again apologized for bringing the Park District into the situation.

President Campagnolo stated that Attorney Murphey has been updated on the situation. She thanked Mr. Sarocco and Mr. Carpenter for addressing Ms. Bauer's concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received correspondence from Mr. Ross Rice that he is working with Kristen Hayes regarding the baseball scheduling. He thanked Superintendent Strickler and his staff stating that they have been very helpful and that he was anxious to use the fields this year.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he would be meeting with Mr. Rice on Thursday.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Long Range Goals

None.

B. Short Range Goals

None.

C. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. Sportsplex Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the Sportsplex financials through February. She stated that the report shows an estimate of where the Sportsplex may be by year end. She further reported that also included were the March 2005 and April 2005 actuals. Executive Director Gurgone stated that the report shows a significant better picture but referenced that they were only estimates. She stated that the year end looks very good and is the best February the Sportsplex has had since 2000.

President Campagnolo questioned what the depreciation would be for the year.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that it would be based on the audit and would be similar to last year.

Commissioner Christensen distributed a Year to Date report. He stated that February was a great month and the Sportsplex is ahead from last year approximately \$100,000 and with debt service approximately \$130,000. He further stated that in prior years there was a deficit and that the Sportsplex is showing an upward trend.

b. Sportsplex Capital Projects 05-06/06-07

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is evaluating projects that need to be done in the building and that the report shows all estimates. She stated that the phone system is high priority and that it is the original system and ten years old. She further stated that she and General Manager Henderson met with the original installer and that staff recommends replacing the system. She reported that the current system cannot be fixed and that new equipment is needed. Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff went with the original installer to keep the costs down. She stated that if a new company does the work it would a lot more money because they would have to replace everything.

General Manager Henderson stated that the present system is not used the way it was designed to be. He stated that over the last four years there have been continuous calls and instead of switching to voice mail the front desk has handled the calls. He further stated that the system has surpassed its life expectancy and that it could stop working at any time.

President Campagnolo questioned if any other quotes were received.

General Manager Henderson stated that installer knows the system and that working with a new company could be \$40,000 - \$50,000 for a new system.

Commissioner Christensen questioned how often the system is serviced.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the present company has provided great service. She stated that because the system is old it has been serviced more often but that they are always accommodating and try to keep the costs down. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the phones at Marion Hills were also done by the same company.

Commissioner Simester recommended getting two additional quotes.

President Campagnolo stated that she preferred to see other quotes because the District never purchased a system at Sportsplex and it would not be a bad idea to check the price.

Commissioner Christensen stated that timing is critical and that he would not object to an amount not to exceed for the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the biggest issue currently at Sportsplex is that the building is short staffed. She stated that although it can be done, it is extremely time consuming for staff to meet with other companies and that she preferred that the General Manager spend time booking the Sportsplex.

President Campagnolo stated that phone systems would be hard to compare.

Superintendent Strickler stated that it will be difficult to seek a quote that will compare. He stated that the price will be two times higher because a new company will have to install a new system, wires, etc. tearing out all of the old and using their own equipment which could cost \$40,000 to \$50,000. Superintendent Strickler stated that the price of the current installer is very economical.

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that the Marion Hills system is 13 years old and that the same installer did the work at 802 Plainfield.

Commissioner Christensen stated that he was comfortable with the quote if staff was confident. President Campagnolo agreed.

Commissioner Noverini stated that he put in five lines and twelve phones at his company approximately three years ago and it was \$12,000 - \$13,000.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the Sportsplex lines and phones are significantly higher.

The Board agreed to place the phone system purchase on the consent agenda.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a list of capital projects but that the list will continually change and that the Board will be updated monthly.

There was some discussion regarding the tables at Sportsplex.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if there have been any discussion with Gunzo's regarding moving offices.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Gunzo's is ready to move whenever staff is ready.

General Manager Henderson reported that there are glass dividers and hardware stored at the barn.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he and General Manager Henderson looked at the materials and that he would like to get the materials out of the barn. He reported that the storage area upstairs at Sportsplex is somewhat restricted because there is plumbing in the way.

General Manager Henderson stated that GetFast is in a restructuring mode gearing towards hockey and that they may be looking to put in a shooting gallery. He stated that this is a way to lease the space. He further stated if not, it could still be used for storage.

President Campagnolo stated that the stored glass always is an issue every year and that she would like to see something done.

Commissioner Gillespie questioned the possibility of putting in cardio equipment.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he would measure the area to determine the amount of space.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that it appears that the glass will not be useful.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he would contact the manufacturer and find out if there is a market for the glass.

General Manager Henderson stated that he would speak to GetFast to see what their needs are.

President Campagnolo stated that she liked to see it as a lease to generate revenue.

Commissioner Christensen questioned the scissor lift lease cost.

General Manager Henderson stated that the scissor lift is old, unsafe and 25 years old. He stated that the three year lease is a lease to own. He further reported that he was in contact with someone who may want to purchase one of the inline floors.

c. Operations Manager Job Description

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the job description for the Operations Manager. She stated that the position will help reduce some of the contractual services and preventative maintenance. She further reported that presently any maintenance issues are outsourced. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the position is budgeted for this year and that it is needed. She stated that the position will be responsible for hands on repairing.

President Campagnolo stated that the labor alone from Trane was \$9,000 and that the position would be a reduction of at least \$20,000.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Trane contract is still needed because a person for the position is not in place.

Commissioner Christensen questioned the position authority and chain of command.

General Manager Henderson stated that this position would be the contact person in the absence of the General Manager.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there is not a clear chain of command at Sportsplex but that staff is working on a chart which is not yet complete. She stated that the biggest affect of the position will not be visible until next year.

President Campagnolo questioned the time frame for hiring.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the Board could approve the job description at the next Board meeting and accept resumes through the end of April and hire someone no later than July 1st.

General Manager Henderson stated that he would still be looking to hire an ice person in the future.

Executive Director Gurgone agreed and stated that it would be part of the restructuring.

President Campagnolo questioned the timing and if Trane would be interested in a 6 month lease.

Superintendent Strickler stated that Attorney Murphey needed to review the contract because there were timing related issues.

General Manager Henderson stated that having a contract with Trane is not a bad idea until the Operations Manager is hired and familiar with the facility.

It was agreed to place the Operations Manager position on the consent agenda.

d. Little Hawks Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that instead of paying a set fee the District proposed to the Little Hawks 50% of the profits after direct expenses.

Commissioner Simester asked when the 50/50 split would occur. He recommended that some type of adjustment be done after the session.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the split would be 15 days after registration ends for each session. She stated that because the Hawks are new and do not have the cash flow there will need to be some type of adjustment. She further stated that there will be something written into the contract.

The Board agreed to place the Little Hawks contract on the consent agenda.

e. High School Contracts

Executive Director Gurgone reported that General Manager Henderson provided the Board with a list of high school contracts for approval at the April Board meeting.

General Manager Henderson reported that there is a slight increase in the Hinsdale South High School from \$20,000 last year to \$23,000 this year. He reported that Hinsdale Central added ice from last year from \$17,000 to approximately \$28,000.

General Manager Henderson reported that Lyons Township increased ice time from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and the ISHL with a \$5,000 increase.

Commissioner Christensen questioned why the one year contract.

General Manager Henderson reported that he is not sure what is going on with the league. He stated that he is working with Fenwick and Lemont and that Montini secured one night per week and approximately \$8,000. He reported that the Hawks will utilize the left over ice and that he would work on small contracts to fill the ice.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff discussed securing a 3 year contract with Montini after what happened in the past. She stated that any contracts exceeding \$10,000 would be brought to the Board.

It was agreed to place the high school contracts on the consent agenda.

f. ISHL Contract

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board approved Option A at the last meeting. She reported that any other groups other than Hinsdale South, Hinsdale Central and Lyons Township will pay \$295 for next year. She further reported that the Hawks pricing can also be reviewed next year and that the Hawks and high schools will be consistent.

Commissioner Christensen stated that \$295 on the weekend is a great deal.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if the ice does not go to the ISHL it will go to the Hawks who pays a lower rate. She stated that the ISHL has been a customer of the building and if both say no it will be something to discuss for the future.

Commissioner Christensen stated that Hinsdale South played all away games and Metro West League may be interested in buying some weekend ice so Hinsdale South can play some home games.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if the ISHL takes the ice there will not be anything for Metro to take.

President Campagnolo announced that there was a rumor circulating that the Park District Board is considering taking the rink out of Sportsplex and converting it to a soccer field. She stated that this is not an option that would be considered and the rumor was untrue.

President Campagnolo questioned the status of Nordic Energy.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Nordic Energy is paid and on board and that they are working on the artwork. She stated that there will be four boards and the revenue reflecting in the February financials.

g. Trane Contract

The Board agreed to place the Trane contract on the consent agenda.

2. Parks and Recreation

a. LADSE Lease for Marion Hills

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the Board received the new lease for LADSE new school year. She reported that the contract is identical to last year. She stated that LADSE was looking for additional space but that she informed them that there was no room available.

The Board agreed to place the LADSE lease on the consent agenda.

b. Skate Park Equipment/Erosion Control

Superintendent Strickler reported that he met with the City of Darien regarding a possible solution to correct the water that sits on the bottom of the basin. He stated that the solution includes cutting in water drains and backfill with gravel and draining from the south to the north. He stated that they would then regrade and reseed.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he will be meeting with two contractors for costs and that one of the companies suggesting digging an additional 4 inches to put in soil and seed so grass will grow and water will still drain.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the proposal is not fully completed but that the planting of natural wildflowers is not an option. He stated that grass versus flowers may be better if it works. He further stated that he would report on the costs by the April Board meeting.

Ms. Gloria Anderson, Darien questioned the weed control and potential for cracking the pipes underneath.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the area would be maintained like any of the other parks using weed killer.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this would be placed on the April Board meeting agenda under old business.

Commissioner Gillespie reported that the Board received an original quote to completely finish the skate park with suggested price quotes. She stated that until staff knows the amount for the erosion control a decision cannot be made.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that if the quotes were received they would be forwarded to the Board prior to the April Board meeting.

c. Meyers Barn

Superintendent Strickler reported that the upstairs area at the barn is empty and that the Save the Barn Committee has a lot of ideas on what to do with the barn. He stated that Superintendent Strickler is meeting with the Committee at the end of the month and needed direction on how to utilize the space.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the lower floor is where the glass and summer equipment is stored. He stated that the upstairs is unsafe and some areas of the floor are rotten. He further stated that he contacted an architectural firm to provide a structural opinion of the floor. Superintendent Strickler stated that the Save the Barn Committee wants to put down a new floor. He stated that he wanted to put down a floor but use it for storage.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District would like to use it for storage and that the Committee wants to use it for other things. She stated that most of the work done to date has been on the exterior.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that as long as it being used for storage there is not a choice.

President Campagnolo stated that she did not think that the Committee is ready for anything short term because they do not have the funding. She stated that the short term goal for the District is to use it for storage. President Campagnolo stated that a long term goal could be to resurrect a joint maintenance facility with the City and move the stored equipment.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that a lot of money would need to be spent to bring the barn up to code for any future programs or events held at the barn and that at this point it was not realistic.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he would be meeting with PDRMA at the end of the week and will speak with them regarding the barn. He stated that the architectural report will determine what can be stored with a new floor. He reported that the cost of the report would not exceed \$3,000 to analyze the upper floor in the barn.

The Board agreed to place the architectural report not to exceed \$3,000 on the consent agenda.

d. Park Project Updates

Superintendent Strickler reported that he provided the Board with the pricing of all four quotes. He stated that staff could do the wall in house and save the District between \$12,000 - \$14,000. He further stated that he would be meeting with Unilock to get the costs on the materials.

Superintendent Strickler stated that all of the four companies were highly recommended. He reported that he was recommending George's Landscaping because they were substantially less. He further reported that the work would be done this fiscal year.

3. Administration

a. Letter to the Editor

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the City recently wrote a letter to the Suburban Life regarding Lane Kelly's articles. She reported that over the last six months that Mr. Kelly has also misquoted the District and recommended sending a letter to the editor from the Board stating that Mr. Kelly's reporting is not accurate. She stated that his reporting can seriously impact the District.

President Campagnolo stated that Mr. Kelly is misrepresenting the facts.

The Board agreed to direct Executive Director Gurgone to send a letter to editor of the Suburban Life. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would email the letter to the Board prior to going to the press.

b. Volunteer recognition for 5/8 meeting

Assistant Director Katsougris stated that she provided the Board with a list of volunteers over the last year. She asked for others that would be included on the list. Assistant Director Katsougris stated that volunteers will be invited to the 5/8 meeting and presented with a certificate and a small reception. She stated that staff is recommending giving the youths water bottles and the adults coffee tankers.

Executive Director Gurgone recommended doing this annually.

c. Establish Consent Agenda for 4/10 Meeting

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Sportsplex Phone System, the Trane Contract, Operations Manager Job Description, Little Hawks Contract, High School Contracts, IHSL Contract, the LADSE Lease, the Architectural Report for Meyers Barn and the Skate Park Erosion would be placed on the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Richard Simester, Secretary
Darien Park District