

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

September 10, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in 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 were present:

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

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: Stan Niemiec, Darien
Steve Kowynia, Darien
Matt Corso, SEASPAR
Jacklyn Swidergal, Darien
John Swidergal, Darien
Alex Pehas, Darien
Chris Pehas, Darien
Diana Pehas, Darien
Rebecca Berman, Darien
Lindsay Maddox, Darien
Danny Maddox, Darien
Terri Maddox, Darien
Allen Rosete, Darien
Terry Whaley, Darien
Nancy Brown, Darien
Bridget Brown, Darien
Julie Spaargaren, Darien

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

A. Recognition of SEASPAR Special Olympics Athletes

President Campagnolo welcomed and recognized seven SEASPAR Special Olympic Athletes. Mr. Matt Corso, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation for SEASPAR along with President Campagnolo presented the athletes with a plaque and a sweatshirt.

At 7:12 p.m. President Campagnolo announced that there would be a break to meet the athletes and a short reception.

B. Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Commissioners of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois, to sell bonds not to exceed \$7,500,000.

President Campagnolo opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m. She announced that the public hearing was to receive public comments on the proposal to sell not exceed \$7,500,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) for the purpose of defraying the cost of improving the "Sportsplex" facility, generally located at 451 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois, owned and operated by the District, renovating the building previously known as the "Fairview School" to allow said building to be used for its current purpose as the "Darien Park District Community Center," generally located at 7301 Fairview Avenue, Darien, Illinois owned and operated by the District, and providing for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, and for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, and for payment of the expenses incident thereto.

President Campagnolo explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony.

Mr. Stan Niemiec, Darien asked for a breakdown of the purposes for the issue and the timeframe for a referendum.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the purposes are for improving Sportsplex and adding a third sheet of ice for approximately \$2 million, to renovate the Community Center building for approximately \$4.5 million and for general items for approximately \$1 million. She stated that the District is still determining the final costs for all of the projects.

Attorney Murphey explained that there is a provision in the law which allows the District to issue these bonds without going to a referendum. He stated that the notice was published in the newspaper on September 5th and if a taxpayer desired, they could solicit petitions to call for an election.

Mr. Niemiec asked how many signatures were needed for the petition.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that 1,162 signatures or 7 ½ % of registered voters of the Darien Park District were needed.

She explained that the District anticipates that the third sheet of ice at Sportsplex will pay for itself with the revenues of the rink. Commissioner Christensen stated that if the third sheet of ice performs like the other two that there will be additional revenue.

Mr. Niemiec questioned if there is a demand for ice.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the soccer fields have a high season from mid October through March 1st. He stated that the ice is busy year round.

Mr. Niemiec asked if there are enough people to justify the third sheet.

President Campagnolo stated that the District has a commitment from many clubs looking to expand. She stated that the Chicago Hawks can buy additional ice at Sportsplex instead of buying ice from another rink. She stated that high schools are also interested in more ice. She stated that the Board feels confident that third sheet of ice will be utilized.

President Campagnolo explained that the ice revenue net profit is \$478,000 per rink versus the field revenue net profit of \$225,000 and that the numbers show a win/win scenario. She stated that there have been several discussions with the DYC and staff and although one field will be eliminated it will benefit the DYC. She further stated that the President of the DYC was in the audience and that he is in full support of the third sheet of ice proposal.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the District was unable to get commitments from the current soccer users and that they are committed to go elsewhere. He stated that the District has to look at how best to generate dollars so that the taxpayers are not impacted. He further stated that the tax rate will not increase.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the District has the ability to issue \$900,000 per year for bonds for capital purposes and that the last two years has been for paying off old bonds. He stated that the bonds proposed to be issued are within the District's debt limit.

Mr. Niemiec asked how the funds to purchase Fairview will fit into this scenario.

Executive Director Gurgone explained that there was \$1.8 million paid out of capital reserves as a down payment for Fairview. The District will pay \$150,000 year for the next 10 years, which will also come out of the District's existing debt rate. She stated that there will not be an increase in the tax rate.

Mr. Tony Lopez, President DYC stated that he met with staff and discussed the third sheet of ice and how it will impact the DYC. He stated that he had a good understanding and felt that the third sheet of ice will benefit the DYC.

President Campagnolo stated that at the last Committee Meeting that a resident was concerned that the District was doing a disservice to the DYC. Mr. Lopez stated that the DYC has been competing with the leagues and tournaments for field time at Sportsplex. He stated that the concerned resident did not contact the DYC.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the slate is open for DYC to choose field time for the future.

President Campagnolo stated that the resident painted a picture that the DYC is in dire straits and asked why the District is not taking over or helping.

Mr. Lopez stated that before he assumed the President position that there were misconceptions. He stated that the slate is clean and that he has had constant contact with staff at the District. He further stated that the DYC is well rounded and can offer benefits to the community by working with the District serving the community and the children.

Mr. Lopez stated that the DYC has an upgraded website and new uniforms. He stated that parents are excited about the changes and that the DYC is asking parents to help. He further stated that he is also in the process of working with the basketball director on upgrading the basketball uniform.

Mr. Lopez introduced his three sons and showed the audience the new uniforms.

Mr. William Repole, stated that he was the concerned resident who attended the Committee meeting. He stated that the elimination of one soccer field eliminates the opportunity for the District to sign contracts. He further stated that that the math did not work for him.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the DYC will still pay for their field time and that other groups will continue to rent on the other days and nights. She stated that there are clubs that are still willing to buy time and a lot of groups that are looking for three year contracts. Executive Director Gurgone stated that once the DYC determines what they want, the other time will be sold to the other groups.

President Campagnolo stated that there are interested parties but no contracts signed until a decision for one field or two has been decided.

Mr. Repole stated that he did not reference that the DYC was in dire straits. He asked if there was a timeline for the third sheet of ice.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the third sheet of ice should be done in 9 months from start to finish.

There was no one else wishing to present public comment.

At 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Jablonski moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to close the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Jablonski, Tikalsky, Christensen, Noverini, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Campagnolo reported that she received correspondence from Mr. William Repole who spoke with General Manager Henderson regarding batting cages as a good idea for the DYC.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received correspondence from a resident concerned about the handicapped spaces at Sportsplex and that the paint has worn off the parking lot. She reported that although the paint is worn that the signage is very visible and that the District is holding off on the parking lot until the third sheet of ice is determined. She reported that staff will address this issue at a future time.

OFFICER REPORTS

- A. President** – President Campagnolo asked residents to fly their flags to honor those who lost their lives on September 11th.
- B. Vice President** – No report.
- C. Secretary** – No report.
- D. Treasurer** – Commissioner Christensen presented the Treasurer’s report ending August 31, 2007.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending August 31, 2007.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Tikalsky, Campagnolo, Christensen, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Murphey reported on a change in the law and modification to the Open Meetings Act. He reported that the legislature amended the Open Meetings Act and two members can now discuss the business of the Board.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she continues to meet with the architects and engineers to finalize the plans for both the Community Center and Sportsplex. She stated that the drawings for Sportsplex should be available for discussion at the September 24th Committee Meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she is working with the City staff on the joint maintenance facility. She stated that the idea is to put money in both budgets for next year for architecture fees.

B. Assistant Director

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the next trip is scheduled for Thursday, September 27th to Horseshoe Casino with dinner at Phil Schmidt's. She reported that the fee is \$49 for residents and \$54 for non-residents and the deadline to register is September 17th.

Assistant Director Katsougris also announced that a trip is planned for Thursday, October 11th to Pottawatomie Bingo & Casino which includes an all-you-can-eat buffet and a \$10 voucher. She stated that the deadline for registration is October 4th and the fee is \$29 for residents and \$34 for non-residents. She further stated that there is a waiting list for Hello Dolly on Sunday, October 21st.

Assistant Director Katsougris announced that the Outdoor Flea Market will be held on Saturday, September 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Darien Community Park.

C. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Deldin reported that the annual financial audit will be presented at the October Board Meeting.

D. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff is still mowing grass and that staff will mow the parks once a week.

Commissioner Christensen questioned if there was any damage to Darien Community Park after Darienfest.

Superintendent Strickler stated that so far the damage reported is minimal.

E. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Henderson reported that the majority of the fall ice programs started this weekend. He stated that the Hawks numbers are the same from last year and that they cannot grow unless there is more ice.

General Manager Henderson reported that the Health Department reviewed the concessions and that a few upgrades are necessary due to Code changes. He stated that the upgrades have been addressed and that the concessions should be operating by the end of the week.

President Campagnolo congratulated General Manager Henderson on the birth of his new baby girl.

Commissioner Christensen suggested having a Committee Meeting at Sportsplex later in the fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for consent agenda)

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tikalsky moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

Warrants, August 13, 2007, Special Committee Meeting Minutes, August 13, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes, Metro West Hockey Contract and the SEASPAR Joint Agreement Resolution.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Tikalsky, Noverini, Christensen, Jablonski, Campagnolo

NAYS: None

President Campagnolo declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Christensen moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Nancy Campagnolo, President
Darien Park District

Ray Jablonski, Secretary
Darien Park District