

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

**November 28, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Campagnolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Dick Simester,  
Shari Gillespie

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director,  
Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks

**GUESTS:** Jean Starshak, Darien  
Donna Carter, Darien  
Gloria Anderson, Darien  
Lane Kelley, *Suburban Life*  
*Parents of Juveniles Involved in Vandalism*  
*Juveniles Involved in Vandalism*

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS**

President Campagnolo welcomed the guests to the meeting.

**A. DCP Shelter Roof**

A juvenile, Darien stated that she was present at the meeting regarding the roof top damage at Community Park. She stated that she was sincerely apologetic for the damage that was done.

President Campagnolo thanked her and stated that she was under the impression that there were three offenders.

The juvenile stated that there were three offenders but that one of the individuals was not present.

The parents of the youths were present at the meeting. They expressed concern for the amount of the roof repairs and that they were not in agreement in conjunction with the damage that was caused. The parents provided the Board with photos and a quote of another roofing inspector service and stated that they wanted to discuss with the Board a fair amount.

The juvenile stated that they removed five or six shingles and that the other area in question was already damaged.

Commissioner Simester explained that the Park District did not have any money in the budget for reconstruction or improvement but that the damage done to the roof is forcing the District to repair the roof and the lower section.

The parents stated that it appeared that there was much more damage to the roof other than what the children had destroyed.

President Campagnolo stated that staff provided the Board with a quote from Roof Tech Systems Company and that this was the lowest bid of three. She explained that the quote was broken down and the price quoted at \$1,845 to tear off the existing roofing install under layment and replace the shingles. President Campagnolo explained that the wood repairs were separated. She stated that the roof repair was not something that the District anticipated and that the repairs would have been budgeted five years down the road to replace the roof.

The parents questioned how the removal of the shingles related to the other damage.

President Campagnolo stated that the issue is not simple because the entire roof has to be removed to start over. She explained that the District had a police report that the children were seen removing shingles and it is unknown how many were removed.

The parents stated that the officer was a witness for them and he informed them that there were 10 shingles removed at the most. They stated that they should not be responsible for more than what was damaged. They further stated that the police officer was protecting their interest as taxpayers.

President Campagnolo stated that it was unfortunate but the police officer did not include anything in his statement to the Park District.

The parents stated that they did not receive a copy of the police report. Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would provide a copy of the police report.

The juvenile stated that the pictures show more shingles removed than what they removed. She stated that they did not see any bare wood when the shingles were removed.

President Campagnolo stated that the police officer's statement is hearsay and that there is no documented proof to back the statement. She stated that the Board has to deal with the facts.

The parents questioned the actual location of the shingles and how many were removed. They stated that they were being charged for damage which was caused by someone else.

President Campagnolo stated that they have a police report that documented four minors tearing off shingles and that they have the right to request reimbursement for the repair of the roof. She stated that the Board agreed to divide the cost of the roof and that the District would pay for the remainder. She further stated that the parents are responsible for reimbursing the Park District for the damage that their children caused to the roof.

The parents stated that they attended the meeting so that the Board could listen to them and reconsider after hearing all of the facts. They stated that they were unclear how the quote they received stated that the repairs could be done for approximately \$800 - \$900. They further stated that they want to pay an amount that would satisfy the Board but not for the entire roof.

There was some discussion regarding the exact location of the damage. The juvenile stated that they removed the shingles near the east wing and that the hole near the top was not done by them.

The parents stated that they agreed that the community should not have to pay for the damage but that they were being taken advantage of and were being forced to pay for damage that their children did not do. He stated that it was not clear what section was damaged.

President Campagnolo stated that there was no verifiable proof of what the children did or did not do.

Superintendent Strickler stated that he received three quotes and all three agreed on the same repair work. He stated that the work in question is for the big section and that the parents were referring to the wing.

President Campagnolo stated that regardless of the section or wing it appeared that the contractors indicated that the repairs were all similar.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the City Code requires that if there are two or more shingles they must be repaired and removed. He stated that all three roofers quoted the same. Superintendent Strickler stated that the other quote shows putting shingles on top of shingles to make a repair.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the quote obtained by the parents indicates that it would be difficult to find a roofer to do the work for \$250.

Commissioner Noverini asked the minors how many shingles they removed. The juvenile stated that they removed three or four shingles.

Commissioner Noverini questioned why.

The juvenile stated that there were other kids removing shingles and they didn't get in trouble. She also stated that it seemed like fun.

Commissioner Noverini stated that the minors needed to take responsibility and that he wanted to know more about the exact location of the damage.

President Campagnolo stated that the children were caught and that there is no proof shown as to how much damage they did and what was existing. She stated that the children vandalized public property that belongs to every taxpayer in the City of Darien and that the argument is not justified. President Campagnolo stated that because the damage was done by minors the parents are held financially responsible for the damage and that the burden of proof is on the parents.

The parents stated that the officer informed them that he would make sure that the Park District was aware that there was damage on the roof prior to the incident.

President Campagnolo stated that all they have is a police report.

A parent questioned when the roof was last replaced.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the roof was repaired in 1996 and a second roof put on.

President Campagnolo informed the parents that the Board had the option of pressing charges because there was vandalism but that they chose to ask for reimbursement instead. She stated that the Commissioners represent the taxpayers and that the Board had difficulty going to the taxpayers to ask them to pay for repairs for something that they did not do.

President Campagnolo stated that at the last Committee Meeting the Board decided on \$615 per family. She asked if any Commissioner had a change of heart.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that maybe there was a question on the exact location and that Superintendent Strickler had a slightly different quote.

The parents stated that they agree that their children were in the wrong but that they were paying for damage that was done by someone else.

President Campagnolo stated that the Board engaged in much conversation at the last Committee Meeting and what would be fair. She stated that if the parents believed that they were being asked for too much was an insult to the character of the Board of Commissioners.

The parents referenced the police officer's statement and that he was the proof.

President Campagnolo questioned why the police officer was not present at the meeting. A parent stated that President Campagnolo stated that she would not listen because he did not work for the Park District.

President Campagnolo stated that she never stated that she would not listen.

A parent asked how a quote could be given on a section that was unknown. He questioned if anyone inspected the roof in the last year.

Commissioner Gillespie stated that she would feel more comfortable knowing the exact location.

President Campagnolo stated that this incident goes back to July. She stated that the parents could have been charged a percentage of the entire damage which is close to \$5,000.

The juvenile stated that the diagram from the police report is not the area where the shingles were removed.

President Campagnolo recapped the meeting. She stated that because there is no proof by either party she would recommend reducing the per family cost to \$300 and that the three older youths write a 1,000 word essay entitled "How the Darien Park District Serves Their Residents". She stated that the essay should be on loose leaf paper double spaced and written neatly in cursive. She stated that the other young lady should write a 500 word essay neatly printed.

The Board unanimously agreed on the recommendation.

President Campagnolo stated that the essays are due on December 31, 2005 and payment due as stated before on November 30, 2005. She stated that she appreciated that the youths came to the meeting. She further stated that she hoped that this incident was a learning experience and the seriousness of vandalism. President Campagnolo stated that the District will have to use funds to fix the roof and that some park will suffer because of this incident. She urged the youths to not do this again.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **COMMITTEE TOPICS**

### **A. Long Range Goals**

None.

### **B. Short Range Goals**

None.

### **C. Operational Issues**

#### **1. Sportsplex**

##### **a. Sportsplex Financials**

Executive Director Gurgone reported on the Sportsplex Financials through October. She reported that the total revenues are \$222,000 which is higher than in 2004 and 2003.

Executive Director Gurgone referenced page five of the report and noted that the Precision Team had low enrollment and that some of the ice time has been given back to the contract skaters.

President Campagnolo questioned if the skaters were given back the times that they wanted.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that they have not been given everything they wanted but the revenue has not suffered. She stated that some of the girls were unhappy but they will try to work with them and give them more time back next year.

Executive Director Gurgone referenced page six of the report and the public skate numbers were good. She reported that Hinsdale South is returning to the Sportsplex with a gym class.

President Campagnolo inquired if there was any interest from the junior high schools.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that they would look into working with the junior high schools.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she spoke with Mr. Joe Pedota, President Huskies Hockey Club and that the Huskies have a board meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that hopefully she would have more information to report on after their meeting.

President Campagnolo questioned how ice will be booked for next fall.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she did not foresee it as an issue and that there are always people looking for ice every day.

Commissioner Simester questioned if the public skates were profitable.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that they are not very profitable but that it is a nice thing to offer the residents. She stated that if they have the public skate consistently the numbers will get higher.

President Campagnolo questioned the field house and that only 10% of the revenue was collected.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the fall soccer leagues were less than last year but that a lot of the money comes in January and the expenses go down. She

stated that she hoped to see more field time rented and that the numbers should be close to what is budgeted.

President Campagnolo inquired how the concessions were doing.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that \$3,000 was received in September. She reported that she will get a good number after November and December.

## **2. Parks and Recreation**

### **a. Updates on Holly Park, South Grove, Meyers Barn**

Superintendent Strickler reported that the electric at Holly Park has been repaired and that he is looking into additional landscaping in the future. He reported that he is waiting for the third quote from a tree company to remove the three trees at South Grove. Superintendent Strickler reported that the trees are on the District's property but that they stretch over the homes. He stated that he will be contacting PDRMA because this could be a safety issue and could help with some of the costs.

Superintendent Strickler reported that the staff is working in the Barn and have reorganized the downstairs except for the Sportsplex glass.

### **b. Other**

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that the State Fire Marshall visited the preschool as part of the DCFS certification and they recommended the installation of smoke detectors in the preschool rooms. She stated that the rooms are equipped with heat sensors and that the Code was changed three years ago but the previous inspector never asked for the smoke detectors. She further stated that the State Fire Marshall's Office would like to see them installed within 30 days.

## **3. Administration**

### **a. PDRMA**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she attended the annual Health Program Council meeting for PDRMA. She reported that the Board received a summary of the monthly health insurance costs for the District. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the increase from 2005-2006 is 10% for the same plan assuming the same people. She reported that last year the increase was 3% but the average over two years was about 5%. Executive Director Gurgone noted the deductible changes for prescriptions and that the changes to the plan are good and make sense. She stated that staff was recommending to stay with the same plan and to place it on the consent agenda.

### **b. DYC**

Executive Director Gurgone provided the Board with information regarding the DYC. She reported that she contacted Mr. Rob Sarocco, DYC President to schedule a meeting to discuss the numbers. She referenced that there were three issues.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the DYC paid rent for a room at Marion Hills. She stated that the DYC was not renewing the new contract and to the present the room remains 75% full. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the DYC paid rent in August but not in September and that the old lease expires October 20<sup>th</sup>. She stated that they are behind in rent through November 30<sup>th</sup> and that they will continue to owe rent until the room is useable.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the front desk handled late registrations in the past to fill forms and take payments and that a \$5 fee was instituted. She stated that now the front desk does nothing with the forms and that the amount outstanding for spring baseball registration is \$765. She further stated that there appears to be some miscommunication.

Commissioner Simester questioned if the staff still handles the calls.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the coaches are responsible for their teams but that the residents call the District because it is easier.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the third issue is the room rentals at Marion Hills. She explained that while the DYC had a lease they were never charged room rental and that all other groups pay a fee. She questioned if they should be charged because they are not continuing their lease.

Commissioner Noverini questioned the room rental fee.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that they would be charged \$10 per hour. She stated that the DYC may have other options but in the past they used Marion Hills for the draft.

President Campagnolo stated that she was concerned with sending a wrong message. She asked Executive Director Gurgone to be fair and communicate the message clearly.

There was some discussion regarding the pricing of what community groups pay for room rental.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she would have a recommendation at the December Board meeting after meeting with the DYC.

**c. Darien Fest**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that all requests were submitted to the Chamber of Commerce but that the Chamber Board has not had a meeting. She reported that seven community groups all received the same donation amount. She stated that she would provide the Board with the profit and loss statement once it has been received.

**d. Other**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the State's Attorney's order was signed. She stated that Attorney Murphey recommended posting it on the website. She reported that notices were posted canceling the December 19<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting.

**e. Establish Consent Agenda for 12/12 Meeting**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the PDRMA rates would be added to the consent agenda. She stated that the room rental rates would be listed under Old Business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Gloria Andersen questioned why it was taking so long to receive payment from the NYC.

Assistant Director Katsougris reported that an invoice is mailed to the NYC every month.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that since the change in the NYC Board there is a dispute in the records. She stated that she would hopefully have more answers before the December meeting.

**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 8:40 p.m.

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Nancy Campagnolo, President  
Darien Park District

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Richard Simester, Secretary  
Darien Park District