

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

February 27, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Sarocco 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: Rob Sarocco, Ray Jablonski, Frank Noverini, Cathy Marchese, Neil Christensen

ABSENT: None

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Matt Henderson; Director of Parks and Recreation, Della Deldin, Superintendent of Finance; Blake Ertmanis; Superintendent of Parks, Jordan Rossi; Sportsplex General Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

Luanne Spiros and Joseph Marchese were present.

Alderman Joseph Marchese stated that he was asked by the Lions Club to ask the District to host a Community Block Party in conjunction with the Darien Dash. He stated that they are asking that the event be held in Hinsbrook Park and that they will be asking the Chamber to change the route of the race.

Alderman Marchese stated that he will find out more specifics regarding electrical needs, parking, etc. if the District is open to the idea.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that parking is the biggest issue.

Alderman Marchese stated that the club discussed holding the event at Community Park but that they wanted to do it in conjunction with the race.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that parking is not an issue for District but could be one for the Police.

Commissioner Jablonski suggested Mark Delay for parking.

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that there is power at Community Park but none at Hinsbrook.

Alderman Marchese stated that he will speak to the Lions Club to get more details.

Alderman Marchese reported that the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 23rd at Eisenhower Junior High and that they are looking for representation from the Park District for the Pancake Eating Contest.

Alderman Marchese reported that the Lions Club will be awarding Chris Katsougris with the Humanitarian of the Year Award. He reported that there will be a Dinner, City Council Proclamation and a brick at the park. He congratulated Chris for her award.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. January Financials

Executive Director Gurgone provided the Sportsplex financial reports for January. She reported that Commissioner Christensen provided an additional handout.

Commissioner Christensen reported that he has tracked the last 12 years month by month and Year to Date and that the numbers are not too far off from a year ago and that the numbers are favorable from a financial standpoint.

b. Sportsplex Rental Rates

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff is proposing rate increases for some of the groups not under contract and also an increase for high schools and walk in rates which is still significantly less than others in the area.

Director Henderson reported that the privately owned rinks are significantly more money.

Commissioner Christensen suggested that staff use discretion in order to not lose the customer. The Board agreed to place this on the agenda for the March 13th meeting.

c. Sportsplex Capital/Bond update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary of capital projects as well as a bond update for Sportsplex. She reported that the debt is slightly higher next year but then drops off significantly due to the 2008A bond being paid off. She further reported that starting in 2026 the debt drops significantly.

d. Sportsplex Budget Draft

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there are no significant changes in the budget from last year but that there will be an increase in utilities.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Rental Rates for Parks and DPDCC

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff recommends not to increase the rental rates for rooms and picnic permits. She reported that the DYC still does not pay any fees and that they have been informed to keep in contact regarding spring field usage. She further reported that DYC may be using Community Park field and will be charged for the lights. The Board agreed to place this on the agenda for the March 13th meeting.

b. Special Events Summary

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary of the special events. She reported on the Farmer's Market and that it is very staff intensive to run and not in high demand. The Board agreed that the event should not continue. Executive Director Gurgone reported that it is currently in the budget but that it will be taken out and some adjustments made.

c. Tree Memorial Program

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received the current tree inventory. She reported that initially when the program started there was no formal warranty or replacement policy and staff has replaced some trees and plaques over the years. She further reported that currently there are 16 dead or missing trees and the cost to replace \$5,216 and 19 damaged or missing plaques and the cost to replace \$2,590. Executive Director Gurgone reported that these items are not currently budgeted.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that staff recommends a warranty policy of 5 years for the tree only and not to have a warranty on the plaque. She recommended that if the purchaser wants to replace the plaque, they can be offered at the District price. She also reported that staff recommends limiting the number of trees per year to 10 per season and increase the cost to \$500 to include some labor costs. The Board agreed to place this on the agenda for the March 13th meeting.

d. Birchwood Park

Executive Director Gurgone provided an update and report from Wight and Company regarding the drainage issues at Birchwood Park. She reported that this report was completed because there is a disagreement about the level of issues at the park.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there are many identified issues with the pipes and grading and that Wight has offered to attend a meeting with the City staff to discuss

their findings and that the repairs fall under the City's responsibility. She further reported that the deed is clear for which parties are responsible.

3. Admin

a. DPD Capital/Bond Update

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received an updated debt schedule. She reported that staff looked at capital projects for all the parks and that this year the focus will be on Community Park. She reported that Community Park gets a lot of use and that the main bathroom structure will be replaced and also the North shelter. Executive Director Gurgone reported that LED conversion lights have been budgeted as well as replacing the backboards at the basketball courts.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the soccer fields at Community Park have significant drainage issues and that staff is recommending making a smaller soccer field on the north end and put in a new fully accessible ADA play area on the south side and money budgeted out of the SEASPAR fund. The Board agreed to start proceeding with these projects.

b. DPD Capital/Bond Update


Executive Director Gurgone reported that \$400,000 for the ADA play area was included in the budget. She reported that the Senior Club asked the District to take them over, and staff was looking into this, but that she did not expect any significant changes in the budget, aside from staffing. She reported that staff has budgeted for a possible 20% increase in electric costs.

c. Announce Budget Display Date - by April 7th for public hearing on April 10th. Budget will be on agenda for approval on May 8th.

Executive Director Gurgone announced the Budget Display dates.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Rob Sarocco, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District