

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

November 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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

ABSENT: Luanne Spiros

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Matt Henderson; Director of Parks and Facilities, Blake Ertmanis; Superintendent of Parks, Jordan Rossi; Sportsplex General Manager; Gina Madden, Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS

Mr. Bill Lissy, Darien stated that he lived near Birchwood Park. He thanked the Park District and stated that the area looks beautiful. Mr. Lissy questioned the height of the new grasses.

Superintendent Blake Ertmanis distributed photos of the park and the plantings that will be planted in the Spring. He reported that the plantings will be root based and will improve the drainage and keep the geese away. He further reported that the plantings will be 3-5 feet and the pond will be visible. Superintendent Ertmanis reported that the geese got into the pond through the pathways and that the grass won't allow them to come in. He reported that there will be no additional risk of coyotes with the plantings.

Mr. Dan Tishler, Darien stated that he spoke with President Sarocco about Birchwood and thanked the Park District and stated that the park looks great.

Ms. Sandra Murdock stated that she was not in favor of the plantings and that the native flowers look like weeds. She stated that there was no input from the residents on what would be best for the pond. Ms. Murdock stated that the residents expect the area to be maintained and that there needs to be nice clean shorelines. She stated that she was also concerned about safety and that if residents want to see wildlife or native areas, they can go to the Forest Preserve.

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that there are many reasons why the natural grasses were planted, including because they are good for the environment and to stabilize the shoreline.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she received correspondence from the Garden Club and the City of Darien.

OFFICER REPORTS

- a. **President** – None.
- b. **Vice President** – None.
- c. **Secretary** – None.
- d. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Marchese presented the Treasurer’s report ending October 31, 2019.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Jablonski to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report ending October 31, 2019.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Jablonski, Marchese, Sarocco
NAYS: None

President Sarocco declared the motion carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

There was no report.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the audit report is not back yet and that Sikich stated that they are overwhelmed with the merger. She reported that the staff will get quotes for the audit for next year.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Winter/Spring brochure will be out November 22nd. She reported that the packet included SEASPAR reports and the Annual Report.

b. Superintendent of Finance

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Superintendent Della Deldin is attending the extended senior trip in Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

c. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that the south parking lot at Community Park is completed and open. He reminded the residents that the parks and pathways are not plowed during snow events.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that approximately 40 homes in the Birchwood pond area were mailed out letters in September and that no negative comments were received before tonight.

d. Sportsplex the General Manager

General Manager Jordan Rossi reported that the Lions had a tremendous turn out for their annual Halloween event at Sportsplex. He reported that there were 1800 attendees.

e. Director of Parks & Facilities

Director Matt Henderson reported that the siding and roofing at the maintenance facility has been completed. He reported that move in should be approximately around February.

Director Henderson reported on the Thanksgiving Holiday hours.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA)

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jablonski moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to approve the October and November Warrants, September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, Tax Levy – A motion to determine estimated Levy amounts for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and to post draft of the Levy ordinance, Final Ordinance on December 9, 2019 Agenda, and SEASAR Tax Levy.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District is levying 4.45% increase in operating funds and will anticipate receiving approximately a 2.08% increase in operating funds. She reported that the total amount due to SEASPAR in the levy is \$132,672.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Jablonski, Marchese, Noverini, Sarocco
NAYS: None

President Sarocco declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Jablonski 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 7:36 p.m.



Rob Sarocco, President
Darien Park District



Luanne Spiros, Secretary
Darien Park District