

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

**March 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, Luanne Spiros,  
Frank Noverini

**ABSENT:** None

**Staff:** Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Della Deldin; Superintendent of Finance, Blake Ertmanis; Superintendent of Parks, Jordan Rossi; Sportsplex General Manager; Gina Madden, Attorney

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS**

Mr. Joe Michek, resident of Darien inquired on what facilities exist for indoor adult recreation such as basketball, volleyball and pickleball.

Executive Director Gurgone that the District has an indoor facility at the Community Center but that often times the adult programs do not fill. She reported that if the numbers are there that a class will be offered.

Mr. Michek stated that the gym at the Community Center is a "piece of crap" and that he has played volleyball there.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the District purchased the building with limitations on size and space. She reported that the District is slowly making improvements but that the building was an elementary school and that staff is working with what is available.

Mr. Michek stated that the soccer field at Sportsplex could be used for volleyball and that Darien should look into an agreement with Woodridge and Downers Grove and reduce fees.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Woodridge does not need to reduce fees to non-residents. She stated that the District cannot force other districts to provide lower pricing but that non-residents are allowed at their programs, which is a good option.

Mr. Michek stated that other communities have large facilities.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District does not have the funds to do a separate new facility.

**a. Darien Chamber of Commerce**

Members of the Darien Chamber of Commerce were present. Mr. James Burke, Executive Director reported on the profits of Darien Fest and provided the Board with a paper copy of the report. He stated that a lot of Darien Fest costs are high and that the Chamber cannot afford to pay \$6,000 for the rental of the park.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Chamber is the only group allowed to rent out the entire park. She stated that the District closes the park to general public and that the Board struggles with Darien Fest every year and that it has been a few years since the financials have been provided.

Ms. April Padalik reported that the Chamber provides thousands of dollars to the community through allowing groups to have spots at the Business expo at no charge.

Ms. Gayle Sablick stated that Darien Fest was decreased to one day in 2016 and the feedback was horrible. She stated that residents want a three day event.

Commissioner Spiros asked how they received feedback.

Ms. Sablick stated that feedback was provided through social media and phone calls.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the agreement was not on the agenda tonight. She stated that the Board will review the information provided and that staff will contact April with further questions.

Commissioner Spiros thanked the Chamber for their leadership in the business community.

Mr. Joe Marchese, Alderman City of Darien, stated that Darien Fest does not make a lot of money and that in 2016 it was cut to one day when the City told the Chamber that they would charge for police. Mr. Marchese questioned if there was thought to offering indoor volleyball, pickleball at the warehouse on Lemont Road.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that renting the warehouse is not within what the District does. She stated that there are options for people to go to surrounding park districts at reasonable non-resident rates.

President Sarocco stated that this is the first time we are hearing about the adult program needs.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the volleyball leagues were offered and participation slowly went down before they were cancelled.

President Sarocco stated that the Board is being responsible and paying off debt but that if there was money they would look into doing something more.

Mr. Michek questioned doing something at South Grove Park. He stated that there is interest in the area and questioned if Sportsplex is rented all year.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the District has many years to paying off the debt and that development of South Grove Park is on the list and that the last estimate was about \$4 million to develop the park. She stated that there are plans but they are years away.

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that Westwood Park has nets but no sand and that they are not used.

General Manager Rossi stated that the Sportsplex is rented for the majority of the year and that they cannot put any other equipment on the turf which could damage it.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

- a. **President** – None.
- b. **Vice President** – None.
- c. **Secretary** – None.
- d. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Marchese presented the Treasurer’s report ending February 28, 2019.

**Commissioner Spiros made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report ending February 28, 2019.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Spiros, 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 next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2019. She reported that the Lions are planning to host Lions Day in the Park again this year in conjunction with the Concert in the Park on Sunday, August 4th. She further reported that Commissioners should forward any comments regarding Darien Fest to her.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Lemont Park District hosted an open house to officially welcome the EAGLES Adult Day Program to their newest site.

**b. Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Deldin reported that the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance will be created and put on display prior to April 8th and the notice for the public hearing published by March 29th and take place at the April 8th Board Meeting and the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance will be on the agenda to be approved at the May 13th Board Meeting.

Superintendent Deldin reported on the upcoming trips.

**c. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that beginning April 1st staff will place the garbage cans and picnic tables back in the parks and that the portable restrooms in certain parks and water turned on by April 15th.

**d. Sportsplex the General Manager**

General Manager Rossi reported that Hockey Time Productions, a new tournament group were very pleased with the facility and staff during their event and have confirmed that they will return for the same event next year.

**e. Director of Parks & Facilities**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that Director Henderson was out sick. She reported that the Community Center will be closed April 21st for Easter but the Sportsplex will be open.

**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 Noverini to approve the Rental Rates for Parks, DPDCC, Sportsplex, February 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes and the Warrants.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Jablonski, Noverini, Marchese, Spiros, Sarocco**

**NAYS: None**

**President Sarocco declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

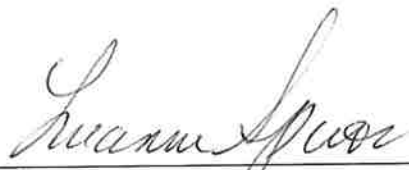
**AYES: Marchese, Spiros, Noverini, Jablonski, Sarocco**

**NAYS: None**

**President Sarocco declared the motion carried.**



Rob Sarocco, President  
Darien Park District



Luanne Spiros, Secretary  
Darien Park District