

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

**February 22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jablonski called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview, Darien, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

**PRESENT:** Ray Jablonski, Luanne Spiros, Cathy Marchese, Frank Noverini, Sylvia McIvor

**ABSENT:** None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT & GUESTS**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**COMMITTEE TOPICS**

**1. Sportsplex**

**a. Sportsplex Rental Rate**

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the Board received a summary of the proposed rental rates. She reported that some groups are currently under contract for their rates. She reported that rates are set based on surrounding competition, as well as the rates needed to balance the budget at the facility.

**b. Sportsplex Budget Draft 2021-22**

Executive Director Gurgone reported on the Sportsplex Budget Draft. She reported that the budget had many changes due to COVID-19. She further reported that she anticipates that the 2021-22 budget will operate on a break-even budget (including debt). She reported that since no tax dollars are used at the facility, all expenses are covered by facility revenues.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that some changes were made such as vending since COVID-19 has limited patrons allowed in the building. She reported that Sportsplex will continue to run on a slim operating budget in order to cover the debt payments annually without tax dollars. She

reported that there is \$75,000 in the capital fund in the budget, but that spending will be done later in the fiscal year in the event money has to be spent on any major projects.

Commissioner Luanne Spiros questioned where the money comes from to fix major repairs. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the money will come from either Repairs & Maintenance or the Capital Projects line item. However if necessary, the District can loan the money to the Sportsplex.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that General Manager Jordan Rossi has done a great job in filling the building over the last year. She stated that this was a tough year and commends the staff.

**c. Sportsplex Capital/Bond update**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she provided an update to the outstanding debt and a list of long-term capital projects. She reported that once the debt is paid off there is still a lot of major work to do to the building. She further reported that there are 2 bonds callable in 2023, and the staff will review those at that time to see if interest rate savings are available.

**2. Parks & Recreation**

**a. Rental Rates for Parks and DPDCC**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the rental rates have not changed and that there were very few rentals during 2020 due to COVID-19. She reported that there are still restrictions on the pavilion and room rentals.

**b. Environmental Policy**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff met with Commissioner Spiros on the current projects that the District has done that has positively impacted the environment. She reported that there is no environmental policy presently in place.

Commissioner Spiros stated having an environmental policy is the right thing to do for the community.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there will be an education piece in the summer brochure.

Commissioner Sylvia McIvor suggested adding an update to the website.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she will work with staff to put a condensed update on the website.

**3. Admin**

**a. DPPD Budget Draft 2021-22**

Executive Director Gurgone reported on the DPD Budget Draft. She reported that it is broken into different funds, as required.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Corporate and Recreation Funds budgets are balanced.

**b. DPD Capital/Bond Update**

Executive Director Gurgone reported on the outstanding bonds and upcoming Capital projects. She stated that the largest outstanding debt was the bond for Community Center renovations and the Maintenance Facility payments. She reported that future projects for this fiscal year are the playground at Birchwood Park and the shelter at Smart Oaks Park.

There was much discussion on South Grove Park future park improvements, listed as a future project for 2031 or later. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the last quote received was nine years ago for approximately \$4M to renovate the park. This would make South Grove Park a second “Community Park” on the other side of town. She further reported that the future plan is to have a balance at the park, including a native area, playground, path, and fields.

**c. Community Feedback**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that President Jablonski asked for ways the staff obtains community feedback. Gurgone stated that the community feedback is mostly received by email and phone calls.

Executive Director Gurgone also highlighted 2019/20 program information and reported that summer is the busiest time at the Community Center. She reported that the District has more resident usage and Sportsplex more non-resident usage, which makes sense as the programs are very specific at Sportsplex, and Sportsplex is not supported by tax dollars. She reported that the numbers used were pre-COVID-19.

**d. Announce Budget Display Date – by April 9<sup>th</sup> for public hearing on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Budget will be on agenda for approval on April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the budget approval can be delayed until the May meeting if there are any significant changes. She reported that the goal is to approve in April.

Commissioner McIvor questioned the election on 4/6/21 and when the newly elected will be installed. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the installation of newly elected will be done at the May Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner McIvor 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 8:31 p.m.**



Ray Jablonski, President  
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary  
Darien Park District