

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

**May 10, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jablonski called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Attorney Gina Madden

**INSTALLATION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

Superintendent Della Deldin administered the Oath of Office to the new Commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS**

Ms. Marie Becker, resident of Darien Club stated that she was representing the subdivision requesting that the District consider updating the playground equipment at Driftwood Park. She stated that the equipment is 22 years old and that they are requesting consideration for the existing budget.

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the District's fiscal year is May 1<sup>st</sup> and that the budget for this year has already been approved. She reported that the February Committee Meeting is when the District discusses the budget and long-term capital plan. She reported that capital projects are planned out for the next 10-15 years, and that Driftwood is on the schedule for replacement in the 2025-26 year. She stated that there are many other projects before the playground replacement due to their condition.

Superintendent Blake Ertmanis reported that although the park equipment is 22 years old, staff must inspect each playground every month and an audit every three years with an inspection determining if the equipment is unfit or unsafe. He reported that the Driftwood equipment is still in great shape and is safe.

Commissioner McIvor questioned how much money is available for capital projects annually.

Executive Director Gurgone reported after paying off debt and the payments for the purchase of the Maintenance Facility that there is approximately \$300,000 available annually. She reported that all large projects are expensive, and this year, the pathways at Community Park were a priority. She reported that it is a balancing act when it comes to capital projects because of the limited funds available. She further reported that the playground equipment replacement age varies, and it is not solely based on the number of years of the equipment. She stated that if the equipment is in good condition the District will keep it longer.

A Darien Club resident stated that she respects the budget and presented photos and pricing for a Merry-Go-Round and Seesaw as additional options to the park that are inexpensive.

A Darien Club resident stated that they received 120 signatures from Darien Club residents asking for park improvements.

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that the District has to purchase commercial equipment that will meet safety standards, and that they traditional Merry-Go-Round is being phased out due to safety issues. He also reported that there are many safety zones required around equipment so there is not a possibility to add equipment to the current footprint. He also stated that there are limitations to the size of the equipment footprint due to lot setbacks.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff looked at historical lot setbacks, from when the park was originally developed. She stated that, at the time, the District tried to fit what is best for the area, while keeping in mind the location near the street as well as adjacent homeowners.

Mr. Tim O'Brien stated that he was present to ask about pickleball courts. He stated that the sport has grown dramatically, and that Hinsdale and Woodridge have pickleball.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the tennis courts at Smart Oaks have temporary pickleball markings and that in 2024, the tennis courts at Darien Community Park are scheduled to be renovated. She stated that the preliminary plan is that after the renovations, there will be two tennis courts and four pickleball courts at Community Park.

There was no one else in the audience for public comment.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no communication to report.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

- a. **President** – None
- b. **Vice President** – None
- c. **Secretary** – None
- d. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer's report ending April 30, 2021.

**Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report ending April 30, 2021.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Gina Madden had no report.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **a. Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 2021 and may be held at the Maintenance Facility. She reported that there is a Resolution on the Consent Agenda finalizing the easements to finish off the paperwork for the Maintenance Facility property.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that SEASPAR's Believe & Achieve ceremony will be held online on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

#### **b. Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Della Deldin reported that she would answer any questions on her report.

#### **c. Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Blake Ertmanis reported that he and Director Matt Henderson participated in a Zoom meeting with other local government agencies to discuss stormwater management for the Wards Creek Watershed. He reported that the Wards Creek Watershed area includes some Darien parks, but that Ridgewood is the only park affected.

Commissioner Sylvia McIvor questioned the maintenance of sidewalks in the winter.

Superintendent Ertmanis reported that the sidewalks are owned by the City of Darien, and that some are plowed by the City. He reported that sidewalks and pathways are not maintained by the Park District in the winter.

#### **d. Sportsplex the General Manager**

General Manager Jordan Rossi reported that senior walking will be starting again. He stated that hours will vary but to start, it will be available in the Field House on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12-2pm.

**e. Director of Parks & Facilities**

Director Matt Henderson reported that the Preschool graduation ceremony will be held next Wednesday, May 19th and Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. He asked that any Commissioner who is interested in attending to email him.

**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 Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner McIvor to approve the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, Warrants, Resolution 2021-22-01 approving and ratifying the Permanent Access Easement with the County of DuPage (For the paved area adjoining the Northern property line and the structure) over a portion of the Maintenance Facility located at 9 S. 271 Nantucket, Darien, Illinois, subject to attorney review., Resolution 2021-22-02 approving and ratifying the Permanent Water and Sewer Easement with the County of DuPage over a portion of the Maintenance Facility located at 9 S. 271 Nantucket, Darien, Illinois, subject to attorney review., Resolution 2021-22-03 approving and ratifying the Permanent Access Easement with the County of DuPage (for all paved areas being North of the Northerly property line and) over a portion of the Maintenance Facility located at 9 S. 271 Nantucket, Darien, Illinois, subject to attorney review., and Resolution 2021-22-04 approving the Lease agreement with the County of DuPage for office space located t 9 S. 271 Nantucket, Darien, Illinois, subject to attorney review.**

Superintendent Blake Ertmanis stated that the address listed for the facility does not exist.

Attorney Gina Madden stated that she will get clarification but that the address is consistent with the Intergovernmental Agreement.

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

**AYES: Marchese, McIvor, Spiros, Noverini, Jablonski  
NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Resolution 2021—22-05: A Resolution approving an agreement for the use of Darien Park District Sportsplex facility with Chicago Hawks Hockey Club (Ice Rental).**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this is a new 2-year contract. She stated that the Chicago Hawks Hockey Club is a great tenant.

**Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to accept Resolution 2021—22-05 approving an agreement for the use of Darien Park District Sportsplex facility with Chicago Hawks Hockey Club (Ice Rental).**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**b. Resolution 2021-22-06: A Resolution approving an agreement for the use of Darien Park District Sportsplex facility with Chicago Hawks Hockey Club (Little Hawks)**

**Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to accept Resolution 2021-22-06 approving an agreement for the use of Darien Park District Sportsplex facility with Chicago Hawks Hockey Club (Little Hawks)**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner McIvor that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**



Ray Jablonski, President  
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary  
Darien Park District