

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

August 9, 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS

- a. Presentation by Wight on Darien Community Park OSLAD Grant**
- b. Community input for proposed DCP Project**
- c. Resolution 2021-22-10: OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for Darien Park District Community Park Project**

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone provided a summary of the proposed future renovation project at Darien Community Park. She reported that the Board and staff have been planning renovations in that area of the park for a long time, as per the District's long term capital plan. She stated that the north parking lot and the tennis/basketball/volleyball area are scheduled to be renovated on the District's capital plan in 2023-24 and 2024-25, but the cost is very expensive. She stated that when the District found out that an OSLAD grant was a possibility, they began the process so that the projects could be completed together, with the least amount of impact to the residents. She stated that the projects will be done in the future regardless if the grant is received, but they will need to be done in phases due to the large cost. She reported that a meeting was held last week at the Community Center to gather input from residents about the proposed project.

She reported that there was a good show of residents and that numerous communications were received from proponents of both tennis and pickleball.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the tennis players would like to see more tennis courts at the park and that the pickleball players would like to see dedicated pickleball courts. She reported that with the proposed renovations, the district would have 4 pickleball courts at DCP and 4 tennis courts - 2 at DCP and 2 at Smart Oaks. She further reported that staff has been in contact with Hinsdale South

High School about possibly using their tennis courts for District programs and/or public use in the future.

Mr. Shawn Benson, Wight and Company presented the proposed project at Darien Community Park and explained the OSLAD grant. He stated that the grant application is due 9/1/21 and if approved, the district would receive \$400,000 with the project beginning as early as the summer of 2023. He further reported that without the grant, the project will be completed but in phases.

d. General Public Comment/Guests

Many residents in favor of pickleball attended the meeting and appointed a few representatives to speak on their behalf. Mr. Vito Abbate, Mr. Bill Voigt, Ms. Claudia Nutt, Mr. Tim O'Brien, and Ms. Kathy Muller all provided input on the proposed pickleball courts. All comments were positive and that they were looking forward to playing pickleball in Darien.

Commissioner McIvor made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve Resolution 2021-2210: OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for Darien Park District Community Park Project.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Gurgone reported that all communications were regarding the proposed tennis and pickleball project. She stated that any communications that had questions were answered by staff, and that all communications would be submitted in with the grant application.

OFFICER REPORTS

a. President – President Ray Jablonski reported on the agenda and why it was changed under Officer Reports. He stated that he wanted all Commissioners to have the opportunity to speak under the agenda item. President Jablonski also reminded Commissioners that under the Open Meetings Act that when sending an email to someone specific not to reply to all Commissioners and that all communications should be sent to the Executive Director, and that she would forward to the appropriate staff.

President Jablonski reported that the Board Member Policy Manual was on the website and per the manual that Board Members could not meet privately. He stated that he and Commissioner Luanne Spiros would be meeting with Executive Director Gurgone in late August.

Commissioner Sylvia McIvor questioned if the Board Meeting packets could be posted on the website.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that if requested under FOIA, staff can email a packet. She reported that the agendas and the approved minutes are posted on the website.

- b. **Vice President** – None
- c. **Secretary** – None
- d. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer’s report ending July 31, 2021.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report ending July 31, 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 was not present.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that approximately 28 residents attended the August 3rd meeting to discuss the proposed project at Darien Community Park. She reported that the comments were positive and that they were happy that the district was putting in the pickleball courts.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Chamber of Commerce did not approach staff about having Darien Fest on District property. She reported that Darien Fest will be held in a public parking lot on Cass Ave.

b. Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Della Deldin reported that she is waiting to hear about the annual audit, and she should be receiving a draft shortly for staff to approve. She reported that the goal is still to approve the final audit in September, but if not, it would be at the October meeting. She further reported that the audit and annual Treasurer’s report have to be filed with the county by 10/31/21.

Superintendent Deldin also announced her retirement from the District, effective at the end of September.

c. Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Blakc Ertmanis reported that the Smart Oaks shelter is under construction and should be completed by Fall. He reported that the equipment for Birchwood Park playground is delayed but hope the project will be completed by Thanksgiving.

d. Sportsplex the General Manager

General Manager Jordan Rossi reported that Sportsplex will be back to normal with a full schedule beginning after Labor Day.

Commissioner McIvor asked if the turf was being used and if it could be used for pickleball.

Executive Director Gurgone and General Manager Rossi discussed and that the turf was too thick and that the ball would not bounce. She reported that the Darien Park District Community Center gym was a possibility for indoor pickleball.

e. Director of Parks & Facilities

Director Matt Henderson reported that the movie and concerts in the parks had a good turnout. He reported that there are two remaining movies in different parks. He reported that the events are well received, and that staff will plan for next year and discuss having the same for next year.

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 Noverini to approve the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the July and August Warrants.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, McIvor, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Fund Balance Policy

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Fund Balance Policy has been in place for years. She reported that the auditors requested a formal policy.

b. Resolution 2021-22-09: A Resolution transferring excess fund balances from the bond & interest fund, corporate fund, and recreation fund to the Community Center Capital Projects fund for designated projects.

Commissioner McIvor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to approve items a. Fund Balance Policy and b. Resolution 2021-22-09: A Resolution transferring excess fund balances from the bond & interest fund, corporate fund, and recreation fund to the Community Center Capital Projects fund for designated projects.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

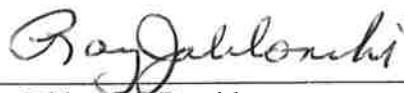
AYES: McIvor, Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner McIvor 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 8:00 p.m.



Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District