

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

September 12, 2022

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, Frank Noverini, Cathy Marchese, Sylvia McIvor

ABSENT: None

Staff: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Matt Henderson; Director of Parks and Facilities, Nancy Strathdee; Superintendent of Finance, Jordan Rossi; Sportsplex General Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS

a. Presentation by Wight on 802 Plainfield OSLAD Grant

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that staff is completing the process to apply for an OSLAD grant for 802 Plainfield Road. She reported that normally a second grant would not be applied for after receiving one, however staff was notified that there is \$56 million available for 2023 which is double the normal amount. Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff discussed all possible projects with Wight and that 802 was chosen for many reasons.

The Wight representative provided an overview of the project and stated that the project will include a parking lot, fencing around the entire site, garden plots with room for expansion, a playground, splash pad, picnic shelter and picnic grove along with native area plantings.

There was some discussion regarding the splash pad and the water recirculation as well as if the park would have lights.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there will be no lights in the park (except for safety) and only lights in the parking lot. She reported that there will be a water cost annually for the splash and that the water will not be recirculated due to other requirements if this was chosen. She further reported that the splash pad will only run when manually operated and that the water cost is already included in the utilities at 802 Plainfield.

There was some discussion regarding permeable pavers for the parking lot. The Wight representative stated that there is a two-year escalation in the costs and that currently the lot is asphalt but that they will see if the upgrades are affordable at the time of bidding.

There was some discussion regarding the garden plots.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that some of the garden plots will be raised for ADA and that there will be a lottery if there is a large demand. She stated that if there is a huge demand that there is room to expand.

Commissioner Luanne Spiros questioned if there was any waste or oil concerns on the property.

Director Matt Henderson reported that Phase 2 of the demolition project will include samplings of the soil. He reported that years ago the house was heated by oil and that in 1992 the tank was removed and there were no issues.

Commissioner Frank Noverini expressed his concern for lighting and stated that he would like to see lighting on Plainfield so that police can see what is going on.

There was discussion regarding planting of Oak trees or other native trees.

b. Community input for proposed OSLAD Grant Project

There was a resident in the audience who stated that residents will be concerned with what is in the soil. He also suggested widening the sidewalk on Plainfield Road. Staff reported that the sidewalk was city or county owned.

Director Henderson reported that there will be a soil report available. The Wight representative stated that they will also be 130 cubic yards of soil added just for the garden plots.

c. New park name for 802 Plainfield Park Site

There was some discussion regarding a park name. Commissioner Sylvia McIvor suggested getting community involvement. It was agreed that Garden View Park would be the temporary park name.

d. Resolution 2022-23-07: 802 Plainfield Project

Commissioner McIvor made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve Resolution 2022-23-07: 802 Plainfield Project.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: McIvor, Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

e. General Public Comment/Guests

The resident in the audience questioned the Community Park Non-Referendum Bond. Staff explained that the project is being funded by annual capital funds that the District has budgeted. He also stated

that it seemed like all the projects were on the northeast side of Darien. He asked if something for adults such as turf volleyball could be put at South Grove.

Commissioner McIvor stated that the grassy area at South Grove is detention and that it cannot be developed because it is designated for drainage and that there is no infrastructure there.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the bond is done annually and that the projects are planned out. She also reported that there is a plan for the development of South Grove in the long term capital plans.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communication.

OFFICER REPORTS

- a. **President** - President Ray Jablonski reported that the Community Action Committee meeting was cancelled.
- b. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer’s report ending August 31, 2022.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report ending August 31, 2022.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, McIvor, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

- c. **Commissioners’ Reports** – There were no reports.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

There was no attorney report.

STAFF REPORTS

- a. **Executive Director/SEASPAR**

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2022 and that Matt Corso, will provide a SEASPAR update.

- b. **Superintendent of Finance**

Superintendent Nancy Strathdee asked if there were any questions regarding her report.

Commissioner Spiros questioned why the delay reporting the May, June and July Sportsplex Financials.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the audit took a bit longer with new staff and internal staff changes and that more time was needed for everything. She reported that a 60-day extension was requested to complete the audit.

d. Sportsplex the General Manager

General Manager Jordan Rossi asked if there were any questions regarding his report. Commissioner Spiros stated that she liked the new entrance signs.

e. Director of Parks & Facilities

Director Matt Henderson reported on the upcoming annual Hoe Down. Commissioner Spiros suggested considering the welfare of the ponies and not offering pony rides going forward.

Director Henderson reported that the District has used the pony company for decades and that they use their own animals that they treat like pets.

Commissioner McIvor stated that she did not have any issues as long as the animals were not mistreated.

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 Spiros to approve the August 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, Warrants, Resolution 2022-23-08: Resolution authorizing intergovernmental agreement between the City of Darien and the Darien Park District for the purchase of road salt.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

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

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cathy Marchese announced that the Metro Mayors Caucus announced that there are grants available for charging stations and if interested to contact the Mayor or Dan Gombac.

Commissioner McIvor stated that she reviewed the grant for the City and that she would speak to Executive Director Gurgone about the same.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:03 p.m., Commissioner McIvor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to adjourn to Closed Session.

- a. Closed session for the purposes of discussion of the employment, performance, and compensation of specific employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1**
- b. Closed session for the purposes of review of closed session minutes pursuant to ILCS 120/2(c)21**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

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

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION (if warranted)

- a. Closed session for the purposes of discussion of the employment, performance, and compensation of specific employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1**

Commissioner McIvor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to give the Executive Director the discretion to approve staffing changes and compensation as recommended.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

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

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

- b. Closed session for the purposes of review of closed session minutes pursuant to ILCS 120/2(c)21**

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros that there would be no Closed Session minutes to be released.

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 McIvor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District