

AGENDA MEMO
Committee of The Whole Meeting
Darien City Council and the Darien Park District Board of Commissioners
June 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Darien Police Department Training Room

City Council Members: Mary Sullivan, Thomas Belczak, Joseph Kenny, Gerry Leganski, Ralph Stompanato, Ted Schauer

Park District Commissioners: Ray Jablonski, Luanne Spiros, Cathy Marchese, Frank Noverini, Steve Shanks

Facilitator: Amy Cotter **Recorder:** Jessica Plzak

Introduction by Amy Cotter

Roll Call: Jessica Plzak

Discussion of City of Darien Proposed Long Term Objectives/Goals:

- Develop Better Communication Between the Two Entities
- Develop a Sense of Camaraderie Between the Two Entities
- Identify and Agree on Shared Values
- Development of a Planning Calendar
- Understanding of the Mission, and Vision of Each Entity

Discussion Items:

- **What is the Mission, Philosophy, Method of Governance, Method of Planning and Method of Operations of the Darien Park District?**
 - Mission
 - Philosophy
 - Method of Governance
 - Method of Planning
 - Method of Operations
- **What is the Mission, Philosophy, Method of Governance, Method of Planning and Method of Operations of the City of Darien?**
 - Mission
 - Philosophy
 - Method of Governance
 - Method of Planning
 - Method of Operations
- **Who are the “customers” of the City of Darien and the Darien Park District:**
 - Common Customers – 95% to 98% of Taxpayers/Residents are common to both entities. Some Unincorporated areas are in the Darien Park District but not the City of Darien. Some are in the City of Darien but not in the

Darien Park District. An example is the Senior Living Facility on Plainfield Road just East of Lemont Road. They are in the Brookeridge Park District.

- Uncommon Customers:
 - Darien Park District – Non-Resident that use the parks and or sign up for programs and events with the Darien Park District.
 - City of Darien -
- **What areas of intergovernmental work are currently taking place between the Darien Park District and the City of Darien?**
 - Inter-governmental agreements such as for use of road salt and gasoline.
 - Inter-governmental agreements for use of Westwood Park for Concerts, DarienFest, National Night Out and Octoberfest.
 - Darien Park District has participated with the City for joint bidding on asphalt work such as the Sportsplex parking lot.
 - Requests for use of equipment such as the City loaning it's wood chipper to the Park District. This is handled at the staff level.
 - Requests by the city to use Park District picnic tables.
- If these efforts are successful, why are they successful and how can we build on these efforts with other programs and activities?
- If these efforts are not successful, what are the obstacles affecting their success and how can we overcome those obstacles?
- **Working Relationship Between the City and the Park District**
 - Describe how you would like to see the working relationship between the City of Darien and the Darien Park District flourish?
 - How can we better communicate together?
 - Darien Action Committee – Purpose and Frequency
 - One person from each group as a “point” person for communications?
 - Do we want to establish a small working group of no more than two elected officials from each organization meet to discuss activities and planning?
 - Do we want to have an annual or semi-annual meeting of our two groups to discuss opportunities for enhanced long term collaboration?
- **Assessment:**
 - How will we measure the success of our efforts?
- **Next Steps:**
- **Public Comment:**
- **Closure:**
 - Provide some thoughts on your perception of today's meeting.
- **Adjournment**