

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

October 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Ray Jablonski called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Steve Shanks

ABSENT: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS (6:31 p.m.)

The board addressed a public comment from a resident regarding the current prohibition of e-bikes and e-scooters in Darien parks.

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the District has not passed any new policy regarding e-bikes or e-scooters and that the existing ordinance prohibits all motorized vehicles in the parks except for ADA requirements and that this has been in place since 1975. She further reported that staff are waiting for potential changes at the state level and for more consistent guidance, as recent legislation has created confusion and potential conflicts between the city and park ordinances and that there are enforcement challenges and the need for alignment between different cities and with the police department.

There was some discussion regarding the impact of the policy on older adults and those using e-bikes for health or transportation reasons, suggesting that a speed limit might be a more appropriate regulation.

The board acknowledged these points and agreed that speed is a critical factor.

Attorney Gina Madden reported that she is monitoring legislative developments and will consider changes when there is clearer state guidance, aiming for consistency across municipalities and with input from relevant stakeholders.

a. SEASPAR Annual Report – Matt Corso

Mr. Matt Corso, Executive Director, presented a comprehensive annual update to the board, detailing service hours, program growth, inclusion trends, and the impact of SEASPAR programs.

Mr. Corso reported that SEASPAR has seen consistent year-over-year increases in service hours since COVID, with an 8.2% increase from 2023 to 2024 of which Darien accounts for 10.9% of all service hours, making it the third highest among member entities.

Mr. Corso reported that the Eagles program constitutes for approximately 50% of SEASPAR's service hours and revenue, with Darien hosting the largest site and 35% of all Eagles' service hours. He reported that the program is at capacity with a waitlist, and its sustainability is supported by dedicated space provided by member communities.

Mr. Corso reported on the inclusion program reporting an increase of 28% year-over-year. He reported that 50% of participants are on the autism spectrum, and inclusion is especially prevalent in summer camps and preschool programs. He further reported that SEASPAR faces challenges such as rising costs, increasing numbers of participants with complex needs, and the need for additional day program sites.

Mr. Corso reported that future plans include continued growth in inclusion and day camp programs, strategic use of technology, and ongoing staff development.

COMMUNICATIONS (7:45 p.m.)

Commissioner Luanne Spiros reported on the Park District/City of Darien meeting goals.

She reported on recent resident feedback and that Alderman Ralph Stompanato had positive comments regarding the Hoe Down.

There was discussion regarding the need for proactive coordination with the City of Darien regarding the location and management of community concerts and events in 2026, given the unavailability of Westwood Park and considerations for alternative sites.

The board agreed to clarify roles and event parameters in advance and discussed potential alternative sites for concerts and events, noting logistical and neighborhood concerns.

The board emphasized the importance of distinguishing between events run by the Park District and those run by the City.

The board agreed that District staff meet with City staff to outline what types of events are feasible at each facility, clarify expectations, and avoid confusion or overlap in planning, with board direction guiding these

OFFICER REPORTS (8:00 p.m.)

a. President

President Jablonski had no report.

b. Treasurer – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer's report ending September 30, 2025.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer's report ending September 30, 2025.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, Shanks, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

c. Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the other commissioners.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT (8:01 p.m.)

Attorney Gina Madden had no report.

STAFF REPORTS (8:02 p.m.)

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025. She reported that the annual financial report and audit are on the agenda for approval tonight confirming a balanced budget, positive financial trends, and the successful completion of the audit process with no surprises or concerns raised.

b. Finance Report

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she would answer any questions.

c. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Jordan Rossi stated that he would answer any questions.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities

Director Matt Henderson reported that the board received the recreation report. He further reported that Holly Park is complete and open with the exception of the installation of two benches and that the portable restrooms in the parks will be removed in November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (8:08 p.m.)

There was no unfinished business to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA) (8:08 p.m.)

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA (8:08 p.m.)

- a. September 8, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. Warrants**

Commissioner Shanks moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to approve the September 8, Regular Meeting Minutes and the Warrants.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Shanks, Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (8:09 p.m.)

- a. Approval of the Darien Park District Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025**
- b. Approval of Annual Statement of Receipts & Disbursements (Annual Treasurer's Report)**
- c. Discussion for the 2026-27 Summer/Fall Events**
- d. Discussion of Parks Rental Policies**

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Shanks to approve New Business items a. Approval of the Darien Park District Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025, and b. Approval of Annual Statement of Receipts & Disbursements (Annual Treasurer's Report).

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Shanks, Marchese, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the use and rental of park facilities, specifically addressing requests from a homeowner's association to reserve pickleball courts and hold private events.

Executive Director Gurgone reaffirmed that only government entities may reserve certain facilities to ensure equitable public access and legal compliance and that pickleball courts are not reservable by private groups or homeowners associations, with exceptions only for government entities such as schools or libraries, to maintain public access and avoid legal complications.

President Ray Jablonski reported on a request from the Hinsbrook Homeowners Association to amend the lease for Hinsbrook Park to allow two annual picnics.

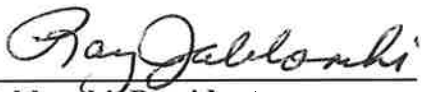
Executive Director Gurgone reported that baseball fields are rentable and that any amendment would require legal review to ensure compliance with existing policies and park use guidelines.

Attorney Gina Madden reported that she would review the Hinsbrook Homeowners Association's upcoming request to amend the lease to allow two picnics per year at Hinsbrook Park, including evaluating potential complications such as use of tents or grills.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Shanks 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 8:40 p.m.



**Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District**



**Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District**