

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 9, 2026

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, Gina Madden; Attorney

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

a. Aaron Gold, Speer Financial

Mr. Aaron Gold of Speer Financial presented the bond sale results. He reported that Republic Bank submitted the lowest bid at 3.00% and that the total two-year issuance amount is \$1,389,475. He further reported that all current District debt will be coming off after 2027-28.

COMMUNICATIONS (6:45 p.m.)

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported on the communications between the Darien Woman's Club and the Darien Lions Club.

OFFICER REPORTS (6:50 p.m.)

- a. President** – President Ray Jablonski reported that he had a conversation with Attorney Madden regarding Board positions and future capital planning. He further reported that the next Darien Action Committee is scheduled for February 28th. Commissioner Shanks reported that he could attend in Commissioner Jablonski's place.
- b. Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer's report ending December 31, 2025, and January 31, 2026.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer’s report ending December 31, 2025, and January 31, 2026.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, Shanks, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

c. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Luanne Spiros provided an update on the semi-annual joint meeting with the City.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT (6:50 p.m.)

There was no attorney report.

STAFF REPORTS (6:51 p.m.)

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, along with the Budget Committee meeting and a start time of 6:00 p.m.

Executive Director Gurgone provided the SEASPAR reports and that she and Commissioner Spiros attended the SEASPAR Believe and Achieve event.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that March 11th is the NIMEC group electricity bid and that staff will evaluate the bid results and if to sign a 1, 2, or 3 year agreement.

i. DPD and Sportsplex Capital Asset Replacement Plans

Executive Director Gurgone provided documents related to the DPD Bonds and Capital Projects as they relate to the Westwood Park Project. She reported that 2026-2027 FY is being used for the Westwood OSLAD project and depending on final numbers, may be able to replace the parking lot, depending on change orders during the project.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that starting after 2028-29, all of the existing debt is paid off, and the amount for capital is significant each year. She reported that staff has estimated costs for some larger projects but that exact pricing will have to be received as the years approach. She further reported that the development of Southgrove Park is a very large and expensive and in order to avoid putting the District in a position of having zero capital funds to maintain and upgrade other parks and facilities, staff is anticipating that this park would be developed in many phases allocating a certain amount of capital funds annually. Executive Director Gurgone reported that the amenities and layout of the park will change before the park is developed, but staff are

anticipating a cost of approximately \$10M for total renovation with a large portion of that is solely site work and if done in phases, smaller projects of approximately \$1.3M can be done every 2 years. She further reported that staff would also look at any potential grant funding to assist, but the OSLAD grant funding is always matching, and currently maximum is \$600,000 per year with matching funds available.

Executive Director Gurgone provided a summary of the current outstanding Sportsplex debt, and the plans for after the debt is paid off. She reported that some money will be allocated to operating budget, and some for additional operating expenses but that the money will be set aside annually for capital projects, reserves and savings.

b. Finance Report (7:10 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone reported she would answer any questions regarding the Finance Report.

c. Sportsplex General Manager (7:10 p.m.)

General Manager Jordan Rossi reported that the Hawks are interested in running the concession stand with a 3 year contract going into the future and that he is optimistic that this will be successful going forward.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities (7:11 p.m.)

Director Matt Henderson provided updates on recent activities and recreation report. He provided an update on Westwood Park and the scheduled kick off construction meeting scheduled for mid February and construction to begin this Spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (7:25 p.m.)

There was no unfinished business report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA) (7:25 p.m.)

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA (7:25 p.m.)

- a. Warrants- January & February
- b. December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. January 12, 2026 DPD/City Council Joint Meeting Minutes
- d. Rental Rates for Parks, DPDCC, Sportsplex
- e. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for June 25th concert, subject to attorney review

- f. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for July 30th concert, subject to attorney review**
- g. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien August 27th concert, subject to attorney review**
- h. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for August 4th National Night Out, subject to attorney review**

Commissioner Shanks moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the Warrants -January & February, December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2026 DPD/City Council Joint Meeting Minutes, Rental Rates for Parks, DPDCC, Sportsplex, Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for June 25th concert, subject to attorney review, Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for July 30th concert, subject to attorney review, Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien August 27th concert, subject to attorney review, and Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for August 4th National Night Out, subject to attorney review.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Shanks, Noverini, Marchese, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (7:45 p.m.)

- a. **Ordinance 2025-26-03: Consideration and action on an ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$1,390,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto and to provide a revenue source to pay certain outstanding obligations of the District, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.**
- b. **Ordinance 2025-26-04: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay the principal of and interest on \$6,565,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2015B, of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois.**
- c. **Ordinance 2025-26-05: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay the principal and interest on the \$3,630,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020B, of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois.**

Executive Director Gurgone provided an overview of the ordinances under New Business.

Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Shanks to approve Ordinance 2025-26-03: Consideration and action on an ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$1,390,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto and to provide a revenue source to pay certain outstanding obligations of the District, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, Ordinance 2025-26-04: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay the principal of and interest on \$6,565,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2015B, of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois, and Ordinance 2025-26-05: An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay the principal and interest on the \$3,630,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020B, of the Darien Park District, Dupage County, Illinois.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Shanks, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

CLOSED SESSION (7:58 p.m.)

Commissioner Shanks made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of discussion of the employment, performance and compensation of specific employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1, for the purposes of litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11, and for the purposes of review of closed session minutes pursuant to ILCS 120/2(c)21.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Shanks, Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

- 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 litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11.
- c. Closed session for the purposes of review of closed session minutes pursuant to ILCS 120/2(c)21.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION (if warranted) (8:58 p.m.)

Commissioner Shanks made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Shanks, Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

a. Approve Extension of Executive Director's Employment Agreement

Commissioner Shanks made a motion duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the extension of the Executive Director's contract and approval of the April 14, 2025 Closed Session minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Shanks, Spiros, Noverini, Marchese, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

President Jablonski reported that the closed session minutes would not be released.

b. Additional Action if necessary from Closed Session

None

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros that the meeting be adjourned.

Upon a roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.



Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District