

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

April 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President Ray Jablonski called the meeting to order at 6:31 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

ABSENT: Steve Shanks

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS (6:32 p.m.)

a. Public Hearing for 2026-27 Budget & Appropriations Ordinance

Commissioner Marchese made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to Open the Public Hearing for 2026-27 Budget & Appropriations Ordinance.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone summarized the budget, noting that the district will receive \$3.6 million in tax dollars and both corporate and recreation funds are budgeted for a 3% increase in revenues and expenditures. She reported that the district plans to spend \$2.4 million on capital projects, primarily for the Westwood Park project. She reported that the Sportsplex budget projects slightly higher revenues and expenses compared to the previous year, with all building expenses, including debt payments, to be covered by facility revenues.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the ordinance was placed on the agenda for board approval and will be filed with the county following approval.

There were no public comments received during the hearing.

COMMUNICATIONS (6:34 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone reported that she provided an invitation to the Garden Club event on April 27th.

OFFICER REPORTS (6:34 p.m.)

- a. **President** – President Ray Jablonski reported that he attended the Darien Action Committee meeting and highlighted the upcoming events in April.
- b. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer’s report ending March 31, 2026.

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

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Spiros, Noverini, Marchese, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

c. Commissioner Reports

There were no Commissioner’s reports.

ATTORNEYS REPORT (6:36 p.m.)

Attorney Gina Madden stated that she had no report.

STAFF REPORTS (6:36 p.m.)

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the next regular board meeting is Monday, May 11th at 630 p.m. She reported that she followed up with everyone who hasn’t filed the statement of economic interest.

Executive Director Gurgone reported on the electricity bids and informed the board about the ratification of a new three-year electricity contract, noting a significant rate increase and the need for budget adjustments. She reported that staff will adjust both corporate and recreation budgets to accommodate the higher electricity costs, with an increase estimated at about 20% if nuclear energy rebates continue.

She further reported that she recently met with Representative Sean Casten at the SEASPAR site at Sportsplex. She reported that Representative Casten hoped that the federal budget would get passed and funding made available for the District's proposed project.

She further reported that she has scheduled some meetings in the coming weeks about long-term planning, and that she will report back with more clarification on all of our options.

b. Finance Report (6:42 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone noted that March financials would be completed soon and that preparations for the annual audit, which begins in June, are underway, with documents being gathered and processes aligned with audit requirements.

c. Sportsplex General Manager (6:43 p.m.)

General Manager Jordan Rossi provided updates on Sportsplex operations, including the discontinuation of the Big Bear tournament due to organizational issues, the onboarding of new tournament partners, and the ongoing success of the Hawks as concessionaires. He reported that the Big Bear will no longer host multiple tournaments at the facility due to declining participation and organizational challenges, with new tournament companies scheduled to take over key weekends. He further reported that the Hawks, serving as concessionaires, have seen steady business and are considering a new three-year contract, with their approach focused on serving their families rather than maximizing profit.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities (6:49 p.m.)

Director Matt Henderson reported on the start of the Westwood Park project, including preliminary work, signage, and coordination with the city and police. He further reported that preliminary work at Westwood Park, such as tree removal and setup, is expected to begin within the week, with full project commencement anticipated thereafter, weather permitting.

Director Henderson reported that signage will be posted as soon as work begins, and information about park closures will be shared with the city and police department for public awareness and safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6:53 p.m.)

There was no unfinished business report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA) (6:53 p.m.)

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA (6:53 p.m.)

- a. **Ordinance 2026-27-01: Annual Budget & Appropriations Ordinance**
- b. **Resolution 2025-26-10: A Resolution approving and ratifying the electricity supply agreement- fixed price solutions with Dynegy Energy Services, LLC**
- c. **March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- d. **March 9, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes**
- e. **Warrants**

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Marchese, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

2026 Sustainability Report Update 6:55 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the annual tree inventory and sustainability report have been combined for a presentation, and something that will be done going forward.

Director Henderson reported that the district's tree inventory increased by 41 trees over two years, with 1,173 trees, 39 stumps, and 250 identified planting spaces and that staff continue to address critical and substantial trees as needed. He reported that the district has a permanent part-time arborist and new management software that will enable ongoing updates and maintenance, allowing for real-time tagging and tracking of trees and other park assets. He further reported that sustainability funds were increased in the new budget, with projects including a rainwater collection system for Garden View Park, permeable pavers, LED and solar lighting, and continued recycling and environmental education efforts and that the district continues to host educational events such as Celebrate Earth Day and installs interpretive signage to inform the public about sustainability features in the parks.

NEW BUSINESS (7:19 p.m.)

- a. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Darien Police Department for Darien Police "Cops & Bobbers" Fishing Tournament.**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the intergovernmental agreement is for the Darien Police Department Cops and Bobbers Fishing Tournament with the possibility of a longer-term agreement if the event continues to be successful.

Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Darien Police Department for Darien Police "Cops & Bobbers" Fishing Tournament.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

b. Approval of revised Darien Park District Personnel Manual, subject to attorney review

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the personnel manual was comprehensively updated and consolidated, reviewed by the attorney, subject to final attorney review, with suggestions for future board engagement in policy review.

Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini approval of revised Darien Park District Personnel Manual, subject to attorney review.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION (7:28 p.m.)

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to adjourn into Closed Session for:

- a. Closed session for the purposes of discussion of the employment, performance and compensation of specific employees pursuant to 5ILCS 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: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION (If necessary)

President Jablonski stated that any action after closed session would be recorded in the minutes.

At 7:32 p.m. Commissioner Spiros moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to reconvene the regular meeting.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Spiros, Marchese, Noverini, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese to give the Executive Director discretion to approve staff compensation as recommended and approval of the February 9, 2026, closed session minutes.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Marchese, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

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

ADJOURN

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

Upon a roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District