

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present:

President Susan Aberman  
Vice President Michael Reid  
Commissioner Minal Desai  
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt  
Superintendent of Parks and Planning Corrie Guynn  
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus  
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff  
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Remote Attendance:

Commissioner Mary Oshana

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Aberman called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Aberman asked Commissioner Oshana to confirm that her audio is working properly acknowledging that she could hear all board members. Commissioner Oshana responded yes. President Aberman asked all board members if they could hear Commissioner Oshana, and all responded yes.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft asked the citizens present if they had any comments other than comments on the Lawler Park renovation. There were none. She informed the citizens that Lawler Park comments would be heard when the Lawler Park renovation OSLAD grant resolution was discussed.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT**

President Aberman called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order at 7:02 p.m. She asked for any comments regarding the Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2022B. There were no comments or questions. President closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice President Reid moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the public hearing for Lawler Park Improvements

on September 6, 2022, and the minutes of the regular meeting of August 16, 2022; bills payable for the month of August/September 2022, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

### **CASH FLOW ANALYSIS**

Treasurer Schmidt apologized for the error in reporting the revenues last month. The spread sheet formula did not pick up the August revenue of \$1,000,000. Mr. Schmidt said the projection is better with this additional money.

Mr. Schmidt is monitoring finances daily and is seeing registration receipts coming in better than anticipated. The Skatium is taking registration despite the delay in opening the facility. Ms. Tuft said that staff have submitted for half of the PARC grant funds, and it has been accepted. Commissioner Jaffe asked Mr. Schmidt if Plan C and Plan B in the plan should be reversed, and Mr. Schmidt said yes. Commissioner Jaffe asked about the lead time for approving tax warrants. Mr. Schmidt responded thirty days lead time. Commissioner Jaffe also asked what the cash balance threshold was for enacting the tax warrant process, and Mr. Schmidt responded \$1,000,000. Commissioner Jaffe agreed.

No motion needed. Discussion only.

### **AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS**

Treasurer Schmidt requested authorization for business-related travel for park board Commissioners as required by Public Act 99-0604 and the park district's travel policy Ordinance #16-013. President Aberman and Vice President Reid will be attending the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) annual conference in Phoenix, AZ.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve business related travel for Commissioners Reid and Aberman to the NRPA Annual conference in Phoenix, AZ September 20-24, 2022. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

### **LAWLER PARK OSLAD GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION**

Superintendent Guynn presented two concepts for the Lawler Park renovation. Both concepts incorporated suggestions from the public hearing. Concept A includes pickleball courts in a different location than presented at the public hearing and the 16 x 16 shelter has been eliminated. The pickleball courts move closer to the southern parking area with hopes to alleviate some of the parking concerns. The Teqball was moved near the pickleball courts and exercise equipment was added. The native area stayed as is.

Concept B eliminates the additional pickleball courts and adds a zipline north of the playground. The plan also includes a 16 x16 shelter, exercise equipment, Teqball, a native area, and an extra bay for belt swings. Mr. Guynn had a call with the IDNR today and received a positive response from them as they felt it was a very worthy OSLAD project.

Ms. Tuft said the site concept must be submitted with the OSLAD grant application. Staff is recommending Concept B which does not include new pickleball courts. The staff and commissioners listened to the residents' concerns about parking and their requests for a zipline and exercise equipment and changed the plan.

Mr. Boyd missed the public meeting last week. He is very relieved that the additional pickleball courts option was taken away. He said traffic and parking have become a big issue. He asked about park bathrooms and Ms. Tuft said staff is considering a more designated port-a-pottie area. President Aberman said installing bathrooms is very expensive and staff will do the best to upgrade the port-o-pottie area.

Ms. Urbano thanked the board for listening to the residents. She wanted to verify the shelter location and exercise equipment. She asked about the basketball court option. She feels the neighbors would really like to have a basketball court. Mr. Guynn said it would not be part of the OSLAD grant application, but that staff are working on a solution. He said it is a separate issue.

Ms. Urbano asked about residential permit parking. Ms. Tuft spoke with the Village and emailed Mr. Wong with a Village of Skokie contact.

Mr. Wong liked the new concept for the Lawler Park renovation. He said when the pickleball courts were installed it created the parking issues. Ms. Tuft directed Mr. Wong to contact the village engineer with his parking concerns.

President Aberman asked if staff received letters of support from legislators and residents and Mr. Guynn confirmed receiving them and will include them with the grant application.

Commissioner Jaffe asked why staff preferred option B. Mr. Guynn explained that staff are working on a plan to add pickleball courts to Oakton Park in the future, as parking and lighting are more readily available. Ms. Tuft said adding pickleball to Oakton is still in the planning phase and the board is not yet committed. Mr. Guynn said the district will save about \$75,000 by not installing pickleball courts at Lawler Park.

Commissioner Oshana asked how many ziplines the parks have. Mr. Guynn said the zipline at Lawler Park will be the third zipline. The others are located at Hamlin Park and Lorel Park, which are a distance away from Lawler Park.

Luca Urbana told the board he really wants a zipline very badly. President Aberman said the two children attending the meeting really want the zipline and there will be other neighborhood children in favor of adding the zipline.

President Aberman asked the board for a consensus for concept B, not adding pickleball courts to Lawler Park, and all agreed. Commissioner Jaffe agrees with adding courts elsewhere.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve the execution of the OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for Lawler Park. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **SKATIUM CHANGE ORDER #5**

Superintendent Marquardt explained each of the four items in Change Order #5 for the Skatium Project. The items are a security fence and gate, a temporary CT (Current Transformer) cabinet for metering the temporary electrical service, replacing the coiling fire door to the main rink and the purchase, demolition, and installation of a 3-section distribution electrical panel.

Ms. Tuft said she received word today that the temporary electric panel is scheduled to be installed Friday, with the anticipation to open the Skatium by October 1.

President Aberman asked about the status of the project budget. Mr. Marquardt said barring any other change orders, the project is still under budget. Commissioner Jaffe asked for more detailed financial information and Mr. Marquardt will send it to him tomorrow.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the status of the insurance claim and Mr. Marquardt said we have not heard back yet. Commissioner Jaffe asked if the insurance claim would cover the cost of the rentals and Mr. Marquardt said he will look into it.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve Skatium Change Order #5 for fencing and gate purchase and installation (\$10,795.50), 480V temporary CT cabinet rental (\$10,120), steel coiling fire door purchase and installation (\$10,884), and 3-section distribution electrical panel purchase and installation (\$159,000) for a total cost of \$190,800.50. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Aberman said to include the consideration of installing pickleball courts at Oakton Park as new business. Vice President Reid is in favor of holding a public hearing for the Oakton Park pickleball courts. President Aberman said the pickleball court area would not be by any homes and Commissioner Desai said we were cleaning up unused space at the park.

Mr. Guynn said we have money budgeted in the capital plan for the pickleball courts at Oakton and have solicited proposals for professional services from Gewalt Hamilton, Wight Construction, and Hitchcock Design. Commissioner Desai asked about the timeline. Mr. Guynn said by the end of summer next year.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Jaffe said his grandsons love the story strolls in the parks this year.

Vice President Reid said the entire staff did an incredible job at Backlot Bash. There were no incidents.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about security complaints and there were none.

Vice President Reid requested adding rubber mats in the information booth and beer tent as it would make it easier for volunteers to stand on their feet for long periods of time. Mr. Marquardt suggesting using old rubber mats.

Mr. Marquardt said there were no complaints from the residents at 8000 North. There are now 139 families in the building.

President Aberman was reading the staff reports and asked staff to include prior year data information to compare to current data information.

Mr. Marquardt told the Board that Rich Lee, Golf Center and Skokie Sports Manager will be retiring in February 2023. It will be sad to see him leave after almost 28 years with the park district.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that the rescheduled 3-D fireworks and DJ are on Saturday, September 17 with the fireworks display beginning at 8 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Jaffe moved to enter executive session to discuss executive session meeting minutes for the purpose of approval of the minutes, semi-annual review of the minutes, and to authorize the destruction of executive session recordings pursuant to Section 2(c)(21); Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:01p.m.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2022. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Following review of Executive Session meeting minutes dating from January 2004, Vice President Reid moved to release the minutes from March 15, 2022, and to have those remaining minutes not previously released remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

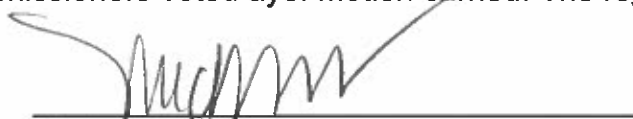
Vice President Reid moved to approve Ordinance #22-007 authorizing the destruction of verbatim records for the closed session meetings of January 19, 2021. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Susan Aberman  
President



Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary

October 20, 2022