

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
AUGUST 15, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid
Vice President Minal Desai
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Mary Oshana

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Steven Katz gave a piece of the color coating from Central Park tennis courts to the board to show them what is happening on the tennis courts. He said in 2012 the courts were renovated. In 2017 a contractor recoated the courts even though he felt the courts were still in good condition. Within one year the courts started to delaminate. He said the original fabric is still good and does not think the surface should be recoated in the standard way. He suggested the contractor should start from scratch.

Ms. Tuft responded that when the courts at Central Park were resurfaced, the contractor did it wrong. The new contractor is removing as much of the two layers of color coating as possible. The fabric underneath is intact but if we find something different when the surface is removed, it will be addressed. Mr. Katz just wants to be sure that the new coating is compatible, and Ms. Tuft said it was. Ms. Tuft said if he had any other questions or concerns, he could contact her.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2023; bills payable for the month July/August 2023, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINANCIAL ACTUALS FOR THREE (3) MONTHS ENDING
7/31/2023**

The board packet included a three-month financial analysis. After reviewing the material Commissioner Jaffe emailed Mr. Schmidt several questions. Mr. Schmidt answered the questions and also forwarded the questions and answers to all of the commissioners.

Commissioner Jaffe said he appreciated the information. He asked if one month's budget is one twelfth of the year or do we budget seasonally. Treasurer Schmidt said we budget seasonally and explained how this was done.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if RecTrac mandates the credit card processing company or does the district select the vendor. Treasurer Schmidt said the vendor must be compatible with the RecTrac system and there are only two compatible companies.

President Reid complimented Treasurer Schmidt for the report. Commissioner Oshana thanked Treasurer Schmidt for the detailed analysis.

Treasurer Schmidt said pool concessions did very well this year. This year the district provided concessions in-house. Staff would like to outsource concessions and Ms. Tuft said to let her know if anyone had leads on concessionaires.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about Backlot Bash sponsorship. Mr. Bottorff said \$30,000 has been secured thus far and the Corporate Sponsorship Manager is still working on securing additional sponsors. Commissioner Jaffe asked how much budgeted, and Treasurer Schmidt said \$50,000. Mr. Bottorff said sponsorship last year totaled \$35,000.

Commissioner Oshana suggested advertising the food vendors for Backlot Bash and Ms. Tuft said staff will put it on the website.

No motion required. Information only.

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

Treasurer Schmidt stated that Park Board Commissioner business-related travel for the NRPA conference must be approved based on the Public Act 99-0604 and the District's Travel Policy Ordinance #16-013.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve business related travel for Commissioners Reid and Aberman to the NRPA annual conference in Dallas, Texas October 10-12, 2023. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR 2023 ASPHALT IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Tuft requested approval of change order #1 for the 2023 asphalt improvements. She explained each of the changes.

Vice President Desai moved to approve Change Order #1 from Chicagoland Paving for a deduction of \$7,550 for the 2023 Asphalt Improvements project. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR CENTRAL PARK CONSTRUCTION

Ms. Tuft requested approval of change order #3 for Central Park Construction. She explained each of the changes:

- Adding a concrete pad for the ADA swing.
- Changing the water connection for the spray pad water line.
- Correcting a splash pad elevation issue; the civil engineer did not plan for the proper grading that allows water to drain back to the center drains.

Commissioners Aberman and Jaffe had concerns about the civil engineer missing items in bids. Ms. Tuft will get more information and will send it to the Commissioners. Ms. Tuft said to keep in mind that with construction projects issues always surface once the project begins.

Commissioner Aberman asked when the Weber parking lot project would be completed, and Ms. Tuft said it should be done in two weeks. She will get an update from Mr. Guynn on Thursday as he is out of the office.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve Change Order #3 for D&J Landscape for \$11,107.06 for the Central Park Renovation. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKATIUM CHANGE ORDER #11

Ms. Labus requested approval of Skatium Change Order #11 for the purchase and installation of a permanent cam lock connection lighting box. The box is used to connect the lights for the Annual Ice Show. The cost is \$3,656.01.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Skatium Change Order #22 for \$3,656.01 for the installation of the permanent stage lighting box. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Jaffe thought the public hearing at Pawnee Park was great and wants to continue holding park hearings at the parks. President Reid agreed and said there was a better turnout from the public. Ms. Tuft agreed as well.

Commissioner Jaffe wanted to thank Ms. Tuft and Mr. Guynn for addressing an issue that affected the Orthodox Jewish community in Skokie and said they handled it very quickly.

Commissioner Jaffe was invited to visit the Talking Farm and said it was a nice place. He said they needed a new sign. Ms. Tuft said she is working with the Talking Farm to install a new sign. Commissioner Oshana said they do a lot of education for kids.

Commissioner Aberman attended the Meet Me in St. Louis play at Skokie Heritage Museum this past weekend. The show was really very good, and it was nice to see a musical comedy. It is one of her favorite events and never disappoints.

Vice President Desai checked out the new Bunker room at Skokie Sports Park. Commissioner Oshana was there as well and suggested that a variety of turf options would attract more experienced golfers.

Vice President Desai said she was concerned about the TV being exposed as the curtain does not cover it. Mr. Schmidt said the curtain is going to be extended.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that the Liponi event is tomorrow at Skokie Sports Park beginning at 5 p.m.

Ms. Tuft said the Parks Tour is on Monday, August 21. Commissioners should meet at Oakton Center at 5 p.m. The parks that will be toured are Skokie Sports Park East, Lauth Park, Shawnee Park, Playtime Park, Seneca Park, Central Park, Gleiss Park, Terminal Park and Lawler Park.

Commissioner Oshana asked why the Little Library was removed from Terminal Park. Ms. Tuft said four or five Little Libraries were damaged during the Fourth of July holiday and need to be repaired and/or replaced.

Ms. Tuft reminded the board about the Backlot Bash on August 25, 26, and 27 and asked if anyone wanted to be a Superfan.

Commissioner Aberman said she attended the Devonshire Park summer concert and saw the Maxwell Klezmer Band, and it was great. There was a big crowd, and the music was wonderful.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Oshana suggested building a pavilion for small performances and concerts. Ms. Tuft said it was talked about years ago for Devonshire Park, but the

portable stage was a less expensive solution. Commissioner Oshana asked about including one at Skokie Sports Park East and Ms. Tuft said it could be considered.

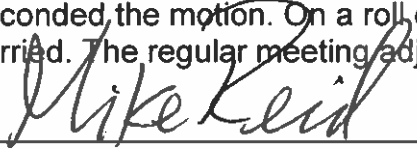
Commissioner Jaffe asked when planning will begin for Sports Park East and Ms. Tuft said planning should begin in the fall.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about indoor winter pickleball options. Staff saw an overlay at conference last year and talked about buying one for the Oakton Community Center. Commissioner Jaffe would like to do this as it will be in demand. Staff will look into it.


Vice President Desai asked about the Exploritorium having special events like laser tag for older kids. Ms. Labus said staff are having a winter brainstorming session this week and can talk about it.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Mike Reid
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

September 19, 2023