

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid  
Commissioner Susan Aberman  
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe

Remote attendance: Commissioner Mary Oshana

Absent: Vice President Minal Desai

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corie Guynn  
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus  
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato  
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**

There were no citizen comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Desai was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2023; bills payable for the month October/November 2023, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**2023 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION #23-003**

Treasurer Schmidt explained the process for determining the proposed 4.99% CPI increase. The Tax Levy Ordinance will be adopted at the December board meeting.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Resolution #23-003. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Desai was absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Tuft said there are three main revenue sources, the beer tent, carnival, and sponsorship. The beer tent and carnival are totally dependent on the weather and sponsorship has been very difficult with how the economy is at this time.

Commissioner Jaffe said he appreciated the report and stated staff should try to meet the budget. Commissioner Aberman said the Backlot Bash is a highlight for the community.

No motion required, informational only.

### **2023 CAMP REPORT AND 2024 CAMP FEE APPROVAL**

Ms. Labus presented highlights of the 2023 camp season including the parent survey, statistics, fee assistance and Action for Children, registration numbers, and camp revenues and expenses. Ms. Labus said kindness activities were held throughout the summer and the camp app received good feedback. She also explained the proposed 2024 camp fees and recommendations in great detail.

Improvements for 2024 camp registration were also discussed. Ms. Tuft said by moving RecTrac to the cloud and working with RecTrac to increase speed she is optimistic that camp registration will go well and be improved from 2023.

President Reid said the majority of complaints were at Sports Camp. Ms. Tuft said a new camp supervisor was running the camp. Ms. Labus said that having new leadership and counselors were some of the reasons for the complaints. A new camp supervisor will be hired and will hopefully be a good leader.

President Reid said Emily Oaks received a tremendous amount of accolades. Commissioner Aberman said hockey camp received some complaints this year.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the 2024 camp fees as proposed. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Desai was absent. Motion carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The next regular meeting date of the Board of Park Commissioners will be determined later. Some Commissioners cannot make the regularly scheduled date which will prevent forming a quorum. The dates of December 12, 13, and 21 were suggested. President Reid will contact Vice President Desai to see if she can attend any of the dates and will notify Ms. Tuft and the other Commissioners of the date selected.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Oshana announced that she is resigning from the board; she has moved and is no longer a Skokie resident. She thanked her board colleagues and park district staff and is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board, stating it was truly an honor.

How to fill the board vacancy was discussed. President Reid said the board can appoint a new Commissioner or go through an application process. This person will fill in until the next election. There is no official timeline to fill the vacancy, and this will be discussed at the December board meeting.

Commissioner Jaffe thanked Commissioner Oshana for her service and wished her good luck. Commissioner Aberman also thanked Commissioner Oshana for her board service.

Commissioner Aberman attended the Drowsy Chaperone performance at Devonshire Center and said it was fabulous, enjoyable, and one of the better plays she has attended.

Commissioner Aberman attended the Indigenous Peoples' Celebration at Skokie Heritage Museum and it was very good too.

Commissioner Aberman thanked staff for their NRPA Conference reports.

#### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that they have until December 11 to take advantage of the early bird registration rate for the IPRA conference.

Ms. Tuft said the Skokie Chamber Holiday Party is December 14 at Doubletree Inn. If any board members want to attend let her know by December 1.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the planning process for Skokie Sports Park East. Ms. Tuft said there was a kickoff meeting with staff two weeks ago. The next step is to hire a consultant, and this is in process now. Commissioner Jaffe asked Ms. Tuft to include an update in the board packet each month.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Jaffe received a call about adding batting cages at Devonshire Park and Central Park. He suggested they come to the board meeting to express their ideas, but they did not come. Mr. Guynn said he spoke to someone about two months ago.

Commissioner Jaffe would like to consider adding security cameras to parks. He thinks it is good security for the community. Commissioner Aberman said we should ask the neighborhood if they are interested in cameras. Commissioner Jaffe would like staff to research the issue.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Desai was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

*Mike Reid* *MJ Tuft*

Mike Reid  
President

Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary

December 19, 2023