

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2025  
6:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman  
Vice President Ezra Jaffe  
Commissioner Elsa Fischer

Absent: Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj  
Commissioner Courtney Williams

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn  
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus  
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato  
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff  
IT Assistant Dylan Kehow  
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Aberman called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 21, 2025, Minutes of the Public Hearing for Lauth Park on January 28, 2025, Minutes of the Public Hearing for Lee Wright Park on January 28, 2025, Minutes of the Public Hearing for Terminal Park of February 6, 2025, bills payable for the month of January/February 2025, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #25-002 PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS, SERIES 2007B (CAPITAL APPRECIATION BONDS) AND ON THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BOND SERIES 2021A, AND INTEREST COSTS ON THE SERIES 2013B, SERIES 2015B, SERIES 2017B, SERIES 2019A, AND SERIES 2023A, ALL GENERAL LEDGER OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE BONDS) OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of Ordinance #25-002 for the abatement of certain taxes. Treasurer Schmidt said this annual adoption of the abatement ordinance removes bond and interest costs from the district's tax levy.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve Ordinance #25-002 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005B, Series 2021A and interest costs on Series 2013B, Series 2015B, Series 2017B, Series 2019A and Series 2023A of the Skokie Park District. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**REAPPOINTMENT OF MILLER COOPER & CO., LTD AS THE DISTRICT'S AUDITING FIRM**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the reappointment of Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd as the district's auditing firm. This is a one-year renewal.

Vice President Jaffe asked staff to consider issuing a request for proposal (RFP) next year. Treasurer Schmidt said this could be done in October. Vice President Jaffe said to put this on the September agenda.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the appointment of Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd. as the District's auditing firm for fiscal year 2025. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**PROPERTY DONATION – BUILDERS ASPHALT**

This item was tabled at last month's board meeting. The board had questions regarding the property donation and Mr. Tim Winter from Builders Asphalt and Mr. Andrew Paine, the district attorney, are present to answer questions.

Mr. Winter shared that phase one and phase two environmental studies were conducted on the property. The reports show that the property is clean.

Vice President Jaffe said a lot of work has been done and it looked like Builders has vacated the property. Mr. Winter confirmed they have.

Mr. Paine told the board he is comfortable with the contract. The district will conduct a phase 1 environmental study during the contingency period and if the board is not

happy with the conditions the district can get out of the contract without any repercussions.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve Resolution #25-001 authorizing the purchase of certain real estate commonly known as 3219 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois and approving the terms and authorizing the execution of real estate purchase and sales contract in connection therewith. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

### **SPORTS PARK EAST DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS**

Ms. Tuft introduced Mr. Gage Berger from Wight & Co. to present three concepts for the development at Skokie Sports Park East.

Mr. Berger explained that the first two concepts require a referendum. The third concept is possible without a referendum. In all options, the district would apply for an OSLAD grant to help fund the project.

The board liked Concept B, which requires a referendum. Ms. Tuft said the cost for an average homeowner is approximately \$86 annually. Residents would pay for this through their tax bill.

Vice President Jaffe asked that the concepts be shared in detail with Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams who are absent.

President Aberman said Concept B is good use of space and wanted to ensure that the public has opportunities for input. Ms. Patty King said additional input needs to be collected. Most residents are not yet aware of the project. Commissioner Fischer asked if questions regarding the project could be added to the upcoming community survey and Ms. Tuft agreed that it would be included.

Next steps require staff to work on a budget for the proposed concept, to ensure the building generates enough revenue to cover expenses. President Aberman thanked Mr. Berger and Ms. King for the presentation.

No motion required, informational only.

### **APPROVAL OF TENNIS COURT FENCING REPLACEMENT BID**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the tennis court fencing replacement bid. Fencing will be replaced around Gleiss Park and Lorel Park tennis courts. The project should be done in March or April.

There were six bidders and the low bid of \$58,797 came from Innova Fencing. The work is planned for mid to late summer.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from Innova Fencing for \$58,797 for the 2025 Tennis Court Fencing Replacement project. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BOBCAT TRACKED LOADER PURCHASE**

Mr. Guynn requested approval to purchase a Bobcat Tracked Loader from Atlas Bobcat, through the Sourcewell joint purchase program. The current Bobcat is at least twenty-six years old and needs to be replaced. The Bobcat makes playground demolitions much easier. President Aberman asked if this was budgeted in next year's capital budget and Mr. Guynn said it is.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the purchase of a Bobcat Tracked Loader from Atlas Bobcat through the Sourcewell joint purchase program for \$78,535.95. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**SKOKIE SPORTS PARK SHELTER INSTALLATION AND CONCRETE BID APPROVAL**

Mr. Guynn requested the approval of the Skokie Sports Park Shelter installation and concrete bid. Mr. Guynn received four bids, and the lowest bidder was Playground Safe for \$92,242.50. Mr. Guynn said the installation is for the shelter, concrete pad, and hitting stations. Funding is coming out of the operating budget at Skokie Sports Park.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid from Playground Safe for \$92,242.50 for the Skokie Sports Park Shelter Installation and Concrete Project. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY**

Mr. Guynn explained that the federal grant from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's office was recently frozen and was then unfrozen. Mr. Guynn has been in contact with the grant administrator and feels comfortable moving forward with the Lauth Park, Lee Wright and Terminal Parks playground replacements. Ms. Tuft believes the district will receive the grant funds but as a precaution staff have identified capital projects that could be pushed back if the district had to pay for the playground renovations.

No motion required, informational only.

**APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR LAUTH PARK, LEE WRIGHT PARK AND TERMINAL PARK**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the playground equipment purchase for Lauth Park, Lee Wright, and Terminal Park. Proposals were submitted by five vendors and BCI Burke was chosen for Terminal Park, Lauth Park, and for the 2-5-year-old age-appropriate play structure and the four-person rocker for Lee Wright Park. The total cost for the three playgrounds equipment is \$238,390.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from BCI Burke for playground equipment at Lauth, Lee Wright, and Terminal Parks for \$238,390.00. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF LAUTH PARK, LEE WRIGHT PARK AND TERMINAL PARK SWING SET PURCHASE**

Mr. Guynn requested approval to purchase swings from Gametime for Lauth Park, Lee Wright Park and Terminal Park.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid from Gametime for the swing sets at Lauth, Lee Wright, and Terminal Parks for a total of \$35,217.69. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR LEE WRIGHT PARK**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the playground equipment purchase for Lee Wright Park. Five vendors bid on the equipment and NuToys was selected for the 5–12-year-old age-appropriate structure, and a small spinning play item.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from Nu Toys for the playground equipment at Lee Wright Park for a total of \$89,405.00. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent Motion carried.

**LAUTH, LEE WRIGHT, AND TERMINAL PLAYGROUNDS INSTALLATION BID APPROVAL**

Mr. Guynn requested the approval of the Lauth, Lee Wright, and Terminal playground installation bid. There were four bidders and the low bid of \$123,655 came from Playground Safe.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid from Playground Safe for \$123,655 for the Lauth, Lee Wright, and Terminal Parks Playground installations. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

President Aberman asked to reschedule the April board meeting to April 22 and everyone agreed.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Fischer thanked Ms. Tuft for attending the Legislative Breakfast with her in Northbrook last week. She got a lot of information on current legislation, and it was very interesting.

Commissioner Fischer shared information about IAPD's Commissioner Boot Camp. Commissioner Fischer is going. Director Tuft will share the information with all the commissioners.

President Aberman gave kudos to the great Princess Ball she attended with her granddaughters.

President Aberman suggested the board do a board retreat. The board is new, and she asked that they take time to consider it for summer or fall.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft asked the board when they would like to schedule a budget meeting. Dates discussed were March 19, March 24, and March 26. Ms. Tuft will reach out to Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams to see what dates they are available.

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that the M-NASR Liponi event is this Saturday, March 1 at Chateau Ritz. She will forward the silent auction information to Vice President Jaffe.

Ms. Tuft said the Legislative Conference is on Tuesday, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30 in Springfield, Illinois. Commissioner Fischer said she will attend.

**OLD BUSINESS**


Ms. Tuft gave an update on the Evanston Billing. Mr. Guynn received emails today but has not yet received a check. Ms. Tuft said staff is still pursuing payment.

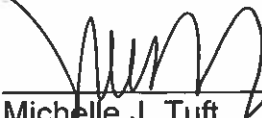
**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioner voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

  
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Susan Aberman  
President

  
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Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary

March 18, 2025