

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
OCTOBER 15, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: Vice President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Elsa Fischer
Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Commissioner Courtney Williams

Absent: President Susan Aberman

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
Business Services Manager Laura Le
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Jaffe called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. Vice President Jaffe called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 17, bills payable for the month of September/October 2024, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**FISCAL YEAR ENDED 04/30/2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT (ACFR), MANAGEMENT LETTER AND CONTROL DEFICIENCY LETTER**

Treasurer Schmidt introduced Mr. John Epperson from Miller Cooper & Co. Ltd. to summarize the draft audit, management letter, and control deficiency letter. Mr. Epperson went through the audit process, management letter, and control deficiency letter. He said there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and complimented Treasurer Schmidt and the team for preparing a great report at the

highest level. Vice President Jaffe asked several questions and Mr. Epperson answered them. Ms. Tuft said the audit is a huge undertaking by Mr. Schmidt and staff and thanked them.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the fiscal year end 04/30/2024 ACFR, management letter and control deficiency letter. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #24-004 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,547,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS, SERIES 2024 OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Treasurer Schmidt introduced Mr. Anthony Miceli from Speer Financial to review the bond sale. Mr. Miceli said there were seven bids with the lowest from Wintrust Bank, at 3.39%. Mr. Miceli said the district issues these bonds annually. A portion of these bonds pay the debt service for alternate revenue source bonds (Series 2005B Capital Appreciation Bonds) as well capital projects.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve Ordinance #24-004 to authorize the issuance of \$2,685,800 of General Obligation Limited Tax Bond Series 2024. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Commissioners Fischer, Kasalo-Terihaj, and Williams voted aye. Vice President Jaffe abstained. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

2024 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION #24-005

Mr. Schmidt explained the Truth in Taxation Law Resolution #24-005 to the board with an aggregate amount of 3.4% or \$321,992.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj moved to approve Resolution #24-005. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

2024 BACKLOT BASH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Superintendent Labus recapped the revenues and expenses for the Backlot bash explaining that the goal is always to break even, but expenses increased creating a loss. There are three main sources of revenue, beer tent, carnival, and sponsorship. The event is dependent on the weather, and we were fortunate that the weather was good this summer. The event was budgeted to lose \$49,436, but the actual net loss was \$40,706.

Ms. Labus discussed the expenses billed from the Village of Skokie and said she is working with them to see where expenses can be cut. Entertainment is another area where expenses could be reduced.

Vice President Jaffe said it was great weather and a great event. Commissioner Williams gave kudos to Ms. Labus and her team.

No motion needed. Informational purposes only.

WEBER SOLAR PANEL LEASE AGREEMENT

Superintendent Guynn said Phase I of the Weber solar panel installation is almost complete. An electric panel is on back order and hopefully by the end of the month the system will be up and running. Realgy LLC. has determined that they can do Phase II before the end of the year which includes installing the solar panels over the Skatium roof. To move forward the lease agreement must be amended to approve Phase II.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve Resolution #24-006, an amendment to the power purchase lease agreement between the Skokie Park District and Realgy, LLC. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUND 11 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENSES

Ms. Tuft discussed the proposed netting for Laramie Park. Vice President Jaffe asked staff to get a quote for the netting to run along the first base line. A quote of \$72,565.33 was received. A previous quote for \$29,815 was received for the installation of the netting to extend over the backstop. Staff recommend installing the netting over the backstop. If additional netting is needed it could be installed later. Vice President Jaffe appreciated staff getting the additional quote.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj moved to approve the additional capital improvement for the netting at Laramie Park for up to \$30,000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

The proposed netting at the Weber Park Golf Course was discussed. The condo association was emailed again and asked if they would contribute a portion of the cost for the additional netting. The condo association responded and said they were not willing to pay for any portion of the netting.

There was discussion and the board consensus was to not install the netting at Weber Park Golf Course. Ms. Tuft will inform the condo association.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams said everyone she talked to loved the Touch-a-Truck event. Someone commented that there isn't a time for children with sensory issues. Assistant Superintendent Amato said it was offered in the past but didn't work because staff could not effectively stop children from honking the horns. She said there are programs at the

Exploritorium for children with sensory issues, one is called Everyone at the Exploritorium.

Commissioner Williams said a neighbor across the street from Oakton Park complained about the noise level of the Korean festival. The music was too loud and too late.

Commissioner Fischer said she loved the presentation at the Onondowa'ga Park public hearing last night. It was the first one she attended.

Vice President Jaffe's grandchildren were at Devonshire County Fair, and it was fantastic.

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Guynn for doing a great job at Scream Scene every evening.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft met with District 73.5 staff regarding Middleton School which is next to McNally Park. They are interested in a land swap with the park district to accommodate the new school and/or construction. Ms. Tuft will be meeting with them to get more details and will inform the board.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioner voted aye. President Aberman was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Ezra Jaffe
Vice President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

November 19, 2024