

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman
Vice President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj

Absent: 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
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:10 p.m. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Elsa Fischer was sworn in as commissioner. She fills the vacant board position that Mike Reid resigned from earlier this year. Commissioner Fischer introduced her family member in attendance and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Rebecca Condon said she appreciates all the wonderful things the park district offers for her son and daughter. Her daughter plays softball, and she expressed her concern about the condition of Lauth and Lyons Park softball fields. She feels the softball fields are in worse condition than the baseball fields and said there are weeds growing in the infield.

Mr. Guynn explained that the baseball fields and softball fields are maintained in the same manner. Staff have stopped using Roundup on the fields and the organic solutions have not worked well. The district hopes to purchase equipment that will till the fields better. The backstop is being replaced at Lauth Park and the sidelines are being re-sod. Lauth Park is closed for the rest of the season while being renovated. Mr. Guynn appreciates the feedback and said staff will continue to improve the field conditions.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 19, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of August 20, minutes of the Public Hearing of August 27, 2024, bills payable for the month of August/September 2024, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT

President Aberman called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order. She asked for any comments regarding the General Obligation Alternate Bonds, Series 2024. There were no comments or questions. President Aberman closed the Public Hearing.

SKOKIE SPORTS PARK EAST DEVELOPMENT COMISSIONER INPUT

Ms. Tuft explained that staff have been working with planning consultants, Wight and Company, collecting input from the community regarding the development of Skokie Sports Park East. The consultants, Patty King and Gage Berger, are at the meeting to collect input from the commissioners.

Ms. King had the board submit their ideas for the development of the property. After collecting their ideas each commissioner voted for three categories. Outdoor Field Sports received three votes, Field House received three votes, and all other categories received one vote.

The consultants then shared the input received from the sports affiliates and community input meetings. Ms. King said the next step is to begin working on design concepts and cost estimates that will be presented to the board at a future board meeting.

Ms. Tuft explained that if a field house is selected the board would need to consider a referendum to pay for the project.

AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Tuft explained the authorization is for the commissioners to travel to the NRPA Conference in Atlanta Georgia, October 6 - 10, 2024.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve business related travel for Commissioners Aberman, Fischer, and Kasalo-Terihaj to the NRPA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 6 – 10, 2024. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COPY EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER, DEVONSHIRE CULTURAL CENTER, OAKTON COMMUNITY CENTER, TOT LEARNING CENTER, 7500 PARK SERVICES AND THE MAIN COPIER IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT WEBER CENTER

Mr. Schmidt requested approval of the copy equipment lease agreements for Emily Oaks Nature Center, Devonshire Cultural Center, Oakton Community Center, Tot Learning Center, Park Services, and the main copier in the Administrative Office at the Weber Center. The machines will be upgraded.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve replacing the current copy equipment at Emily Oaks Nature Center, Oakton Community Center, Devonshire Cultural Center, Tot Learning Center, Park Services, and the Main copier in the Administration Office at the Weber Center with a five-year lease cost of \$134,700. Commissioner Kasalo-Terijah seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUND 11 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENSES

Ms. Tuft recapped the request brought to the board at the August board meeting. Staff are requesting capital funds for netting projects at Laramie Park and Weber Park Golf Course. The netting was not budgeted for this fiscal year but is being requested to reduce errant balls at the golf course and foul balls at Laramie Park.

Laramie Park

The proposed netting addition at Larmie Park will extend over the backstop to help eliminate the foul balls.

At the August board meeting, Vice President Jaffe requested that staff ask user groups how they feel about the proposed netting. Most of the hard ball high school teams did not like the idea. The district's baseball/softball affiliates thought it was a workable solution. Staff believe it is a good solution and believe it will decrease the number of foul balls in the parking lot. If it does not work to the desired extent, staff will investigate additional netting along the first base line.

Vice President Jaffe asked how many broken windows there were this summer and Mr. Guynn said it was six or seven. Vice President Jaffe asked how much it would cost to put up netting along the first base line and Mr. Guynn said between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj asked if we put signage in the Holiday Inn parking lot and Mr. Guynn said that the district can do that.

Mr. Guynn will get an estimate or will prepare a bid for the project, and it will be discussed at the October board meeting.

Weber Park Golf Course

The condominium building east of the Weber Park Golf Course is requesting additional netting to reduce the number of errant golf balls on their property. The district installed additional netting along hole number six several years ago, but they are requesting more

netting. A consultant provided a quote for netting at hole nine that could help with the issue. In August, the board asked staff to approach the condo association to see if they would pay half of the cost and they declined.

The board asked Ms. Tuft to reach out to the condominium association again and ask if they are willing to pay any portion of the cost. President Aberman tabled this for the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. President Aberman will not be in attendance.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

President Aberman attended the Anne of Green Gables performance at Skokie Heritage Museum and said it was phenomenal. She really enjoyed it with her five-year-old granddaughter.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the board the Mike Reid Park dedication will be on Saturday, September 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the new shelter area.

Ms. Tuft asked to schedule a public hearing for Seneca Park. The date of October 14 at 6 p.m. was selected.

Mr. Schmidt said he will bring the tax resolution increase for approval at the October board meeting and suggested the CPI rate of 3.4%. The board agreed on the tax rate.

Mr. Guynn provided an update on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grants that the park district has received.

Ms. Tuft reminded the board about the Chamber of Commerce's legislative luncheon on October 18 at noon at the Illinois Science and Technology Park. Commissioner Fischer will attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Jaffe asked for a preliminary Backlot Bash report. Ms. Labus said it looks like the event will do better than last year, but she will report on this in the October Recreation board report. Revenues were up but so were expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Jaffe moved to enter Executive Session to review and approve the Executive Session minutes of March 12, 2024, March 18, 2024, March 19, 2024, March 20, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 2, 2024, and August 19, 2024, conduct the

semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes and approve the destruction of verbatim records 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 12, 2024, March 18, 2024, March 19, 2024, March 20, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 2, 2024, and August 19, 2024. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Jaffe moved to release the minutes from March 12, 2024, March 18, 2024, March 20, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 2, 2024, and August 19, 2024, 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 Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve Resolution #24-004 authorizing the destruction of verbatim recordings for the closed session meeting of February 21, 2023. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioner voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

October 15, 2024