

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

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Susan Aberman
Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Mary Oshana

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
Director of Human Resources Stephenie Gualano
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Remote Attendance:

Commissioner Minal Desai

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:04 p.m. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Aberman asked Commissioner Desai to confirm that her audio is working properly acknowledging that she could hear all board members. Commissioner Desai responded yes. President Aberman asked all board members if they could hear Commissioner Desai, and all responded yes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

SKOKIE TENNIS ASSOCIATION AWARD

President Aberman said the Skokie Tennis Association (STA) received the 2022 Ace Award for organization of the year and that the district is very proud that the STA is an affiliate. Executive Director Tuft introduced STA board members Ann Tennes and Jill Siegel. The STA has approximately 400 members and Ann and Howard Tennes were instrumental in founding the association in 2015.

Ms. Tennes said she was thrilled to be recognized by the United States Tennis Association Chicago Midwest Division. She then introduced Ms. Siegel who is a Skokie Tennis Association member and the Executive Director of the Chicago USTA Midwest. Ms. Siegel explained who USTA Midwest is and said the organization runs tennis tournaments and leagues. However, she said that what she loves the most is getting rackets in people's hands, and this is what the organization is about, promoting tennis. She was honored to be at the meeting tonight to honor

the Skokie Tennis Association. Ms. Tennes introduced some of the board members of the Skokie Tennis Association in attendance and a photo was taken. Congratulations to the Skokie Tennis Association.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Reid 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 February 21, 2023; minutes of the Public Hearing for the Oakton Pickleball Improvements of March 9, 2023; bills payable for the month February/March 2023, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #23-001 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,500,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION ALTERNATE PARK BONDS OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR PARK PURPOSES OF THE DISTRICT

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #23-001 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2,500,000 of General Obligation Alternate Park Bonds for the purpose of financing capital improvements for park purposes. Mr. Schmidt said this is done every two years.

Treasurer Schmidt said a Bond Issue Notification Act (BINA) public hearing will be held at the April board meeting and a notice will be published in the newspaper. The approval of the bond sales results will take place at the May board meeting. Commissioner Jaffe asked what the funds were going to be used for and Treasurer Schmidt explained that the projects are listed in the ordinance.

Vice President Reid moved to approve Ordinance #23-001 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2,500,000 of General Obligation Alternate Park Bonds of Skokie Park District, Series 2023A, for the purpose of financing capital improvements for park purposes of the District. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

TENTATIVE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #23-002 FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Treasurer Schmidt said the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #23-002 for Fiscal year 2023-2024 is based on the information provided at the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023. Once the tentative ordinance is approved, it will be on display for thirty days at the Devonshire, Oakton, and Weber Centers, and on the website. A public hearing on the Final Budget & Appropriation Ordinance will be held on April 20, 2023, and final approval will be requested at the regular board meeting on the same day.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #23-002 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 so it can be put on public display for thirty days. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #23-001 – A GOVERNMENT BODY ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP AS A MEMBER OF THE NORTHWEST HEALTH INSURANCE POOL ('NWHIP') SUB-POOL WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL BENEFIT COOPERATIVE

Treasurer Schmidt explained that Director of Human Resources Stephenie Gualano has requested to join the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC), a cooperative health benefits pool, and must pass a resolution to join. The resolution will approve membership in the cooperative that will provide health and ancillary benefits for staff including, health, dental, vision, accidental death and dismemberment, life insurance, and an employee assistance program.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if the cost will be less with the same coverage. Mr. Schmidt said yes, and the district will save money on the ancillary benefits. Commissioner Jaffe asked if there was anything detrimental and Mr. Schmidt said no, the district can leave the cooperative at any time.

Commissioner Oshana asked who the insurance provider was, and Mr. Schmidt said the broker is Gallagher Health and explained that the district will use this provider for the ancillary benefits beginning May 1, 2023. Ms. Gualano said Gallagher Health is the preferred broker for the IPBC. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the health care provider.

Commissioner Jaffe asked what other organizations are in this pool. Ms. Gualano said Glenview and Northbrook Park Districts are members and that many agencies are leaving PDRMA health and moving to the IPBC.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve Resolution #23-001 authoring the Skokie Park District to join the Northwest Health Insurance Pool (NWHIP) a sub-pool of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC). Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DENTAL INSURANCE, VISION INSURANCE, LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS, AND EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ms. Gualano explained the dental, vision, death and dismemberment, life insurance, and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits. The district will save over \$18,000 for the year by joining the IPBC. There are no plan design changes to the dental plan. A DMO plan will be offered with better benefits. The DPO plan has a total annual increase of \$375.84. The biggest change will be to the vision insurance. There is no comparable plan with EyeMed so the district will be moving to VSP, which is a recognized vision provider with a \$10 copay. There will be significant savings in the life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment rates. This plan also allows the district to offer voluntary life insurance to employees and their family members at the employee's cost. The Employee Assistance Program is more robust and offers clinically appropriate number of visits as compared to the current provider who limits visits to three.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the cost for employees. Ms. Gualano said the cost sharing is minimal.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit cooperative (IPBC) for ancillary coverage including dental, vision, life/AD&D, and Employee Assistance Program insurance for a period of 12 months. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Ms. Gualano explained that the district can't take advantage of the IPBC's health benefits until May 1, 2024. In the meantime, there are no plan design changes in the health insurance with Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the overall renewal rate increase is 4.25%. This is a good rate increase but when the districts joins the IPBC in May 2024 there should be additional savings. The current monthly premium is \$83,844.64 based on current census and will increase to \$87,410.65 effective May 1.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to continue with Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance policy for 12 months with a monthly premium of \$87,410.65 per month, based on current census. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR BOARD COMMISSIONERS

President Aberman, Vice President Reid, and Commissioners Desai and Oshana will be attending the 2023 IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield, Illinois in May and Mr. Schmidt said that Park Board Commissioners participating in official business-related travel must have their travel approved in advance by the board.

Vice President Reid moved to approve business related travel for President Aberman, Vice President Reid, and Commissioners Desai and Oshana to the IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield, IL in May 2023. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OAKTON COMMUNITY CENTER AND TOT LEARNING CENTER FLOORING PROJECT

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the Oakton Community Center and Tot Learning Center flooring project. The flooring replacement types include luxury vinyl planks in the program rooms at Oakton Center, VCT flooring in the Tot Learning Center classrooms and carpet tiles in the hallways and offices at Tot Learning Center.

The flooring will be installed at Oakton Community Center in May and the flooring will be installed at Tot Learning Center in August when the center takes their summer break.

One bid was received from Scharm Flooring. The project was budgeted at \$90,000 for both facilities and Scharm Flooring 's bid was \$78,823, which was under budget. Staff has worked with Scharm Flooring in the past and has had positive experiences.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve the bid from Scharm Flooring for the Oakton and TLC Flooring project for a total of \$78,823.00. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REFURBISHMENT FOR TOT LEARNING CENTER

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the playground equipment refurbishment of two playgrounds at Tot Learning Center. Both structures are approximately 27 years old. The equipment has held up for a long time because it is not as heavily used as the public playgrounds and the equipment sustains less wear and tear. The play panels, roofs, and only decks that need it will be replaced. NuToys is the manufacturer of the playground equipment

and is able to provide the equipment needed. The total cost for refurbishing both playgrounds is \$43,412.09.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if this was budgeted, and Mr. Guynn said a portion is budgeted in the 2023-2024 capital budget and that Tot Learning Center received grant money for a portion of the project.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the purchase of play equipment replacement parts from NuToys for the Tot Learning Center for \$43,412.09. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2023 SPORTS COURT REPAIRS BID

Superintendent Guynn received two bids for the 2023 sports court repairs. The scope of the work includes repairs to tennis courts located at Central, Terminal, Laramie, Lauth, and Schack Parks.

Some of the courts are peeling, cracking, and need to be repaired. At Schack Park the contractor will be color coating the two new tennis courts as part of the Fairview School project. The work will start when the temperatures have stabilized.

Commissioner Jaffe asked how long the tennis courts at Central Park would be out of commission and Mr. Guynn said two – three weeks in the later part of August.

Commissioner Desai asked about a warranty. Mr. Guynn said there is a one-year warranty.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve the bid of American Sealcoating for \$135,900 for the 2023 Sports Courts Repair project. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSACTION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Guynn presented the annual ADA report and asked for questions.

President Aberman said the report was confusing and Mr. Guynn responded that he would update the comments section with the proper verb tense.

Commissioner Oshana thanked staff for the historical information dating back to 2011 and said it was very interesting.

Commissioner Oshana said the ADA door at Devonshire Center was not working when she was there last weekend. Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato said she would mention this to the facility manager.

Commissioner Oshana asked if the website could have more accessibility features. Jim Bottorff, Marketing and Communications Manager explained that the district's web developer, American Eagle told him that trying to put an overlay on the website could compromise the website and they don't recommend doing this. Ms. Tuft said she will provide the board with more information from American Eagle and why they don't recommend this.

Vice President Reid moved to approve the March 21, 2023 updates to the District's Americans with Disabilities Transition Plan. 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 Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Oshana attended the Dancing with Our Tribe at Devonshire Center and left inspired and interested to learn more. It was fascinating and well done. President Aberman and Vice President Reid also attended. Vice President Reid said the 105 persons turnout was impressive. Ms. Tuft said Amanda Hansen-Putziger took the lead on this event and will be doing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training at Oakton Center tomorrow on Indigenous People. Breanne said Rebecca Goldberg and Amanda also have an event scheduled in April. Ms. Amato said there will be an EID celebration on April 30 at Weber Center.

President Aberman commended staff for the DEI programs that have been added over the past year and said it was impressive.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Labus reported that the banners at the Skatium are completely full on the main rink and are deciding if banners should be sold at the studio rink.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Oshana complemented the heat map she requested for camp registrations. The map showed that camp registration was spread across the community very well. Ms. Oshana thanked the staff member who put it together and Ms. Tuft said Amanda Catania handled it and thanked Amanda. Commissioner Oshana said it showcased the registrations came from so many different suburban areas. It was really impressive and speaks to the quality of the district's programs.

NEW BUSINESS

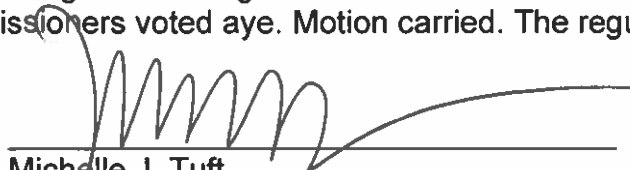
Commissioner Jaffe shared feedback that some residents are interested in videotaping the board meetings. He asked if this is something worth pursuing. There was discussion and Ms. Tuft will look into the cost and the logistics of recording the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

March 21, 2023