

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid
Vice President Minal Desai
Commissioner Susan Aberman

Absent: Commissioner Ezra Jaffe

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
Human Resources Director Stephenie Gualano
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. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Efficiency Committee Meeting of January 16, 2024, minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2024, minutes of the Public Hearing for Improvements at Pooch Park of January 23, 2024; bills payable for the month January /February 2024, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES

Human Resources Director Stephenie Gualano asked the board to approve three personnel policy updates. The first two updates are legal requirements for the Child Extended Bereavement Leave and Organ Donation Leave policies.

The third update addresses staff benefits for programs and facility use. Employees and their dependents will receive discounts for programs, events, passes, and rentals.

Discounts vary for the four categories of staff, full-time staff, IMRF part-time staff, regular part-time staff, and seasonal staff.

Vice President Desai moved to approve the policies as proposed, effective February 20, 2024. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried.

POOCH PARK FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

Superintendent Guynn reviewed the final design for the proposed improvements at Pooch Park. Mr. Guynn said the small dog area will be split into two separate areas, one for small dogs and one for puppies. Commissioner Aberman asked to clarify the puppy area. Mr. Guynn said the puppy area is for dogs under twelve months with no weight restriction. The small dog area is for dogs that are thirty-five pounds or less.

Mr. Guynn explained the improvements as follows: the entrance at the north end of the park will be altered with a gate that can be opened directly into the small dog area and a gate that will open straight into the regular dog park. A shelter will be added at the south end of the park. Additional trees will be planted to provide more shade. All the entrances will have asphalt aprons and the benches, garbage cans and picnic tables will be on concrete slabs.

Mr. Guynn said there were approximately twenty people at the public hearing and attendees had a lot of good comments and ideas.

Vice President Desai asked about the timeline for the project and Mr. Guynn said he anticipates the project will take two to three weeks in late summer or early fall.

There is no recommendation, the summary is for informational purposes only.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #4 FOR CENTRAL PARK CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Guynn requested approval of Change Order #4 for the Central Park Construction Project. The change order includes concrete removal, concrete work, additional stones, and additional top-soil excavation and removal.

Commissioner Aberman said the project is over budget and Mr. Guynn said it is over .02% which is about \$30,000.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Change Order #4 from D&J Landscape for \$9,493.50 for the Central Park Renovation. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WEBER LEISURE CENTER AND PARK SERVICES SOLAR PANEL RESOLUTION #24-001

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Weber Leisure Center and Park Services Solar Panel Resolution #24-001. Mr. Guynn said the project was delayed due to Covid 19,

supply chain issues, engineering, and permitting. Realgy's installer also folded, and they had to find a new company to do the work. The amendment to the original contract amends the dates of the project. Realgy has been working on permits and engineering and once approved Mr. Guynn anticipates the project will begin quickly. Ms. Tuft said the resolution and amendment were reviewed by the district's attorney.

Vice President Desai moved to approve Resolution #24-001 an amendment to the power purchase lease agreement between Skokie Park District and Realgy, LLC. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF LAWLER PARK CONSTRUCTION BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Lawler Park Construction bid. Mr. Guynn reminded the board that the district received an OSLAD for this project. The bid includes installation of playground equipment, a shelter, exercise equipment, a Teqball table and path improvements.

Hacienda Landscaping is also doing the installation at Pawnee Park and Tot Learning Center and hopefully will be working early to mid-spring on all three of these projects.

Commissioner Aberman asked where the zipline will be located and Mr. Guynn said it will be on the north side of the park.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the bid from Hacienda Landscaping for \$422,530 and reject Alternate one for the Lawler Park Construction Project. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD INTERVIEWS

President Reid distributed a list of dates to consider for the Commissioner candidate interviews. The board will establish the interview questions and email them to the candidates prior to their interview. After discussion it was decided to meet on February 27 at 6 p.m. to finalize the questions. President Reid will finalize the dates for the interviews and will send them to Director Tuft. They would like to meet at the Oakton Center and Ms. Tuft will check availability.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman congratulated staff on the wonderful job everyone did for the summer camp resident registration on February 4. President Reid said it was phenomenal and the comments on social media were all good. Ms. Amato said she received complimentary emails.

Ms. Tuft said the key was migrating the Rec Trac system to the cloud. The IT Department made the improvements, but registration was a great team effort.

President Reid received a text message from a friend that was in Central Park with his grandchildren and he overheard a conversation between two women sitting on a bench. One said how great the Skokie parks are and the other said she loves the Skokie parks. He sent President Reid the message because he thought he would like to know.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft said the Legislative Breakfast is next week on February 29. She will not be able to attend as she will be attending the Cook County Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Desai moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Mike Reid
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

March 19, 2024