

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
APRIL 20, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Michael Reid
Commissioner Michael W. Alter
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Marketing and Communications Manager Jim Bottorff
Social Media Assistant Megan Keating
Devonshire Cultural Center Manager Robin Horwitz
Newly Elected Park Commissioner, Mary Oshana
Former Park Commissioner, Khemarey Khoeun
Rabbi Yochanan Posner
Kelsey Ledford, Skokie Resident

CALL TO ORDER

President Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT

President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order at 7:01 p.m. He asked for any comments regarding the General Obligation Alternate Bond sale, Series 2021A. There were no comments or questions. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2021-2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE #21-001**

President Reid called the Public Hearing for the FY 2021-2022 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #21-001 to order at 7:02 p.m. He asked for comments or questions. There were no comments or questions. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Desai 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 March 16, 2021, bills payable for the month of March/April 2021, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**APPROVAL OF FINAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR
2021-2022 ORDINANCE #21-003**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the approval of the Final Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #21-003 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Treasurer Schmidt said the draft Ordinance has been on display for over thirty days at Devonshire, Oakton, and Weber Centers. There were no citizen comments on the draft Ordinance.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #21-003 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the total amount of \$25,609,406, including the five-year Capital Development Plan totaling \$7,084,900 but not including the Skatium Project. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #21-004 PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN
TAXES LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE INTEREST ON
GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS, SERIES 2003B (CAPITAL APPRECIATION
BONDS) AND ON THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK
BONDS SERIES 2011A, AND INTEREST COSTS ON THE SERIES 2013B, SERIES 2015B,
SERIES 2017B AND SERIES 2019A ALL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE
REVENUE SOURCE BONDS) OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #21-004 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied. Ordinance #21-004 and the annual refunding bond issue spread out the principal and interest payments for the amounts due on series 2003B Capital appreciation bonds \$2,300,000 and the amounts due on Series 2011A, interest due on Series 2013B, Series 2015B, Series 2017B and Series 2019A. By approving the bond and interest costs are removed from District's tax levy.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve Ordinance #21-004 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest in the above-mentioned General Obligation Bonds, Series, 2003B, Series 2011A and interest costs on Series 2013B, Series 2015B, Series 2017B and Series 2019A of the Skokie Park District. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

SENECA PARK UPDATE

Executive Director Tuft said Rabbi Yochanan Posner of Lubavitch Chabad has requested a land property swap at Seneca Park. This was discussed at a previous Board meeting and Ms. Tuft wanted to update the Board with a drawing of the site and a tentative plan for the land swap. In the proposal Lubavitch Chabad will acquire the property where the basketball court is currently located, to develop a parking lot. The basketball court would be relocated east of the newly proposed parking lot. Seneca Park would expand to the south, into the vacant lot that Lubavitch Chabad owns. By Park District code, the Park District cannot lose public land, and this would be an even land swap. A public hearing will be held to gain input from the neighbors. Rabbi Posner would like to speak to residents about this plan prior to the public hearing. Ms. Tuft wants input from the residents before staff moves forward. She does not want Lubavitch Chabad to spend money on this project in case there is a negative response from the neighbors that would prevent the project from moving forward. The Park District's attorney has been consulted. The Village is also involved with relocating an alley and Ms. Tuft has spoken with Village officials regarding this land swap.

President Reid asked why the parking lot could not be placed in the vacant lot that Lubavitch Chabad owns, where a house was removed. Ms. Tuft said she spoke to the Village staff who informed her it was a zoning issue. Commissioner Aberman had a question on the location of the basketball court. Superintendent Guynn said the court would be moved further away from the houses on the west side of the park.

The Board's consensus was to move forward in the process. The project would be formally approved after the public hearing and after a formal legal agreement was negotiated. No motion needed, for informational purposes only.

IAPD PHOTO CONTEST AWARD – MEGAN KEATING, MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Communications and Marketing Manager, Jim Bottorff announced to the Board that the Skokie Park District won third place in the Illinois Association of Park District's "Give Us Your Best Shot" photo contest last week. There were 368 entries submitted. Megan Keating's photo entitled "Paralympian Travis Dodson" won the prize for the contest's sports category.

Megan is the District's Social Media Assistant and captured this photo at Dodson's para hockey clinic at the Skatium Ice Arena in July 2020. Megan takes photos and videos and posts them on social media. Ms. Tuft has received many compliments on the District's social media posts and congratulated Megan on her great work. The District has now won 19 state design publication and photo awards since 2004. Congratulations to Megan. The Board expressed their congratulations and appreciation of Megan's social media posts. Megan said she was blessed to work at the Skokie Park District and was thankful for the award.

No motion needed, for informational purposes only.

APPROVAL OF F450 4X4 REGULAR CAB STAKE BED TRUCK BID

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the F450 4x4 regular cab stake bed truck bid. This vehicle will replace the existing 2004 F350 stake body vehicle which currently has 34,447 miles on it. There is extensive rust on the vehicle and the boards that make up the bed of the truck are no longer able to be secured. This vehicle will be auctioned in the future. Three bids were received. The low bidder was Roesch Ford of Bensenville for \$47,725 which is under the budgeted amount of \$53,000.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve the bid of Roesch Ford, Inc., located in Bensenville, IL to provide a F450 4x4 regular cab stake bed truck for \$47,725. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2021 CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS CHANGE ORDER #1 AND CHANGE ORDER #2

Superintendent Guynn requested approval for Change Order #1 and Change Order #2 for the concrete improvements project. Change Order #1 consisted of concrete pad work at Emily Oaks Nature Center, Devonshire Cultural Center and Skokie Water Playground. Change Order #2 consisted of adjustments to the original bid for additional work at Tecumseh Park, Pohatan Park, and the excavation of the pit for the zipline at Hamlin Park.

Commissioner Aberman asked if this put the project over budget. Superintendent Guynn responded approximately \$8,000.

Commissioner Aberman move to approve Change Order #1 (\$11,589) and Change Order #2 (\$3,732.50) for the 2021 concrete improvements project for a total of \$15,330.05. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER SOLAR PANEL PROJECT
CHANGE ORDER #1**

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the Emily Oaks Nature Center solar panel project Change Order #1 which covers an electrical filtering product from the microinverter manufacturer. There is no issue with the solar panels, they are working fine. Superintendent Guynn also mentioned the District will be receiving a rebate of \$4,100 that he thought was originally included in the grant.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Emily Oaks Nature Center solar panel project for \$625.00. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

UPDATE OF DISTRICT DEI TRAINING AND EQUITY AUDIT

Superintendent Marquardt said Ms. Tuft and he have been interviewing consulting firms for the (DEI) diversity, equity, and inclusion training. Four proposals were received ranging from \$16,000 to \$50,000. Single Story Inc. has been selected as the consultant with Brian Corley as the lead. Single Story will provide training for staff, a Board workshop, develop and enhance the staff diversity committee and conduct an equity audit which will include interviews with stakeholders and a policy and practices assessment. Mr. Marquardt anticipates beginning the work in May. Board approval is not necessary as the cost is under the bid limit, but Ms. Tuft wanted to bring the information to the Board for questions or comments. Commissioner Aberman asked if a report would be given when all the training and meetings are done. Mr. Marquardt replied yes. Commissioner Aberman said she thought the Board Diversity Committee struggled and thinks this will be a good thing for the District.

No motion necessary, informational purposes only.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Aberman asked about the Park Department staff report and wanted to know what the discussion entailed with Joe Brusseau, regarding the Devonshire Park backstop. Superintendent Guynn said the discussion was regarding the backstop replacement. The dugouts will also be replaced with concrete and the asphalt pad will be resurfaced on the first base side. The discussion also included the sports courts at Hamlin Park that will be resurfaced.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular and annual meetings of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Reid attended the Spring Greening event last Sunday. Kudos to Lee Hansen, Nancy Portillo, and all the volunteers. Everything was so well organized. Ms. Tuft said 1,080 cars

came through. Recycling this year was limited to electronics and paper shredding. The committee will regroup to decide what to add to the event next year.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the Board to submit their Economic Interest Statements by May 1.

Ms. Tuft said an email was sent to Commissioners informing them about the 2021 NRPA Conference. Ms. Tuft said the conference can be attended in-person or virtually and to let Ann know if interested, so she can register them. This year the conference is limited to Division Heads and Commissioners.

The State of the Village is May 19 from 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. and will be virtual. Please let Ms. Tuft know if you are interested in attending. The cost is \$20.00, and she will be happy to register anyone who wants to attend.

Ms. Tuft was approached by a group that is hosting a rally at Oakton Park this Saturday, April 24 and she is working on the permit. The group wants to show support to the community regardless of the verdict of the Derick Chauvin trial that was announced today.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary