

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
APRIL 19, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: Vice President Michael Reid  
Commissioner Mary Oshana

Remote Attendance: President Susan Aberman  
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe

Absent: Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn  
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt  
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus  
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff  
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Vice President Reid asked Commissioner Jaffe to confirm that his audio is working properly acknowledging that he could hear all board members. Commissioner Jaffe responded yes. Vice President Reid asked all board members if they could hear Commissioner Jaffe, and all responded yes.

Vice President Reid then called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Don Hanson addressed the board regarding a request to extend Fitness First hours at the Weber Leisure Center back to pre-covid hours. He would like the center to be open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 p.m. on the weekends. Ms. Tuft said staff will reevaluate the hours, but with a decrease in membership numbers and revenue due to Covid 19 there is a concern regarding extending the hours at this time. Ms. Tuft said staff was considering going back to the hours in the fall because during summer there is usually a decline in attendance. She will discuss this with Superintendent Labus and the Weber Center Facility Manager.

Mr. Robert Skillin is a participant in a yoga class and is at the meeting with a group of participants from a yoga class. Mr. Skillin and the other participants are requesting that the park district consider continuing the classes virtually with the instructor who is moving out of state. He asked if anyone had watched her classes and stated that she is really good instructor. Ms. Tuft said that there is no doubt that she is a great instructor as she has worked for the park district for a long time. Ms. Tuft told the group that she had responded to a letter from the class participants and reiterated that response stating that having two yoga instructors, one for in person classes and one for virtual classes, would be expensive and the park district is not able to pay two instructors for the same class. Ms. Tuft provided two options to the group, one is to have the park district add the yoga class as a class with an additional fee to cover the cost of the instructor or for the group to work privately with the instructor to create a class independent from the park district.

Ms. Maureen McGrath thanked the Board for taking the time to listen to their concerns regarding the yoga class. She is hoping that Ms. Tuft can come up with a feasible solution as some of these participants have been taking the class for many years and feel the instructor is excellent and is an incredibly gifted yoga instructor. She has had a wonderful following of participants for over 16 years teaching the class and she hopes staff will consider the group's request.

Mr. Don Tadish said it was short sided to eliminate a zoom class because we are still in a pandemic. Mr. Tadish suggested setting up zoom classes permanently as we do not know what the future holds with the pandemic. Ms. Tuft said we have no intention of eliminating zoom classes yet. Currently instructors conduct in person and zoom classes at the same time and that will continue. Ms. Tuft said staff will take a look at developing a class with a fee. She will email the options out to everyone in the next few days.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT**

Vice President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order at 7:11 p.m. He asked for any comments regarding the General Obligation Alternate Bond sale, Series 2022A. There were no comments or questions. Vice President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2022-2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-002**

Vice President Reid called the Public Hearing for the FY 2022-2023 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #22-002 to order at 7:12 p.m. He asked for comments or questions. There were no comments or questions. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

President Aberman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2022; bills payable for the month of March/April 2022, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

#### **APPROVAL OF FINAL BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2022- 2023 ORDINANCE #22-005**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the approval of the Final Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

#22-005 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This was the exact dollar amount approved in the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance and Finance Committee Meeting. 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 Oshana moved to approve the Final Budget and Ordinance #22-005 for fiscal year 2022-2023 in the total amount of \$31,304,581 including the five-year Capital Development Plan totaling \$6,476,188 but not including the Skatium project. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners, voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #22-004 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 INTERST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS SERIS 2021A, AND INTEREST COSTS ON THE SERIES 2013B, SERIES 2015B, SERIES 2017B AND SERIES 2019A ALL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #22-004 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied. Ordinance #22-004 and the annual refunding bond issue spreads out the principal and interest payments for the amounts due on series 2021A - \$263,100, interest due on Series 2013B - \$70,000, Series 2015B - 85,000, Series 2017B - \$100,000, and Series 2019A - 75,000. By approving the abatement ordinance, the bond and interest costs are removed from District's tax levy.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve Ordinance #22-004 to authorize the Abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the Principal and Interest on the above-mentioned General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003B, Series 2021A and interest costs on Series 2013B, Series 2015B, Series 2017B and Series 2019 of the Skokie Park District. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF 14 PASSENGER BUS BID**

Superintendent Guynn is requesting approval of a bid for a 14-passenger bus that replaces one of the Oakton Center senior busses. Staff is requesting approval of the higher bid for a Glaval Universal Passenger Bus. The higher bid is approximately \$4,000 more but is for a higher quality bus. Mr. Guynn said he talked to park districts using the Glaval bus and they are very satisfied with the vehicles.

President Aberman moved to approve the bid of Best Bus Sales for \$90,762 for the 2021 or Newer 14 Passenger Bus. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE WEBER LEISURE CENTER AND PARK SERVICES POWER PURCHASE LEASE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Weber Leisure Center and Park Services Power Purchase Lease Agreement. Mr. Guynn explained that approval is needed for the updated dates in the agreement. The agreement was originally executed in 2020 but with Covid-19 and supply chain delays the dates changed and an updated agreement needs to be approved. The Weber Leisure Center installation should be done in July and Park Services will follow.

Commissioner Oshana asked about the length of the agreement. Mr. Guynn said it is the standard length because the life of the panels is 25 years. Commissioner Oshana asked if the agreement included any roof penetrations. Mr. Guynn said there are no roof penetrations because the panels are placed on racks on the flat roof. However, if they damage the roof or have issues with the panels, Realgy, LLC is responsible.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve Resolution #22-001, an amendment to the power purchase lease agreement between the Skokie Park District and Realgy, LLC. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR SKATIUM RENOVATION HEAT EXCHANGE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**

Superintendent Marquardt said that the existing heat exchange system was deemed reusable in the original plans but was an error. Ms. Tuft said that the architect, Stantec, missed it. A new system is needed, and staff is requesting a change order to purchase the new system. However, the project is still under budget. The construction Manager, Wight, is putting together an updated project cost estimate and will attend the May Board meeting to update the Board.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the delay in opening the Skatium. Ms. Tuft said at the Skatium construction meeting today they received a cost estimate for a temporary HVAC system that will operate until the permanent equipment arrives. The temporary system will cost approximately \$43,000 for two months. Staff thinks it is worth the expense because the Skatium can open after Labor Day. Mr. Marquardt said that if the Skatium remained closed until November, the district would lose approximately \$150,000. Using a temporary HVAC system allows hockey leagues and skating programs to start on time. When the new system arrives the Skatium could remain operational or could be down a day during the switchover.

President Aberman voiced concerns that Stantec did not see this, and it should have been addressed in the original bid. She is a little upset. The heat exchanger was a problem from the beginning and asked why would we reuse the heating exchange system? President Aberman wants this stated in the public record. Ms. Tuft agreed that everyone was upset that Stantec missed this and agrees with President Aberman's statement. President Aberman stated that she hopes this will not continue to happen as this mistake does not give her a lot of faith in Stantec.

Commissioner Oshana asked about the delivery delay for the heat exchange system. Mr. Marquardt said there is no delay.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Skatium Renovation Heat Exchange System Replacement for \$82,000. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Oshana asked when the graffitied plexiglass will be replaced on the little library at Terminal Park. Mr. Guynn said he would have his staff take care of it immediately.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Oshana asked when the summer flower beds will be planted. Mr. Guynn said annuals will be planted in June and the native areas will be planted throughout the summer season. Most of the flower beds will be done in mid-June.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The next regular and annual meetings of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Jaffe thanked Ms. Tuft for the tours of the Skokie Heritage Museum and Dammrich Rowing Center.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if there was any more information on the incident at Emily Oaks Nature Center. Ms. Tuft did not know but will reach out to the police department.

Commissioner Oshana took photos at the Spring Greening event at Westfield Mall. She was really impressed with the turnout, organization, the number of volunteers, and how robust the program is. It is an amazing program and Kudos to the team. Ms. Tuft said Lee Hansen is the head of the Environmental Action Team and heads up this event. Park Services is also a big help. The Village of Skokie also takes a lead role, with Liz Zimmerman at Public Works taking the lead for the Village.

Vice President Reid was at the event as well and was amazed at the number of people that came to recycle their items. He kept count of the cars coming through the north parking lot and over 500 cars came through. The south parking lot had 1,250 cars go through for paper and electronics recycling. Vice President Reid remembered when the event began and how it has evolved. He gave kudos to Lee.

Commissioner Oshana suggested more signage off of Old Orchard Road to steer people to the recycling and to the mall area, to alleviate the traffic.

Superintendent Labus said it was the biggest Spring Greening in eleven years.

### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft reminded the Board that a retirement luncheon will be held on April 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Devonshire Cultural Center for Steve Ames and Steve Glickman.

April 29 is Arbor Day and staff will be planting a tree at Gleiss Park at 10 a.m.

The Chamber's state of the Village and board installation luncheon is April 29 at 11:30 a.m. The district has a table reserved for eight. Vice President Reid will be attending.

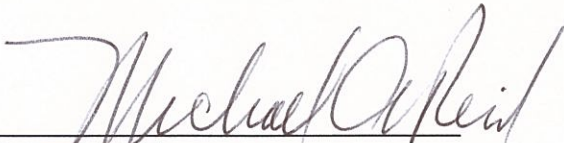
Ms. Tuft reminded Commissioners Desai and Oshana to complete their Economic Interest Statements by May 2, or they can be fined.

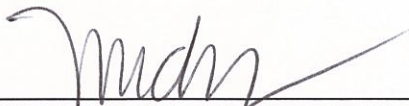
Ms. Tuft said the date of the September Board meeting needs to be changed as it conflicts with the NRPA Conference. Ms. Tuft said the board can pick a new date at the May board meeting.

Vice President Reid asked if staff were going to have their annual employee appreciation party. Ms. Tuft said the date for the employee appreciation party is Saturday, June 4 at the Evanston Golf Club. Ms. Labus said invitations should be going out shortly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

  
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Michael Reid  
Vice President

  
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Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary

April 19, 2022