

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
April 19, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present:

President Mike Reid  
Vice President Maureen Yanes  
Commissioner Michael W. Alter  
Commissioner Jerry B. Clarito  
Commissioner Susan Aberman (Remote Attendance)

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund  
Business Superintendent/Treasurer William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Parks Michael Rea  
Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities Michelle Tuft  
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez  
John Miller, Ehlers and Associates  
Steve Mihelich, Williams Architects  
Jack Hayes, Frederick Quinn Corporation  
Andy Ouper, Williams Architects  
Curtis and Rachelle Hanawalt, Skokie Residents  
Melissa Denton, Skokie Resident  
Shannon & Kate Beckering, Skokie Residents  
Ladd and Alissa Solomon, Skokie Residents  
Mark and Kristin Winter, Skokie Residents  
Brian Vanmersbergen, Skokie Resident  
Saifuddin Doriwala, 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.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Ms. Kristin Winter thanked the Board and staff for enhancing the quality of life for the residents. Ms. Winter requested the Board to remove the sand surfacing at the tot play lot at Winnebago Park and replace it with a safer and more sanitary playing surface. President Reid explained that the District has a five year capital plan and the parks and playgrounds are renovated on the schedule in the plan. Parks and playgrounds are evaluated annually and the needs are considered when determining which parks will be renovated first. Superintendent Rea said he was not sure of the timeline for the renovation of Winnebago Park, but will provide this information to Ms. Winter. Executive Director Ohrlund said the five year capital plan is reviewed and adjusted every year during the budget cycle. He said there are accessibility rules that must be adhered to when changing the playground surfacing or playground equipment. Ms. Winter thanked the Board for their consideration.

Ms. Melissa Denton said she has lived ten years in the Winnebago Park neighborhood and the playground has not been updated in that time. She now has a toddler and would like to be able to take her child to the playground but instead drives her child elsewhere. She would prefer to use her neighborhood park, but does not feel it is safe. She is also concerned that older children climb the fence to get into the basketball courts which are locked part of the year.

Mr. Ladd Solomon thanked the Board for “their dedication for making the Park District the best park district around.” Mr. Solomon said he would like to see that Winnebago Park be considered for updating in the near future.

Mr. Curtis Hanawalt said “the reason he moved from Evanston was the great reputation of the Skokie Park District” and he has been impressed with the programming. He said Winnebago Park is a small park but it serves a huge number of children. The demographics are changing in this area and there are more small children. He said the playground has not been updated since 1993 and requests the Board consider renovating the park soon.

Mr. Brian Vanmersbergen is a life- long resident and has lived in Skokie since birth. He has been involved with Skokie Youth and Skokie Indians, and taught physical education for over 20 years. His concern is that parents should not have to drive to another park when there is a park in their neighborhood. He said the kids are locked out of the basketball courts for five months of the year. The older children migrate into the younger children area. He believes that all children should have equal access opportunity to be physical active. Mr. Vanmersbergen thanked the Board for all that the Park District does for the residents.

President Reid thanked the group for their input.

### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

With no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Alter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2016; Bills payable for the month of March/April 2016; Treasurer’s Report; and Staff Reports.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #16-005.**

President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #16-005. There were no citizen comments. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 ORDINANCE #16-006**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Ordinance #16-006. He said the Ordinance mirrors the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #16-005 that was approved and placed on display for thirty days. There were no citizen comments on Ordinance #16-005.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #16-006 for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$34,492,672. Commissioner Clarito seconded the

motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberman entered the meeting via remote attendance at 7:20 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT BALL ELEVATOR  
FOR SKOKIE SPORTS PARK**

Superintendent Tuft requested approval of the purchase of a replacement ball elevator for Skokie Sports Park. Superintendent Tuft explained that this equipment is included in the 2016-2017 budget. The elevator takes golf balls from the first floor to the second floor. Commissioner Aberman asked if this was previously replaced and Superintendent Tuft said the motor has been replaced twice.

Vice President Yanes moved to approve the purchase of a 33 foot aluminum ball elevator for \$30,000 from Range Automation Systems for the golf range at Sports Park. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**MAJOR PROJECT FUNDING PLAN**

Executive Director Ohrlund made some introductory comments on the two major upcoming projects: Skokie Sports Park East (SSP-East) and the Weber Leisure Center/Fitness First renovation. Last month 2 different concepts for SSP-East were discussed; revised concept C and the full buildout. Since that meeting Executive Director Ohrlund and Superintendent Tuft met with Scott Freres of Lakota Group to continue refinement of the plan. For the purpose of this discussion we are assuming costs of \$17 million for SSP- East and \$4 million for Weber. Currently \$7.2 million dollars is set aside for these projects with another \$1 million to be transferred into the project fund this spring. This leaves about \$12.8 million dollars to consider for funding. This does not take into account any grants that the Park District may be receiving as part of the project. Executive Director Ohrlund said he has discussed extending the lease on the entire site with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). Staff is meeting with the MWRDGC in early May.

Treasurer Schmidt introduced John Miller of Ehlers and Associates to discuss an overview of various borrowing options to fund the projects. Mr. Miller summarized five borrowing options the Park District has for funding. Mr. Miller discussed the recommendations for future borrowing. Mr. Miller said the Board will need to make a decision on which option to use for funding the project. After discussion, Mr. Miller recommended funding the project with alternate revenue source bonds.

Treasurer Schmidt said the Board should keep in mind that the District must pay the bond interest costs from operating funds. Treasurer Schmidt said this discussion is for informational purposes and the Board needs to consider the best option for funding the project. Commissioner Aberman asked how much the District can borrow until the maximum debt limit is reached. Mr. Miller said if alternate revenue source bonds are purchased for these projects the bonds do not count against the debt service limit. President Reid said this was all good information and thanked Mr. Miller for the presentation.

**WEBER LEISURE CENTER/FITNESS FIRST PROJECT SCHEMATIC DESIGN REVIEW  
AND APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

Superintendent Tuft introduced Steve Mihelich, Andy Ouper, and Anna Cibulski from Williams Architects and Jack Hayes from Frederick Quinn Corporation (FQC). Mr. Mihelich began the

update on the schematic design and congratulated staff and consultants on their work and creativity. Consulting, mechanical and structural engineers have been hired and a further set of design drawings based on meetings with staff were given to FQC to begin pricing the project.

The Board viewed enlarged design plans, interior design vignettes, exterior design plans, project financials and bid and construction schedules.

Andy Ouper Williams Architects presented an overview of the floor plans and changes since the first design was presented and including new lobby finishes, a small addition to Fitness First, new locker rooms, staircase, offices and corridors and a child care area. For the second floor he reviewed the aesthetic refresh, express lockers and a larger Pilates studio.

Anna Cibulski presented the exterior design of the Weber Leisure Center and Fitness First addition. President Reid said the design of the new addition looks like it has always been there and fits right in. Vice President Yanes inquired about sun glare and blinds. Ms. Cibulski said the blinds will be motorized and performance glass is used which will reduce sun glare.

Mr. Jack Hayes, FQC construction manager, spoke about preparing a detailed cost estimate for the project. The design development phase will allow for more accurate estimates. The total approved project funds was \$3.5 million. The budgeted portion of funds for construction is \$3.1 million. The current cost estimate is \$3,443,780 and thus the project is a little over budget. Williams Architects, FQC and staff met to discuss value engineering, while retaining program space and aesthetics. Mr. Hayes said some challenges were identified for the fire alarm system and electrical costs. Steps have been taken to address these challenges.

Mr. Hayes said the bidding process would begin in August – September with construction beginning in September/October for 9–10 month duration. Mr. Hayes thanked the Board and will bring back revised costs for the project in the future.

Vice President Yanes moved to authorize Williams Architects to proceed with the design development phase of the Weber renovation project. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The date for the next Regular and Annual Meetings of the Board of Park Commissioners was discussed. The date was set for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice President Yanes asked if a public address system was being considered in the Weber/Fitness First renovation. Executive Director Ohrlund responded yes. Commissioner Alter said the public address system may be a part of the fire alarm system.

Vice President Yanes indicated an interest in the IAPD Leadership Institute.

President Reid said the Spring Greening event was a tremendous success. Even the inclement weather did not deter attendance.

Executive Director Ohrlund reminded the Board to submit their Statement of Economic Interest to the County. Commissioners Aberman and Alter said they completed their statements.

Executive Director Ohrlund said the summer program guide has been published. It has a new format with shorter class and program descriptions and some stories interspersed in the document.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Alter moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss minutes of Executive Session Meetings for purposes of approval of the minutes and semi-annual review of the minutes, and to authorize the destruction of Executive Session recordings. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberman was excused from the meeting.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The regular session meeting reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the content of the Executive Session Minutes of January 26, 2016 with minutes to remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #16-007 authorizing the destruction of verbatim records for the closed session meetings of April 24, 2014 and June 17, 2014. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

Following review of Executive Session meeting minutes dating to January 2004, Vice President Yanes moved to keep closed all minutes not previously released because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Alter move to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye Commissioner Aberman was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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Michael Reid  
President

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John V. Ohrlund  
Secretary