

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 20, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Susan Aberman
Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Michael W. Alter
Commissioner Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Maureen Yanes

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities Michelle Tuft
Superintendent of Parks Mike Rea
Assistant Superintendent Jon Marquardt
Landscape Supervisor Steve Ames
Horticulturist Jay Randolph
Park Specialist James Hallm
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Park Services Office Manager Dima Kirland
Marla Jaffe, Skokie Resident
Ezra Jaffe, Skokie Resident
Elaine Asher, Skokie Resident
Ray Asher, Skokie Resident
Vicki Gunther, Skokie Resident
Seymour Schwartz, Skokie Resident
Dan Maeir, Skokie Resident
Abby Maeir, Skokie Resident
Tammy Suger, Skokie Resident
Laura Allswang, Skokie Resident
Michelle Trubnick, Skokie Resident
Randy Trubnick, Skokie Resident
Arthur Rosenson, Skokie Resident

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman 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

Mr. Seymour Schwartz addressed the Board regarding handicapped parking at the Weber Leisure Center. Mr. Schwartz feels there is a need for more handicapped parking spaces. Executive Director Ohrlund said staff has reviewed the number of parking spaces at Weber parking lot and said it may be possible to convert some of the regular parking spaces. He explained that it takes two parking spaces to create one handicapped parking space so staff

will take the request into consideration. President Aberman thanked Mr. Schwartz for expressing his concern.

Ms. Vicki Gunther congratulated the Board on the wonderful renovation to Weber and then discussed an injury she incurred in the Fitness First women's restroom. She said the restroom stall door was difficult to lock and caused her to injure her finger. Superintendent Tuft responded that staff contacted the manufacturer about the locks which sent a technician to make adjustments. It has been discovered that the doors are warped and are being replaced. Staff modified the locks to make them easier to use until the new doors arrive. President Aberman thanked Ms. Gunther for her comments.

Mr. Ezra Jaffe made a request to re-name Laramie Park to Caleb Field. Mr. Jaffe said part of the District's criteria on the naming of parks is for the individual to have made an exceptional contribution to the District. Mr. Jaffe presented some video testimonials from individuals who knew Caleb Maier and expressed their reasons for renaming Laramie Park to honor Caleb. Mr. Raymond Asher coached Caleb at Laramie Park and said Caleb was very deserving of this honor. Ms. Abby Maier said Caleb was her nephew and was an inspiration to his friends, throughout his illness he never complained and remained positive. By naming the park after Caleb it sends a message to youth to stay positive and keep going. President Aberman thanked everyone for expressing their comments on re-naming the park.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16; bills payable for the month of January/February 2018; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF BOND SALE TIMELINE: GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS 2018B

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the bond timeline for the issuance of 2018B General Obligation Limited Tax bonds based on the Debt Service Extension Base increase over a two year period not to exceed the amount of \$800,000. At the January Board Meeting the Bond Timeline was approved. This year staff is requesting two years of cap space dollars as interest rates are low and the District will save on issuance costs. The bonds will be offered to local area banks. A Certificate of Determination is required and a Bond Issuance Notification Act hearing will be held at the March meeting.

Commissioner Yanes moved to approve the Bond Sales timeline to issue a not to exceed amount of \$800,000 Series 2018B General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds based on the Debt Service Extension Base increase over a two year period. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye.

PARK SERVICES FACILITY UPDATE

Superintendent Rea gave a detailed update on the progress of the Park Services facility renovation. HVAC and fire protection drawings were submitted to the Village of Skokie for review due to the addition of the mezzanine.

- Masonry
 - The new entrance addition which will house the staircase and elevator continues to take shape despite the cold weather

- Door openings
 - Installation of door jambs throughout the building
 - Hallway/walk through by the changing room has been finished
 - Structural steel to support the masonry over and around the new overhead doors is being installed
- Staff lockers
 - Final measurements and color selection has taken place, an end of March delivery is expected
- Heating and ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)
 - Duct and structural steel modification work continues
 - The two roof top units were relocated and will be re-wired shortly
- Concrete
 - Thickened concrete will be poured under the new overhead door openings located at the northwest corner of the building shortly
- Plumbing
 - Work continues on roof drain supply runs to the storm water storage cistern system
- Electrical
 - Work continues on the removal of abandoned electrical circuits and equipment
 - Re-routing existing electrical in preparation of the mezzanine.

Executive Director Ohrlund offered a tour of the new Park Services facility.

No motion, information purposes only.

UPDATE ON THE REPLACEMENT OF GREENHOUSE BID FOR EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER

Superintendent Rea said that Horticulturist Jay Randolph had researched the replacement greenhouse for Emily Oaks Nature Center. Mr. Randolph researched a Janko greenhouse for a purchase price of \$20,016. Staff will get quotes for the installation of the greenhouse. The estimated cost for installation is approximately \$9,000.

No motion, informational purposes only.

APPROVAL OF DEVONSHIRE AQUATICS CENTER POOL HEATER BID

Superintendent Tuft said that the Devonshire Aquatic Center pool heater was bid in April with the Skokie Water Playground heater. At the time the bids were higher than anticipated and a decision was made to only replace the Skokie Water Playground heater. The bid price of the Devonshire pool heater is \$25,098 which the vendor will still honor, with installation to cost approximately \$10,000. Capital funds are available to complete this project.

Vice President Reid moved to award the bid to Halogen Pool Supply for the purchase of a replacement pool heater in the amount of \$25,098 for Devonshire Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO BID T-SHIRTS

Superintendent Tuft said staff is investigating the purchase of T-shirts, staff shirts, and shirts for programs and special events. Staff will attempt a District-wide bid to lock in better pricing.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to authorize staff to prepare bid specifications and bid out the purchase of T-shirts. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

REPORT ON DISTRICT TREE MANAGEMENT AND TREE INVENTORY

Landscape Supervisor Steve Ames and Horticulturist Jay Randolph presented a report on the District's Tree Management and Tree Inventory programs. Mr. Ames began with speaking about the value of trees. Steve said trees provide a feeling of a sense of well-being, community and health, provide noise abatement, shade, reduce energy costs, increase property values and provide for wildlife habitat.

Mr. Randolph spoke about some of the habitat projects the landscaping crew has created at the Devonshire Park boardwalk area, Weber Leisure Center retention pond and the area near the Oakton Park tennis courts. Mr. Randolph said the District received a \$7,700 grant from the Morton Arboretum for native trees. With the grant the District was able to plant 54 trees throughout the parks. Mr. Randolph explained the benefits of planting a diversity of species of trees especially native trees; which survive better and promote beneficial insects.

Mr. Ames talked about tree maintenance and the different reports and records of tree pruning, watering and tree planting. Executive Director Ohrlund thanked Mr. Ames and Mr. Randolph for the informative presentation and said it shows the level of care and professionalism of the parks staff.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Yanes said she was upset with the Illinois Supreme Court ruling allowing firearms to be within 1000 feet of a park.

Commissioner Khoeun commented on the goals for the Community Engagement Committee.

President Aberman asked about applicants for the Diversity Advisory Committee. Executive Director said one more application was received.

Executive Director Ohrlund reminded the Board of the IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield, IL on April 24 – 25, 2018.

The Board Meet and Greet is schedule for Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 3 – 5 p.m. at Emily Oaks Nature Center.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Susan Aberman
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary