



**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PETITION TO DISCONNECT
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017
6:30 PM**

Present from Skokie Park District:

Susan Aberman	President
Mike Reid	Vice President
Mike Alter	Park Commissioner
Khemarey Khoeun	Park Commissioner
Maureen Yanes	Park Commissioner
John Ohrlund	Executive Director
Michelle Tuft	Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities
William Schmidt	Superintendent of Business Services
Ann Perez	Executive Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Harlene Binstock, Evanston Resident
Constance Porteous, Evanston Resident
Patrick Burns, Evanston Resident
Sandra Byrnes, Evanston Resident
Craig McClure, Evanston Resident
Mike Isaacs, Skokie Review
Rana Gordon, Evanston Resident
Doug and Judy Nickels, Evanston Residents
Ray Pershing, Evanston Resident
Peter O'Brien, Evanston Resident
Cheryl Lawrence, Evanston Resident
Prabna Parameswaran, Evanston Resident
Karen and Thomas Fronczak, Evanston Residents
John Gallagher, Evanston resident
Peter Roothann, Evanston resident
Michael Oremland, Evanston resident

President Aberman welcomed the Evanston residents to the Public Hearing for the Petition to Disconnect from the Skokie Park District.

Executive Director Ohrlund discussed the process for disconnection and details concerning the current petition. He presented the discovery process on the status of the properties in question and the process enumerated in state law including the five requirements the petitions need to meet. The law grants the authority of the Board of Park Commissioners to disconnect territory from the District by ordinance. The Board has the sole discretion to grant or deny the disconnection of territory.

Executive Director Ohrlund explained the ramifications of a disconnect to the Evanston residents. The financial impact to the Skokie Park District of a disconnect is approximately \$76,000 a year in lost tax revenue. For the Evanston residents existing District debt would remain on property tax bills until the debt is paid off. Quoting the law, "the disconnection of any territory from a district will not exempt it from taxation for the purpose of paying any indebtedness contracted by the district board prior to the filing of the petition for disconnection. The territory must be assessed and taxes levied sufficient to satisfy any such indebtedness."

Executive Director Ohrlund stated the petition to disconnect appears to meet all of the requirements of the law. It is the intent of the Board to listen to any comments and take action at the July 18, 2017 Board meeting. Executive Director's recommendation is to approve the disconnection. He then opened the meeting up for questions and comments.

Discussion took place about estimated tax savings, debt costs and how long this debt would remain on tax bills.

President Aberman said the purpose of the meeting was for an informational hearing on the petition to disconnect. The Board thanked the Evanston residents for their attendance and sharing their feelings and comments with the Board.

Several residents said they love the Skokie Park District programs and facilities. Another resident thanked everyone that worked on organizing the petition and the Board for being open minded.

President Aberman said the Board will make a determination on the petition to disconnect at the July 18, 2017 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Susan Aberman
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary