

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
MARCH 17, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Mike Reid
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Jerry B. Clarito

Others Present:

Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund
Business Superintendent/Treasurer William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks Michael Rea
Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities Michelle Tuft
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Jon Marquardt
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Dima Kirland, Office Manager
John Miller, Ehlers and Associates
Joe Brusseau, Brusseau Design Group

Absent:

Vice President Michael W. Alter
Commissioner Maureen Yanes

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:25 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Howard Tennes, Concord Lane, Skokie, IL addressed the Board regarding the Skokie Tennis Club. Mr. Tennes is requesting affiliate status for the Skokie Tennis Club. The Skokie Tennis Club is a newly formed non-profit social organization with a purpose of promoting, organizing and playing social recreation mixed doubles tennis. More than 50 percent of the members will reside in Skokie. The goal is to provide a social competitive mixed doubles league that stresses good sportsmanship, physical activity and recreational enjoyment.

Commissioner Aberman asked if the league is competitive. Mr. Tennes said it is a mixed doubles league where people play with others with like abilities. Sportsmanship is stressed over winning. It is a social activity for the residents of Skokie.

Commissioner Clarito inquired about the fees. Mr. Tennes responded the resident fee for a season of tennis would be \$45 and for a non-resident \$55. Mr. Tennes thanked the Board for their consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

With no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 17, 2015; Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2015; Bills payable for the months of February 2015/March 2015; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND NOTIFICATION ISSUE ACT

President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order. He asked for any comments or questions regarding the proposed \$2,000,000 general alternate bond sale Series 2015B. Mr. Miller, Ehlers and Associates, Inc. explained the public hearing is for the alternate revenue source bonds done every other year. The new money is typically used for smaller capital improvements and equipment. With no other comments, President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #15-002 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,265,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2015A, OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Treasurer Schmidt explained the purpose of Ordinance #15-002 authorizing the issuance of \$2,265,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A of the Skokie Park District. The Ordinance spreads out the principal and interest payments for the amount due on the Series 1999 Capital Appreciation Bonds in the amount of \$2,300,000.

Treasurer Schmidt asked Mr. Miller to discuss the bond sale results. Mr. Miller stated that 3 bids were received for the sale of the bonds. A favorable rate of .79% was received. The winning bid is by Raymond James. The purpose of this bond issue is to pay the debt service due 12/1/15 on the Series 1999 Alternate Revenue Bonds. This was an advance refunding. Prior to the abatement date, the bonds must be sold even though the payment is not due until 12/1/15. Moody's affirmed the Park District's "Aa2" bond rating. Mr. Miller said that the bond rating analysts were impressed with the ability of the Park District to have surplus of funds in the budget, diverting them to capital and still retain levels of fund balances.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #15-002 to authorize the issuance of approximately \$2,265,000 of General Refunding Bonds Series 2015A. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE 2015 REFUNDING ESCROW DEPOSIT AGREEMENT WHICH RELATES TO ORDINANCE #15-002

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the 2015 Refunding Escrow Deposit agreement in the amount of \$2,298,221. He explained that the agreement takes the proceeds from the refunding bond issue and invests these proceeds in government obligations so that the maturing principal of and the interest earned will be sufficient to pay the debt when it comes due on 12/1/15.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the 2015 Refunding Escrow Deposit Agreement to authorize the District to escrow approximately \$2,298,221 of debt service payments into a special and irrevocable escrow fund per the attached agreement. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #15-003 PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2011A OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT AND GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2013B, OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #15-003 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and the interest on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011A of the Skokie Park District and the interest costs on the Series 2013B General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source). The Alternate Revenue Source 2011A Series bonds were used for the Skatium renovation and the 2013B Series for capital improvement. The

District pays this through the Recreation Fund. This action will remove the principal and interest from the tax levy.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #15-003 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on the Series 2011A General Obligation Bonds and the interest costs on Series 2013B General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the Skokie Park District. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #15-004 PROVIDING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES
LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE INTEREST ON GENERAL
OBLIGATION PARK BONDS SERIES 1999B (CAPITAL APPRECIATION BONDS) OF THE SKOKIE
PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #15-004 providing the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and the interest on General Obligation Park Bonds Series 1999B (Capital Appreciation Bonds) of the Skokie Park District. This needs to be done to remove the principal and interest from the tax levy.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Ordinance #15-004 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on the above mentioned General Obligation Bonds. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

TENTATIVE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #15-005 FISCAL YEAR 2016

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #15-005 for fiscal year 2015-2016. The Ordinance will be on display for thirty days at Devonshire, Oakton and Weber Centers for the public to review. The Ordinance mirrors the information that was presented at the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 9, 2015. A public notice will be placed in the Skokie Review. A public hearing will be held at the next board meeting on April 21, 2015.

Commissioner Aberman asked about the salary pool request. Executive Director Ohrlund responded with a discussion about keeping up with inflation and the salary review recently completed for the District.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #15-005 for fiscal year 2016 so it can be on public display for thirty days. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AFFILIATE AGREEMENT FOR SKOKIE TENNIS CLUB

Assistant Superintendent Marquardt said the Board heard Mr. Howard Tennes request an affiliate agreement for the Skokie Tennis Club earlier in the meeting. A formal letter was submitted to the Park District for affiliate status. To complete the application process the following materials were needed.

- Written by-laws/guidelines of the organization
- A statement of purpose and description of the specialized activities.
- A list of current officers and membership/participants.
- Proposed annual budget/financial statement/audit.

Assistant Superintendent Marquardt said after reviewing the additional documents Park District staff met with representatives of the Skokie Tennis Club.

Superintendent Tuft clarified that the agreement does not mandate the hours for tennis play; that will be worked out during probationary period. She said there is a twelve month probationary affiliate period. After the twelve months, the status will be changed to full time pending a majority vote of the Board.

President Reid said the Skokie Tennis Club already has interested individuals and the proposed fee is very reasonable.

Signage will be put up at the Tennis Center.

Commissioner Aberman wanted to make sure that the 51% resident policy is adhered to by the Skokie Tennis Club. Assistant Superintendent Marquardt said this has been stressed to the Skokie Tennis Club.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve a 12 month probationary affiliate status for the Skokie Tennis Club. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

Superintendent Rea updated the Board on of the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. He said substantial progress has been made over the past four years in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for playgrounds and facilities. Some of the updates completed include:

- Where needed, asphalt pathways and concrete sidewalks with barriers have been eliminated by removing and replacing the settled asphalt or concrete. This is an ongoing process as new areas develop each year.
- Handicap accessibility to picnic tables was created by pouring concrete sidewalks to picnic tables at each of the following parks: Emerson, Gleiss and Lorel Parks.
- The south entrance doors had ADA automatic door openers installed at Devonshire Cultural Center.
- Engineered Wood Fiber was added to the following playgrounds which kept them in compliance for ADA access: Channelside, Gleiss, Lauth, Lockwood, Lorel, Lyon, Menominee, Oakton(2), Pawnee, Seneca, Shawnee, Terminal, and Timber Ridge(3) playgrounds.
- All Park District facility sinks were once again inspected for compliance with protective water line and trap insulation kits, any missing kits were replaced. These kits will protect wheelchair patrons from burns caused by hot water in supply lines and drain traps.

Superintendent Rea stated the ADA transition plan was reviewed during the budget process and the plan is kept aligned with the capital improvement plan. As the capital improvement plan timeline changes the transition plan is re-aligned to follow the capital improvement plan timeline.

President Reid said a lot of progress has been made in the ADA compliance.

Superintendent Rea said the McNally Playground surface will be a fully accessible surface due to the use of rubber tiles.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the March 17, 2015 update to the District's American with Disabilities Transition Plan. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR REPLACEMENT DECK CHAIRS FOR SKOKIE WATER PLAYGROUND

Superintendent Tuft reported that four bids were received for the replacement deck chairs for Skokie Water Playground. The chairs are Bahia 4 position chaise lounge resin molded chairs made for commercial pools. The low bidder was Zenon Company of Buffalo Grove with a bid of \$22,598.

Commissioner Aberman asked if any of the bidders were from Skokie. Superintendent Tuft responded no. Superintendent Tuft stated that \$35,000 was budgeted in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Commissioner Clarito moved to award the bid for 252 Bahia 4 position chaise lounge chairs for Skokie Water Playground to Zenon Company for \$22,598. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Superintendent Schmidt said the Park District's health insurance renewal is due May 1, 2015. Staff worked with the District's insurance carrier and insurance broker, Hub International, Inc. The rate negotiated for this year is 6.80% increase on the gross premium cost. The employee cost will increase from \$70 to \$75 per month and the employee spouse and employee family costs will increase according to a formula established for the calculation of the rate. The net increase to the District is only 4.6% based on current census.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the District's health benefits with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for a period of one year 05/01/2015-04/30/2016 at a gross increase of 6.80% based on current census. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

Superintendent Schmidt requested approval of the District's dental insurance plan with Delta Dental beginning May 1, 2015. The plans remain the same and there is no increase in premium costs for this year.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the renewal of dental insurance for the District with Delta Dental of Illinois for a period of 12 months. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL

Superintendent Schmidt requested approval of the District's vision insurance plan with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for a period of one year beginning May 1, 2015. Superintendent Schmidt said there is a \$155 premium increase for this year. Superintendent said there would be no increase to employees for this increase in premium.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the renewal of the District's vision insurance with Vision Service Plan (Choice Plan) for a period of 12 months. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON MCNALLY PARK PLAYGROUND

A public hearing was held prior to the board meeting for the purpose of reviewing and recommending a playground design for McNally Park. Approximately 25 residents attended the public hearing. Mr. Joseph Brusseau tallied the votes for the playground equipment and reported that the NuToys Option 2 had the most votes with 10 votes. Mr. Brusseau read some comments from the public hearing. More shade was suggested, adding a tire swing, eliminating climbers tunnel and tubes, removing one play structure and replacing with swings and not to include a 2 to 5 year old play structure.

Commissioner Aberman said the current playground has toddler swings and said this doesn't add any more play equipment for the school children. It was recommended that two toddler swings and two belt swings for older children be placed in one of the swing areas. Commissioner Aberman suggested

toddler equipment be included in the playground design. Executive Director Ohrlund asked Mr. Brusseau if he had enough direction for the new design. Mr. Brusseau responded yes.

Mr. Brusseau discussed the construction schedule for the playground. The process involves permitting from the Village of Skokie and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The tentative date for beginning the construction is August 1st with a completion date of early October.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the purchase of Landscape Structures playground option 2 for installation at McNally Park with recommended modifications and to authorize bidding of the installation. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The date for the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was set for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The Marketing Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The Sports Park East Board Workshop is tentatively set to take place during the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Superintendent Tuft stated that the workshop is to provide an opportunity for Board input. The information discussed at the Stakeholder meetings will be presented to the Board at that time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Reid informed the Board of a Village of Skokie public forum to be held on March 31, 2015 at Devonshire Center at 7:00 p.m. The Skokie Caucus party is hosting the county assessor for a presentation and to explain your tax bill and any questions.

The Board discussed Commissioners use of facilities and programs. Executive Director Ohrlund said this subject will be up for discussion during the review of the Board/Administration Policy Manual over the next couple of months.

Executive Director Ohrlund said that the Governor has suspended all grants until his office has reviewed them. Executive Director Ohrlund has drafted a letter to legislators regarding the suspension of the OSLAD, PARC and Museum Grants and the sweep of grant funds in to the State's General Fund. There was a discussion on the suspension of these grants and the impact it will have on future construction projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Vice President Alter and Commissioner Yanes were absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting ended at 8:34 p.m.

Michael Reid
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary