

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
March 15, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present:

President Mike Reid  
Vice President Maureen Yanes  
Commissioner Jerry B. Clarito  
Commissioner Susan Aberman

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  
Don Mathews, Gewalt Hamilton  
Scott Freres, Lakota Group  
Mike Isaacs, Skokie Review

Absent:

Commissioner Michael W. Alter

**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**

There were no citizen comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

With no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2016; Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 7, 2016; Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of March 7, 2016; Bills payable for the month of February/March 2016; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #16-002 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,300,000  
GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2016B, OF THE  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested adoption of Ordinance #16-002 authorizing the issuance of \$2,300,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2016B, of the Skokie Park District.

Treasurer Schmidt introduced John Miller, Ehlers and Associates, to discuss the results of the bond sale that took place this morning. Five bids were received for the annual refunding issue for the payment on \$2,300,000 due on the 1999B bonds due on December 1, 2016. The recommendation is to award the low bidder BOSC Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin at a true interest cost of 0.9306%. The Aa2 rating from Moody's was affirmed with a negative outlook. Treasurer Schmidt and Mr. Miller had a conversation with Moody's disagreeing with the assessment. Mr. Miller explained that the District chose to reduce the fund balances by transferring excess funds to a capital improvement fund, and Moody's underwriters found this to be aggressive. Mr. Miller explained that the new methodology used by Moody and is based more on numerics and more quantitative and is therefore less responsive and flexible to such nuances. The Board expressed dissatisfaction with Moody's negative outlook.

Treasurer Schmidt said the District has a very good credit rating and reputation in the finance community. This bond sale attracted five quality bidders for the short term issue.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #16-002 to authorize the issuance of \$2,300,000 of General Refunding Bonds Series 2016B. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2016 REFUNDING ESCROW DEPOSIT AGREEMENT WHICH RELATES TO ORDINANCE #16-002**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the 2016 Refunding Escrow Deposit Agreement which relates to Ordinance #16-002.

Treasurer Schmidt explained that an escrow deposit agreement is necessary for the \$2,291,780 of debt service payments. These proceeds will be invested in government obligations so that the principal and interest earned on these obligations together with other moneys will be sufficient to pay the installment of the debt service payments as they become due and payable.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the 2016 Refunding Escrow Deposit Agreement to authorize the District to escrow \$2,291,780 of debt service payments into a special and irrevocable escrow fund. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #16-003 PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2011A, SERIES 2013B AND SERIES 2015B BONDS OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #16-003 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and the interest on General Obligation (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011A, and interest only on the Series 2013B and Series 2015B Bonds, of the Skokie Park District.

Treasurer Schmidt said Ordinance #16-003 abates the principal and interest for the Skatium bonds that are paid out of the Recreation Fund and the interest costs on Series 2013B and 2015B paid out of operating funds. This process removes these bond and interest costs from the District's tax levy.

Vice President Yanes moved to approve Ordinance #16-003 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of principal and interest on the Series 2011A General Obligation Park Bonds and interest costs on the 2013B and Series 2015B Bonds. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #16-004 PROVIDING FOR 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 #16-004 providing for 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 explained that Ordinance #16-004 goes along with the annual refunding bond issue to pay the \$2,300,000 principal and interest due on Series 1999B (Capital Appreciation Bonds) and needs to be removed from the District's tax levy.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #16-004 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, Series 1999B. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2017**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the approval of the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #16-005 for Fiscal Year 2017.

Treasurer Schmidt said the Board reviewed the tentative budget at the Finance Committee Meeting of March 7, 2016. This Ordinance allows the District to spend money. The Ordinance mirrors the operating budget that was presented at that time. Treasurer Schmidt noted that the health insurance premium increase was budgeted at 8%. However, the District's insurance broker reported that the premium increase would be 2.60% for a savings of approximately \$45,000 to the District with the current census. If approved, the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #16-005 will be placed on public display for thirty days at Devonshire, Oakton and Weber Centers for the public to view. A public hearing on the Ordinance will be held at the regular April 19, 2016 Board meeting. The Board complimented Treasurer Schmidt on the excellent work in controlling health insurance rates.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #16-005 for fiscal year 2017 so it can be on public display for thirty days. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**SKOKIE SPORTS PARK EAST DESIGN PRESENTATION**

Don Mathews of Gewalt Hamilton, and Scott Freres of the Lakota Group, presented two revised designs for the Skokie Sports Park East project. The Board was impressed with the two designs.

The Phase I design would leave existing facilities on the west half (driving range) as they are, add more parking spaces, incorporate access off of McCormick Blvd, provide synthetic fields

on the eastern portion and natural grass field on the western portion and an above ground storm detention area in the development. Phase I would provide 4 soccer fields (3 synthetic, 1 natural grass), 3 small grass soccer practice fields, two synthetic ball fields and 1 synthetic cricket field.

The full build-out design would have all synthetic fields with a larger underground detention area, replacement of batting cages, additional parking and a new club house facility. The full build-out plan would provide 6 synthetic soccer fields, 4 synthetic ball fields and two synthetic cricket fields.

Cost estimates were received. The Board asked about the consequences of choosing the first phase and implementing the full build-out at a later time. Mr. Mathews said there would be up costs but the designs were made to easily transition to the full build-out. With no further discussion, Executive Director Ohrlund said staff will bring funding options to the Board for consideration at the April Board meeting.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE**

Superintendent Rea gave an update on the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. Superintendent Rea highlighted some of the updates for the past year:

- 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.
- Handicapped accessible picnic tables were purchased for Devonshire Aquatic Center and Skokie Water Playground.
- McNally Park playground was completely renovated and an all rubber safety surface was installed making the playground fully handicapped accessible.
- Engineered wood fiber safety surfacing was added to the following playgrounds which kept them in compliance for ADA access: Devonshire, Emerson, Emily Oaks Nature Center, Lee Wright, Lockwood, Oakton, Pawnee, Sequoya, Timber Ridge "A" Timber Ridge "B", Timber Ridge "C", Tot Learning Center 2 to 3, Tot Learning Center 4 to 5 playgrounds.
- All facility sinks were again inspected for compliance with protective water line and trap insulation kits. These kits protect wheelchair patrons from burns caused by hot water in supply lines and drain traps.

Superintendent Rea said there are 18 playgrounds still with sand surfacing. When the playgrounds are renovated in future years the surfacing will be replaced with more accessible safety surfacing. Executive Director Ohrlund said when some of the playgrounds were installed the guidelines were not in place regarding the accessibility of the sand surfacing. Commission Clarito congratulated Superintendent Rea on the ADA updates completed this year.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the March 15, 2016 update to the District's Americans with Disabilities Transition Act Plan. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR  
TIMBER RIDGE PARK PLAYGROUND**

Superintendent Rea requested approval of the Professional Services Agreement for Timber Ridge Park. Superintendent Rea said staff would like to hire Brusseau Design Group to design the new playground at Timber Ridge Park and assist in the permit process. The District has utilized Brusseau Design Group for several past playground renovations.

President Reid asked for clarification on the playground equipment at Timber Ridge Playground to be replaced. Superintendent Rea said the equipment is a wood structure at the west end of the park.

Commissioner Aberman asked about acquiring grant funding for the project. Superintendent Rea said staff will contact playground manufacturers for grant assistance. Superintendent Rea said the budget for this project is \$100,000.00.

Vice President Yanes moved to approve the agreement with Brusseau Design Group for Professional Services for the Timber Ridge Park playground renovation for \$15,000. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #16-001 WITH THE COOK COUNTY HIGHWAY  
DEPARTMENT FOR A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT LAWLER PARK**

Superintendent Rea requested approval of Resolution #16-001 with the Cook County Highway Department for a temporary construction easement at Lawler Park. Superintendent Rea explained that the Cook County Highway Department has been working on renovating the Old Orchard Road and Edens Expressway interchange. The sidewalk at Lawler Park will be moved 8 to 10 feet to the north. Four trees may need to be removed. The District will not lose any property. As part of the agreement the District must pass Resolution #16-001 and will be compensated \$20,000 for its use for the duration of the project, up to five years.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Resolution #16-001 with the Cook County Highway Department for a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement at Lawler Park. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEW**

Executive Director Ohrlund asked Assistant Superintendent Marquardt to give a brief summary on the following conference session topics:

- Grants, more than clicking a button (1 & 2)
- 7 key statistics you need to manage your fitness center
- Adult obesity

Discussion took place on all topics. Assistant Superintendent Marquardt asked for any specific questions on the topics. Commissioner Aberman asked for additional grant information. Assistant Superintendent Marquardt said the adult obesity session was not very informative. Mr. Marquardt will send out additional information to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Aberman and Vice President Yanes asked about the benefits of artificial turf. Superintendent Rea explained the different types of surfaces and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval for the Health Insurance Renewal with BlueCross/Blue Shield effective May 1, 2016.

Both the insurance broker at Hub International, Michelle Mikrut, and Human Resource Manager, Lynn Seebacher, have been working on keeping the insurance rates as low as possible. The original proposed increase was 6.5%. The rate negotiated this year is 2.6%, an increase of \$27,204 per year based on the current census. The employee portion of their premium cost will go up proportionally to the increase in their coverage. The plans will remain the same.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the renewal of the District's health benefits with BlueCross/BlueShield for a period of one year beginning May 1, 2016 at a gross increase of 2.6% based on current census. Vice President Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

### **DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the Dental Insurance Renewal with Delta Dental beginning May 1, 2016 for a period of one year. There is no increase in the dental insurance premiums and benefits remain the same.

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

### **VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Treasurer Schmidt informed the Board that the District's vision insurance is currently with Vison Service Plan (VSP). The VSP increase in premium for this renewal is 0%. The District's insurance broker found that Delta Dental offers a better vision plan for lower premiums and a good network of providers. Staff would like to change the vision carrier to Delta Dental Vison resulting in a premium reduction of 10%.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the District's vision insurance with Delta Dental Vision for a period of 12 months beginning May 1, 2016. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF COPY EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENTS**

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval to replace the copy equipment lease agreements for the current copy equipment at Devonshire, Oakton, Tot Learning Center and Park Services. The current lease expired in December 2015. Treasurer Schmidt contacted Xerox which proposed replacement of the four copy machines for a total of \$80,100 over a 36 month lease. The copy machines will have color copying included, faxing and scanning capabilities. The District will save \$1,295/mo. or \$46,620 over 3 years while enhancing the printing capabilities, faxing and scanning based on current usage.

Vice President Yanes moved to approve replacing the current copy equipment at Oakton, Devonshire, Tot Learning Center and Park Services with the recommended copy equipment at a three year lease cost of \$80,100. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The date for the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was set for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice President Yanes said she attended IAPD sessions on park district boards. She suggested the Board consider the IAPD program on Leadership for Boards. Board members get CEU's and points for attending events and training. The annual cost is \$20.00. President Reid said it should be an individual decision by the Board member concerning the IAPD Leadership for Boards. Vice President Yanes suggested an IAPD board member attend one of our monthly meetings to give a short presentation on this program.

Vice President Yanes suggested rotating the office of Board President annually.

Commissioner Aberman said she and President Reid attended a session on innovative solutions to promote physical activity in multigenerational park settings. The speaker gave some good sources for grant funding, described the six elements of play that should be incorporated, 60 minutes of daily activity and fascinating videos of kids playing. Commissioner Aberman and President Reid said it was a very good session.

President Reid attended a session with Andrew Paine, Tressler LLP, on the Open Meetings Act and tax levies. President Reid said it was very informative.

President Reid said the General Session Speaker was great and the conference overall valuable.

Commissioner Aberman suggested forming a committee including members of the community to research grant funding. Executive Director Ohrlund said Jim Bottorff and Jon Marquardt are making contact with grant funding professionals for assistance in acquiring grants. Commissioner Aberman believes there is a lot of grant money available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Yanes moved adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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Michael Reid  
President

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John V. Ohrlund  
Secretary