

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
MARCH 18, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

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

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

John Miller, Ehlers and Associates
Steven B. Adams, Tressler LLP

Absent:

Commissioner Michael W. Alter

CALL TO ORDER

President Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. John Bartos, 8836 Knox, Skokie, IL addressed the Board. Mr. Bartos asked the Board to consider purchasing a new piece of equipment for the Fitness First! The equipment is a skier's edge. Superintendent Tuft stated she would have the Fitness First Manager contact Mr. Bartos about his request. Mr. Bartos thanked the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

With no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Aberman 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 Board Meeting of February 18, 2014; Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of March 6, 2014; Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of March 11, 2014; Bills Payable for the months of February 2014/March 2014, Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #14-001 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY
\$2,350,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2014A OF
THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt explained the purpose of Ordinance #14-001 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2,350,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A of the Skokie Park District. Treasurer Schmidt introduced John Miller of Ehlers and Associates to discuss the results of the bond sale that took place this afternoon.

Mr. Miller stated that there were 7 bids received for the bond sale. Bond proceeds will be escrowed to make the December 1, 2014 principal and interest payment on the Series 1999 alternate bonds and to

refund the principal payment due December 1, 2014 on the Series 2004A alternate bonds and will be paid June 1, 2014. The December 1, 2014 payment on the Series 2004A is the final payment for that issue.

The low bidder was Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co of Chicago with a bid at a true interest cost of 0.4876%. Because of a premium bid, the par amount of this issue was reduced \$100,000.00 after the bids were received to meet the escrow requirements. The coupon rate is 3%.

Mr. Miller discussed the Moody's Report and confirmed that Moody's affirmed the Park District's strong "Aa2" bond rating. The Park District has strong finances and the IMRF pension is well funded.

Vice President Aberman moved to approve Ordinance #14-001 to authorize the issuance of \$2,250,000 of General Refunding Bonds Series 2014A and the 2014 Refunding Escrow Deposit Agreement. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #14-002 PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES
LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION
BONDS ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE SERIES 2011A
OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #14-002 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds Alternate Revenue Source Series 2011A of the Skokie Park District. This Ordinance removes the bond and interest costs from the tax levy. This issue represents the bond issue for the Skatium Rehab Bonds that are paid from the Recreation Fund.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Ordinance #14-002 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on the Series 2011A General Obligation Bonds. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #14-003 PROVIDING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES
LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON GENERAL OBLIGATION
PARK BONDS, SERIES 1999B (CAPITAL APPRECIATION BONDS) AND GENERAL OBLIGATION
REFUNDING BONDS SERIES 2004A OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested adoption of Ordinance #14-003 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on General Obligation Park Bonds, Series 1999B (Capital Appreciation Bonds) and General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2004A of the Skokie Park District.

This Ordinance goes along with the annual refunding bond issue. The Ordinance allows for the bond and interest costs to be removed from the tax levy.

Commissioner Yanes moved to approve Ordinance #14-003 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. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2015

Treasurer Schmidt reminded the Commissioners that the Finance Committee Meetings held over the past week included review of the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance in great detail. Treasurer Schmidt is requesting the approval of the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.

Once the Board approves Ordinance #14-004, it will be placed on display at Devonshire, Oakton and Weber Centers for a period of thirty days for the public to review as required by law. At the April Board Meeting a public hearing will held on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. The date of the April Board Meeting was rescheduled to April 24, 2014 to accommodate the thirty day public notice requirement.

Executive Director Ohrlund reminded the Commissioners that during the finance committee meetings the 5 year capital plan was presented for their review. Executive Director Ohrlund asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments about the capital plan. Commissioner Yanes inquired about a few of the facilities that do not generate enough revenue to cover their expenses. Treasurer Schmidt responded about facilities operational expenses such as electric and heating costs. Executive Director Ohrlund stated that the Recreation Fund property taxes are not allocated to the individual facilities.

Commissioner Yanes moved to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #14-004 for fiscal year 2015 so it can be on public display for thirty days. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIAL LIABILITY AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Executive Director Ohrlund introduced Park District Attorney Steven Adams, Tressler LLP, to begin a presentation on Elected Official Liability and the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Adams distributed some handouts to be used by the Commissioners for reference from the presentation. Mr. Adams began his presentation on Board Member liability. He discussed tort liability, the Tort Immunity Act, willful and wanton conduct, strategies and minimizing uninsured risk.

Mr. Adams presented information on the Open Meetings Act including closed meetings, verbatim recordings, destruction of verbatim recordings, semi-annual review of closed session minutes and electronic communications.

The Board thanked Mr. Adams for the informative presentation.

APPROVAL OF BID TO REPLACE THE GUTTER STONES AROUND THE MAIN POOL AT SKOKIE WATER PLAYGROUND

Superintendent Tuft requested approval of the bid to replace the gutter stones around the main pool at Skokie Water Playground. The gutter system is over 20 years old and many stones are fracturing and breaking. Water loss due to leaking has also increased in recent years. Superintendent Tuft said this project is budgeted at \$150,000.00 for next fiscal year 2014-2015.

Superintendent Tuft stated that three bids were received. Two vendors submitted base bids for removing and installing of Rimflow Gutter stones around the perimeter of the main pool at Skokie Water Playground.

Schaeffges Brothers Inc. worked for the District on the Devonshire Splash Pad in 2009 and has extensive experience in commercial pool construction.

An alternate material was bid for granite gutter stones by Aquatic Renovation Systems. This vendor only manufactures the stones and does not do the installation. Staff has determined that the granite stones would not be best for the current facility and our climate.

Staff is recommending the base bid form Schaeffges Brothers Inc. for the sum of \$123,900.00. Vice President Aberman moved to award the bid to Schaeffges Brothers Inc. for replacement of the main pool gutter stones at Skokie Water Playground in the amount of \$123,900.00. Commissioner Yanes

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

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

Superintendent Rea requested Board approval of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan update. The Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan was adopted in February 2012 by the Park Board. Staff updates the report each year and submits the updated report to the Board for approval.

Some of the updates are:

- Where needed, asphalt pathways with barriers have been eliminated by removing and replacing the settled asphalt.
- Handicapped accessibility to picnic tables was created by pouring concrete sidewalks to 2 picnic tables at each of the following parks: Central and Schack Parks.
- An additional handicapped parking stall was added at Devonshire Park in the northwest parking lot next to the tennis courts.
- An additional handicapped accessible ramp was installed at Devonshire Park next to the east entrance at Devonshire Cultural Center.
- Engineered wood fiber was added to the following playgrounds which kept them up in compliance for ADA access: Devonshire, Walter Gleiss, Lee Wright, McNally, Seneca, Sequoya, Shawnee, Timber Ridge and TLC playgrounds.
- ADA pool lifts were utilized for the first time during the 2013 pool season.

Vice President Aberman inquired about some past target dates on the report. Superintendent Rea explained that some of the projects have been delayed and have not been completed as scheduled. Vice President Aberman asked that the report be modified to include comments on the reasons for the past target dates. Superintendent Rea responded that the comments would be updated.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve the March 18, 2014 update of the District's Americans with Disabilities Transition Plan. Vice President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Reid discussed the date for the April Board Meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Weber Leisure Center.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice President Aberman inquired if President Reid relayed her concern to the First Friday Event Committee that the events may be restrictive to the Orthodox community for the First Friday events planned in Skokie beginning this summer. President Reid responded yes. He said an accommodation will be made for the religious holiday on October 4th. The other events will continue on Fridays as planned.

Commissioner Yanes visited a new fitness facility in the area. She reported that the facility is similar in their fees as the Park District fees. The facility has some different equipment. One piece of equipment she found of special interest was a curved treadmill.

Superintendent Tuft reported that Scott Runkle, Risk/Special Facility Manager is a member the Skokie Community 2012 Health Plan. Obesity Prevention is one of four programs they plan to tackle over the next five years. Superintendent Tuft said if there is a special item or initiative that the Park District would like to champion the Park District needs to bring the idea to the Skokie Community Committee. Superintendent Tuft suggested the Walking Program that has been discussed at prior board meetings. Superintendent Tuft also mentioned a District 68 article that addressed healthy food choices and health standards.

Superintendent Tuft stated that the Park District will be promoting wellness programs in the next four seasonal program guides. The new promotion is called Commit to Fit. Superintendent Tuft showed the new summer program design to the Commissioners. Different events, programs and facilities will be featured along with some discounted fees.

Assistant Superintendent Marquardt reminded the Commissioners of the Spring Greening event to be held on Sunday, April 6th at Niles North High School.

Executive Director Ohrlund reported that the Comprehensive Plan Focus Group and Stakeholder Meetings will be taking place over the next two days at Skokie Heritage Museum and Emily Oaks Nature Center. Executive Director Ohrlund stated that in addition to these meetings a community meeting is being contemplated for additional resident input.

Executive Ohrlund reminded the Commissioners of the Legislative Conference in Springfield on April 29th and April 30th.

Executive Director Ohrlund discussed some real estate information regarding the proposed commercial development next to Skokie Sports Park. The developer may choose another location due to concerns about a major gas line.

Executive Director Ohrlund reported on a group that is interested in developing the property next to the Tot Learning Center as a sports complex. Superintendent Tuft and Executive Director Ohrlund will meet with the group and report back to the Board.

The opening ceremony song at the Festival of Cultures will be "Come Together" by the Beatles.

The musical entertainment for the 4th of July evening festivities has been selected. The performers are the popular Chicago-area cover band Mike and Joe.

Backlot Bash is scheduled for August 22, 23 and 24th in downtown Skokie. Friday evening's headliner is the Spin Doctors, Saturday evening has not been finalized and Sunday evening's headliner is Tributosaurus as "The Doors."

Executive Director Ohrlund congratulated Treasurer Schmidt on achieving the Governmental Financial Office of Accounting Certificate for Excellence again this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Yanes moved to adjourn the regular meeting to Executive Session to review, approve, release or authorize the destruction of past Executive Session Minutes/Verbatim Records and to discuss Real Estate acquisition. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

Vice President Aberman moved to re-enter regular session. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 9:41 p.m.

Commissioner Clarito moved to approve Executive Session Minutes from meeting of January 21, 2014. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

President Mike Reid stated that the Board of Park Commissioners has reviewed Executive Session Minutes at least every six months as required by the Open Meetings Act. Approvals to release minutes no longer required to remain closed because of confidentiality or other lawful reasons have been made

in Executive Session. To formalize this action President Reid moved to release the following Executive Session minutes to the public: January 20, 2004, September 20, 2005, November 15, 2005, December 13, 2005, May 23, 2006, July 18, 2006, August 21, 2007, November 20, 2007, January 15, 2008, July 21, 2009, January 18, 2011, February 15, 2011, April 21, 2011, May 12, 2011, May 17, 2011, June 21, 2011, January 17, 2012, August 21, 2012 and June 18, 2013, and the need for confidentiality still exists for all other Executive Session minutes. Vice President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Aberman moved to approve Ordinance # 14-005 authorizing the destruction of verbatim records for the closed session meeting of August 21, 2012. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Aberman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Michael Reid
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary