

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
OCTOBER 22, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund
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

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 Alter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Yanes 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 September 17, 2013; Bills Payable for the months of September/October 2013, Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MILLER COOPER & CO., LTD AS DISTRICT AUDITING FIRM

Superintendent Schmidt requested the reappointment of Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd as the District's auditing firm. The request is for a five year period for the years of 2014 through 2018. The proposed fees are as follows:

\$36,500 - 2014
\$37,500 - 2015
\$38,000 - 2016
\$38,500 - 2017
\$39,000 - 2018

Superintendent Schmidt said this is approximately a 4% increase over the five year period.

Commissioner Yanes questioned using the same firm and same people. Superintendent Schmidt stated that the firm has changed the principals and comes in with a fresh look and perspective periodically. President Reid and Commissioner Alter responded that it is a straight forward audit.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the appointment of Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd. as the District's auditing firm for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Reid discussed the date for the November Board Meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Weber Leisure Center.

APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS FOR THE IAPD ANNUAL MEETING

Executive Director Ohrlund stated that in order to be represented at the annual IAPD meeting a delegate and alternates must be selected. President Reid agreed to be the delegate, Commissioner Alter will be the 1st alternate and Vice President Aberman will be the 2nd alternate.

Commissioner Yanes moved to name the Park Board of Commissioners' delegate as Mike Reid, Commissioner Alter as first alternate and Vice President Aberman as second alternate. Commissioner Clarito seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Yanes spoke about the different sessions she attended at the NRPA conference at the beginning of the month that addressed health and wellness for youth. Commissioner Yanes mentioned several programs that some park districts have instituted. One example is Rx for Parks. Commissioner Yanes said the goal is to get kids outside and active in the parks.

Commissioner Aberman stated that the goal is to get kids into parks, become more active and instill environmental stewardship.

Commissioner Yanes stated that walking programs have been discussed at the conferences over the past few years and their popularity is increasing.

Superintendent Tuft stated that the trail of fitness initiative, which is now the Born Learning Trail at Devonshire Park, was a walking fitness incentive.

Executive Director Ohrlund said there are extensive walking paths along the channel and residents walk around Oakton and Devonshire Parks frequently. The Park District held a historic walking tour in downtown Skokie. Commissioner Aberman suggested incorporating an exercise station at the Skokie Sports Park site in the future.

Commissioner Yanes noted that Fitness First memberships have had a drop in enrollment. Superintendent Tuft responded that there has been a decline in membership. There is more competition. The new Fitness First Manager, Jennie Bever, has been working with the group exercise classes. Jennie organized a certification class for trainers this past weekend. Some new fitness promotions will be coming in January.

Commissioner Aberman mentioned that she attended a seminar on generating strong voter support for bond issues. A discussion followed on the information that was presented at the seminar.

President Reid and Vice President Aberman attended a strategic planning session. A discussion followed on strategic planning and the Park District's comprehensive plan. Executive Director Ohrlund said the Park District will be updating the comprehensive plan. He will be meeting with a consultant to discuss strategic/comprehensive planning in November. \$20,000.00 has been budgeted for consulting fees. Executive Director Ohrlund said that a comprehensive plan is a requirement of the Distinguished Agency process. Vice President Aberman stated that we have the data for the plan from the Community Survey that was recently completed. Vice President Aberman commented that a strategic

plan is more visionary. The strategic plan allows for measurable objectives and timelines and it allows for innovation.

Executive Director Ohrlund reminded the Commissioners of the Legislative Forum on Friday, October 25, 2013 at the Evanston Country Club. Commissioners Reid, Aberman and Yanes stated that they would attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Alter moved to enter into Executive Session to review/approve Executive Session Minutes and to discuss the lease or sale of real property. Vice President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

Commissioner Alter moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

Michael Reid
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary