

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
DECEMBER 18, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman (remote attendance)
Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Michael W. Alter
Commissioner Khemarey Khoeun

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities Michelle Tuft
Superintendent of Parks Mike Rea
Assistant Superintendent Jon Marquardt
Risk Management and Special Facility Mgr. Scott Runkle
Skatium Facility Manager Kurt vonHelms
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Absent: Commissioner Maureen Yanes

CALL TO ORDER

Vice 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.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve remote participation by President Aberman. Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Jonathan Lavin addressed the Board to ask for a consideration for dog owners. Mr. Lavin said the District has restrictions on dogs in the parks. He asked for owner education on dog walking and cleaning up after their dog. He suggested providing bags for cleanup and containers for the bags. He would like the small park near the car wash to be considered as a park with dog walking permitted.

Mr. Ross Bennet said he is a new dog owner and agreed with Mr. Lavin's comments. Mr. Bennet said dogs and their walkers are a great resource to the community. He took the dog obedience class offered by the District and would like to be able to walk his dog in the parks. Vice President Reid thanked Mr. Lavin and Mr. Bennett for their comments. Vice President Reid said the Board may review the dog policy in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners present voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of November 20, 2018; Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting of November 27, 2018, bills payable for the month of November/December 2018; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

REPORT ON 2018 AQUATICS SEASON AND APPROVAL OF 2019 POOL FEES

Risk Management and Special Facilities Manager Scott Runkle reported on the 2018 Aquatics season. Mr. Runkle said there was record attendance again this year with over 112,000 visiting the pools. A new pool heater was installed at Devonshire Aquatics Center lap pool. Season pass sales were slightly down, daily admissions were strong, and swim lessons had almost 600 participants. Mr. Runkle received a request to keep the Devonshire Aquatics Center pool open an extra week and he will try to accommodate that request. There is no fee increase scheduled for 2019.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve the 2019 pool hours and fees as proposed. Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REVISED FULL TIME COMPETITIVE PAY STRUCTURE

Executive Director Ohrlund requested approval of the revised full time competitive pay structure. Director Ohrlund said to maintain competitive salaries the plan is updated annually or every other year. The increase requested is 2% to keep up with the cost of living. By approving the pay structure it does not increase any employee's salary.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to approve the increase in full time salary range pay structure by 2.0% effective May 1, 2019. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Superintendent Schmidt requested approval of travel including appropriate expenses for Board members to attend the IAPD Conference in January, 2019.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to approve business related travel for President Aberman, Vice President Reid and Commissioners Yanes and Khoeun for the IAPD conference in January, 2019. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO BID ICE AND MECHANICAL SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AT THE SKATIUM ICE ARENA

Superintendent Tuft requested authorization to bid ice and mechanical system replacement at the Skatium Ice Arena. Stantec will prepare the construction and bid documents which will be available in early January. Vice President asked about the life expectancy of the piping in the rink. Ms. Tuft said the piping in the rink is not the issue. The refrigerant used is becoming more expensive, difficult to purchase and may not be produced in the future, and piping requirements for new refrigerant have changed. The mechanical system is from the 1970's and needs to be replaced.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to authorize staff and consultants to solicit bids, including alternates, for the Skatium renovation project. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in the Weber Center Activity Room at 6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Aberman said the Holiday Fest at the Skokie Heritage Museum was great. A big thank you to Mark Collins as Santa and kudos to the staff.

Vice President Reid asked about the status of the garden plots. Executive Director Ohrlund said due to potential expansion at Madison School the District is looking for a new or additional location for garden plots, including some Cook county property. Due diligence efforts have included an environmental site assessment and lead testing, which have come back clean. A letter of request was sent to the County for a license agreement. Executive Director Ohrlund met recently with Farm Operations Manager Matt Ryan of the Talking Farm to discuss soil amendment practices. President Aberman suggested using bio-solids. She used them in her garden and said the results were unbelievable.

Vice President Reid asked about the status of Tecumsah Park. Executive Director Ohrlund said the District would like to expand the park and construct a universal playground along the Village path, which is on ComEd property. The Com Ed power lines need to be placed underground and he is awaiting the cost information. Hitchcock Design Group is creating a conceptual design to submit to Com Ed for the expansion of Tecumsah Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Alter moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Yanes was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Susan Aberman
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary