

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present:

President Michael Reid  
Vice President Khemarey Khoeun  
Commissioner Susan Aberman  
Commissioner Michael W. Alter  
Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt  
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn  
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt  
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez  
IAPD Chairman of the Board Adriane Johnson  
Landscape Supervisor Stephen Ames  
Emily Oaks Nature Center Manager Lee Hansen  
Communications and Marketing Manager Jim Bottorff  
Hockey Supervisor Steve Glickman  
Recreation Services Supervisor Mary Amato  
School Age Supervisor Angie Sakellaris  
Graphics Artist Scott Walker  
Graphics Artist Rachel Pozner  
A.J. Collier II

**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**

Commissioner Alter 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 Board Workshop of January 21, 2020 and Regular Meeting of January 21, 2020, bills payable for the month of January/February 2020, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**ADRIANE JOHNSON, IAPD CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD PRESENTATION OF IPRA/IAPD GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT AWARD**

Adriane Johnson, IAPD Chairman of the Board presented the "Give Us Your Best Shot Award" to Scott Walker, Graphic Artist. Ms. Johnson said the sports photo won the first place award in its category. Ms. Johnson said the sports award is very competitive and there were over 500 entries. Ms. Johnson then presented and congratulated Mr. Walker with the award.

Mr. Walker said "as a graphic artist and part time photographer it is rare that you get to work for an organization that is really a fabric of the community." Mr. Walker thanked the agency for the recognition and the Park District for the opportunity.

**MIKE REID, PRESENTATION OF IPRA/IAPD AWARD FOR BEST WEBSITE**

President Reid presented the IPRA/IAPD Best Website award to the Communications and Marketing Department: Jim Bottorff, Rachel Pozner and Scott Walker. The new website went live in February 2019 offering Skokie residents more intuitive navigation and an enhanced online experience. The award is for the best parks and recreation website in the state of Illinois. President Reid congratulated the Marketing Department on their award.

**SHARK TANK PRESENTATION**

Executive Director Tuft recapped the Shark Tank Challenge. A majority of the fulltime staff members were divided into teams of 5-6 and challenged to work together to create an innovative and creative program idea to present to the shark tank judges. The judges were: Michelle Tuft, Bill Schmidt, Jon Marquardt, Corrie Guynn and Jim Bottorff. The judges chose a winning team who presented their idea to the Board of Park Commissioners.

The winning shark tank team: Kelly Davidson (absent), Mary Amato, Steve Ames, Steve Glickman, Lee Hansen and Angie Sakellaris presented their program, Skokie Story Strides. Skokie Story Strides is an interactive walking and reading experience for families in local parks. The stories are broken up and placed on kiosks along a walking path in a park. As families read the books and progress to the next stop activities related to the stories are suggested. The stories selected are culturally diverse and for all ages. The Skokie Public Library Bookmobile will be on site on Wednesdays. Volunteer language translators will be available on specific dates and times. Using Google translate participants can put a phone over the written page and translations are available in up to 104 languages. The marketing plan includes flyers, posters, QR code scanning, website and social media posts, sponsorship, and messages on the park district's lighted signs. Building the storybook kiosks could be a project for Eagle Scouts at Emily Oaks Nature Center. The expense for the materials including books, kiosks and various materials is minimal. Staff plan to implement this activity in September 2020 at four parks: Central, Gross Point, Laramie and Lyons Parks.

Commissioner Aberman said this was a fantastic idea and will bring more families into the parks. President Reid thanked the shark tank team for their presentation.

**APPROVAL OF ABATEMENT ORDINANCE #20-002**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #20-002 providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and the interest on General Obligation Bonds, Series 2001B (Capital Appreciation Bonds), (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011A of the Skokie Park District, General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2013B and General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2015B of the Skokie Park District and General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017B.

These issues represent the bond issue for the Skatium Renovation Bonds paid from the Recreation Fund and the interest costs on the Series 2013B, 2015B and 2017B to be paid from District funds. The approval of this Ordinance allows for the bond and interest costs to be removed from the District's tax levy.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Ordinance #20-002 authorizing the abatement of certain taxes levied for payment of the Principal and interest on the Series 2001B Capital Appreciation Bonds, Series 2011A General Obligation Bonds and the interest costs on the Series 2013B, Series 2015B, and Series 2017B General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the Skokie Park District. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF LARAMIE PARK CONSTRUCTION BID**

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the Laramie Park Construction bid. Six bids were received for the project. Two alternates included in the bid were milling and paving the west parking lot and repaving and widening the existing pathway system to eight feet. Staff recommends declining the parking lot alternate and will include this work in the asphalt bid that is going out later this month. Staff recommends taking the repaving and widening of the existing pathway system to eight feet alternate and including it in the project. The low bid of \$1,303,033 was received from Hacienda Landscaping. Hacienda Landscaping has worked with Hitchcock Design group in the past and Hitchcock has been pleased with their work. Staff have been working with Hitchcock Design Group to value engineer the project and a change order will be issued once the contract is signed. The majority of the savings is due to staff performing some of the work. The savings is approximately \$100,000.

Commissioner Desai moved to approve the base bid and alternate number two from Hacienda of Minooka, IL for the Laramie Park Construction Project for a total of 1,381,329. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF LARAMIE PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the Laramie Park playground equipment. In July 2019 proposals were received for playground equipment as part of the Laramie Park construction project. Five bids were received and Nu Toys was selected based on the accessible features, play value and overall design. The swings will be purchased separately from Gametime. The playground structures will be purchased through the National Purchasing Partners cooperative purchase program. Installation of the equipment is scheduled for spring with completion by summer.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve the purchase of playground equipment from Nu Toys Leisure Products of La Grange, IL for Laramie Park in the amount of \$115,173. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **IPRA/IAPD CONFERENCE SESSIONS REVIEW**

Executive Director Tuft said staff was asked to prepare a report on 2 – 3 new ideas they learned by attending conference sessions. Ms. Tuft asked if there were any comments or questions.

Commissioner Aberman said the report format was great. It helps to see what staff is thinking about. President Reid said the Shark Tank idea came from the NRPA conference.

Commissioner Desai attended a session about being active. Ms. Tuft said Go Skokie is a new community walking initiative that will be launched in the fall. Breanne Labus is taking the lead and working with the IPLAN committee.

President Reid liked the Chicago Parks tours. The tours are wonderful with the old buildings and architecture.

President Reid and Commissioner Aberman attended a few sessions on splash pads. There was discussion on splash pads. Commissioner Aberman requested that staff consider putting a splash pad in at Laramie Park. Ms. Tuft said if a splash pad were to be included in the Laramie Park project the location could be problematic as the park design is already done. Commissioner Aberman said she thinks there would be space for a splash pad at Laramie Park as the area does not need to be large. Commissioner Aberman explained that the splash pad would be a small area where kids could run through and cool off, much like a sprinkler. Ms. Tuft said staff thought the Board was interested in a much larger splash pad structure like the splash pad that was originally designed for Laramie Park. Staff will begin to look at all of the parks in Skokie to determine what locations could hold a smaller splash pad as described by the Commissioners. Staff will also look at Laramie Park as a possible location for a splash pad in the future.

No motion required, information purposes only.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Tuft notified the Board that the parents S.P.A.C.E. meeting scheduled for February 26 is going to be rescheduled.

Vice President Khoeun mentioned downloading a childcare statement from the website and said it was difficult. Sometimes the report would not generate and it would take several attempts before the report would print. Ms. Tuft will discuss the issue with the IT Department.

Camp registration was discussed. Vice President Khoeun said the idea of a virtual waiting room for customers during camp registration was a good idea. A suggestion was made to have a page in the camp brochure explaining the procedure. Commissioner Aberman suggested putting a comment on the website regarding registration issues stating that the problem has been identified and staff is working to resolve. Ms. Tuft said a statement will be included in the next e-newsletter. President Reid said he had heard from a staff member that there were more satisfied people this year with the registration process.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Desai suggested using an app that would hold a resident's fitness membership card and other program information. Most people have their phones with them and this would speed up the process. Commissioner Desai said she heard about this at conference. Executive Director Tuft asked Commissioner Desai to send her the information.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Public Hearings for the playground renovations are scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Park Services.

The Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Skatium Party Room.

The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Aberman attended the Princess Ball on February 8 and thought it was great.

Ms. Tuft said Winter Chilly Fest had one off its most successful years with over 700 people in attendance.

President Reid reported on some positive comments he received regarding how the front desk staff at Weber handled a customer with an issue.

Ms. Tuft asked who was planning on attending the Liponi annual fundraising event on Saturday, March 7. President Reid and spouse, Commissioner Desai and spouse, Commissioner Aberman and Superintendent Guynn will be attending.

Ms. Tuft asked the Board about cleaning up their Board emails. The agreed to have this done.

Ms. Tuft informed the Board that the Board garden plot is #129. Emails will be sent when the plot is ready for planting along with a map of the garden plots.

The State of the Village Breakfast is April 24, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. Ms. Tuft will reserve a table for ten.

The IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield, IL will be held on April 28 -29. Please let Ms. Tuft know if you are planning to attend. Vice President Khoeun said she would not be able to attend this year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

---

Mike Reid  
President

---

Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary