

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JANUARY 15, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Susan Aberman
Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Maureen Yanes

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
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Absent:

Commissioner Michael W. Alter

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman 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

Mr. Scott Holtz addressed the Board regarding dogs in parks. Mr. Holtz asked for the same benefits that are offered to surrounding communities like Morton Grove and Evanston. Mr. Holtz asked to be consistent with the Village of Skokie ordinance and their leash laws on sidewalks, parkways, Village Green, etc.

Mr. Holtz suggested rather than build a new dog park to open the parks in multifamily neighborhoods to dogs on leashes. Mr. Holtz said that most dog owners clean up after their dogs and most dog owners would also pick up after bad dog owners. Mr. Holtz said having good rules and enforcement allow everyone to share the parks. Mr. Benjamin Schueler, Mrs. Judy Mendel and Mr. Michael Delnois spoke and conveyed the same sentiment.

President Aberman thanked the citizens for their comments and said the Board will discuss dogs in parks, and the issue will be included in the February Board agenda. President Aberman said a public hearing could be called to gather input and the Board might consider an experimental trial of allowing dogs on leash in a park or two.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice President Reid moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners present voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of December 18, 2018; bills payable for the month of December 2018/January 2019; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

2019 BOND FINANCING TIMELINE

Treasurer Schmidt introduced Speer Financial Inc. Consultants Dave Phillips and Mark Jeretina. Treasurer Schmidt referred to the memo summarizing the District's bond financing plan for calendar year 2019. There will be three bond issues consisting of a new money issue for approximately \$2.5 million, the Skatium debt service base extension issue used to finance the Skatium project for approximately \$2.4 million and an annual refunding issue for approximately \$2.3 million. There were no questions.

President Aberman thanked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Jeretina for the bond timeline. No motion required, informational only.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE PITCHING MACHINES FOR SKOKIE SPORTS PARK

Superintendent Tuft requested authorization to purchase replacement pitching machines for Skokie Sports Park. Sports Park has been using the ABC baseball and softball pitching machines since 1998. The pitching machine replacements were approved in the capital improvement budget. J & J Amusements is a sole source provider. The cost of the seven (7) pitching machines and accompanying components is \$42,225 plus \$4,835 for installation. The total cost of the project is \$47,060.

Vice President Reid moved to authorize the purchase and installation of seven (7) ABC Pastime baseball and softball pitching machines for \$47,060. Commissioner Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO BID TENTS, TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Superintendent Tuft requested authorization to bid tents, tables and chairs for special events and programming; the Backlot Bash, Festival of Cultures and the 4th of July. Ms. Tuft said the contract has expired with the current vendor. The bid will include an option to renew for up to five years.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to authorize staff to prepare bid specifications and bid out the rental of tents, tables and chairs for use at, but not limited to, the Backlot Bash, Festival of Cultures and the 4th of July. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

SKOKIE WATER PLAYGROUND POOL LEAK REPAIR

Superintendent Tuft reported that Superintendent Rea and Risk Management and Special Facilities Manager Scott Runkle met with Neuman Pools to discuss the leaks at Skokie Water Playground. Neuman Pools examined the pool floor deck and is confident the damage is located at the pool wall and deck west of the filtration room. Neuman Pools built the pool years ago and is a very reputable company. Mr. Rea said camera and pressure testing of each line will be done and leaks will be repaired. The cost for the contract to locate and repair the leaks in the bucket pool is an estimated \$73,900 and will be completed on a time and materials basis. This project was not budgeted in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Staff has decided to delay the bell tower repair at Skokie Heritage Museum estimated at \$125,000 and move that project into the 2019-2020 fiscal year and use these funds for the Skokie Water Playground leak repair.

Commissioner Khoeun moved to approve the contract with Neuman Pools Inc. to locate and repair the leaks in the bucket pool at Skokie Water Playground for an estimated \$73,900. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The date for the Finance Committee Meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Yanes asked to schedule a Board workshop for purposes of discussing personnel and the 5 year capital plan. The date of the Board Workshop is February 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Aberman asked Superintendent Tuft about marketing for programming related to resident and non-resident fees. Ms. Tuft said that this was going to be discussed at the next Recreation and Facilities Meeting tomorrow and she would report back to the Board next month.

Commissioner Yanes complimented staff on the Summer Camp Program Guide cover.

Commissioner Yanes discussed a November 2018 issue of the Parks and Recreation Magazine featuring dogs in parks. She said there were many fabulous articles.

Commissioner Yanes mentioned an event at the Skokie Public Library on Martin Luther King Jr Day from noon – 4 p.m.

Coming Together in Skokie is celebrating the Polish culture this year. A Polish speaker will deliver a lecture on Polish independence on March 5, 2019 at Emily Oaks Nature Center.

Commissioner Khoeun suggested that this type of information be provided to Executive Director Ohrlund for inclusion in weekly communications to all Commissioners.

Executive Director Ohrlund said the District made the first cut for the OSLAD grant for the Laramie Park Renovation. Superintendents Rea and Tuft will present the project to the IDNR Advisory Board in Springfield next Tuesday.

Executive Director Ohrlund and Superintendent Rea will meet with Joe Brusseau of Hitchcock Design Group regarding conceptual plans for the Tecumseh Park and the Oakton and Lorel site on Friday. The name of Harms Park has been suggested for the property at Oakton and Lorel.

Executive Director Ohrlund announced that Breanne Labus is the new Weber Leisure Center Manager. She has been serving as interim manager since Emily Guynn left the position.

Vice President Reid said he will be installed on the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Association of Park Districts next week. President Aberman and Commissioner Khoeun will also be receiving their Master Board Member Certifications.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Khoeun moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Yanes seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Susan Aberman
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary