

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JULY 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Susan Aberman
Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Minal Desai (arrived at 7:46 p.m.)
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Mary Oshana

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Remote Attendance

Superintendent of Parks and Planning Corrie Guynn

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Aberman asked for a moment of silence to recognize the horrible and tragic event that happened on the Fourth of July to the citizens of Highland Park. She asked to pray for the victims, their families, and the community. She also thanked and asked for support for first responders.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Leopold Iolysh addressed the board on behalf of the table tennis club. He would like to have table tennis reinstated on Thursday evenings. Ms. Tuft explained that when Covid happened programs shut down and were slowly brought back and the Thursday session hasn't been brought back yet but will be reinstated in September. Mr. Iolysh was not satisfied with the explanation and asked Ms. Tuft to look into the programs as he did not feel there was programming on Thursday evenings in the gymnasium. Commissioner Jaffe said in six weeks this will be resolved with table tennis will be back on Thursday evenings. President Aberman said staff will follow up and if no programming is happening at this time, staff will reinstate Thursday evenings, otherwise this will be resolved in six weeks.

Ms. Jennifer Wallace has been communicating with President Aberman and Ms. Tuft via email regarding problems with pickleball classes at Lawler Park. Lessons and open play are clashing because both groups want to use the courts at the same time. Ms. Wallace said some residents are giving the pickleball instructor a difficult time. Ms. Wallace said the signage was removed and asked for it to be replaced. It was suggested to give Mr. Marquardt or Mr. DeLeonardis a call if a situation arises. President Aberman feels it is bullying and is an

unpleasant situation. She suggested calling the police if the situation escalates. She thanked Ms. Wallace for voicing her concerns.

Ms. Anita Ridge wanted to confirm that what Ms. Wallace said was happening and she has been impressed with the way the pickleball instructor has responded, remaining calm and managing the situation. She is hopeful that we can find a peaceful resolution and appreciates the board and staff's help.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2022; bills payable for the month of June/July 2022, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR PAINTING SERVICES FOR SKATIUM MAIN RINK WALLS

Superintendent Marquardt informed the board that after the removal of the ice rink at the Skatium it was evident that the walls surrounding the rink needed refreshing. There were smudges and three different colors on the walls. The construction manager, Wight Construction received a quote from Nedrow Decorating for \$23,550 to paint the rink.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve Change Order #3 for painting services from Nedrow Decorating for \$23,550. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE LOCKWOOD AND OAKTON SPORTS COURTS

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of Change Order #2 for the Lockwood and Oakton Sport Courts. The change order is necessary because of the local strike at quarries that supply asphalt and concrete material. An alternative asphalt mix is available and was vetted through Gewalt Hamilton who advised that the alternate mix is an acceptable substitute. The project was budgeted for \$270,000 and with the change order for the asphalt mix and fencing, the total cost of the project is \$278,690 with a credit coming for the fence post sleeving instead of replacement. Approving this substitution will help ensure that the project is completed this season.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve Change Order #2 from Chicagoland Paving for \$3,850 for the Lockwood and Oakton Sports Courts Project. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

Superintendent Guynn presented an update to the 2022-23 capital plan. The update included an explanation of the changes in each fund. The budget remained equal after all of the changes. There were no questions.

No motion necessary, informational purposes only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Oshana's baby is due around that date so she may not be in attendance.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Jaffe asked how the delay in receiving the real estate tax payments will affect the district's cash flow. Treasurer Schmidt replied that he has not made any new investments and the district currently has approximately \$12 million in the bank. He believes the district should be fine. Commissioner Jaffe asked him to do a cash flow forecasting through January and Mr. Schmidt responded he would do so.

Vice President Reid attended the two hot dogs in the park events at Gross Point Park and Hamlin Park. He said the attendance at Gross Point Park was good and thought there were double the people at Hamlin Park. Everyone was very thankful and appreciative and had a good time.

Vice President Reid attended the first Sunday sundown concerts at Devonshire Park. Ms. Labus said there were about 500 people.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft said as a follow up to Commissioner Oshana's suggestion to recognize the volunteers for the little libraries in the parks we will be recognizing them in February with a citizen award. Mr. Guynn said there are 19 little libraries.

Ms. Tuft asked to schedule a public hearing for Schack Park, to possibly convert one of the tennis courts into a basketball court. The date set for the public hearing is Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 7 p.m. with the location to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Jaffe asked about vandalism in the parks. Ms. Tuft said most of the vandalism happened to the little libraries on the Fourth of July. There has been some graffiti and port-a-pottie issues.

Ms. Tuft said the fireworks are rescheduled to Saturday, September 17 and have been confirmed with the police department and fireworks company. Ms. Tuft said staff will meet to determine what the event will look like. The fireworks will go off around 8 – 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Desai entered the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

President Aberman asked to change the October Board meeting date as the regular date of October 18 is a Jewish holiday. The date selected was Thursday, October 20, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Jaffe asked about security at the Backlot Bash. Ms. Tuft said there will be a heavy police presence. President Aberman asked if we are doing the Superfans again this year. Ms. Tuft responded yes.

Commissioner Desai was excited to see alcohol being sold at the Sunday sundown concert. Ms. Labus said there were not a lot of sales this week, but the plan is to promote sales on social media and post signage as it is a new offering.

President Aberman asked about the Laramie Park field rentals as she saw there were 16 paid rentals. Mr. Marquardt said the field is used by paid rental groups, affiliate groups, school groups, and leagues. The field at Laramie Park is heavily used.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Reid moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Susan Aberman
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

August 16, 2022