

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JUNE 18, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Michael Reid
Vice President Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present:

Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities Michelle Tuft
Assistant Superintendent Jon Marquardt
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Absent:

Commissioner Michael W. Alter

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.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2019; minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 15; minutes of the Board Workshop of June 5, 2019; bills payable for the month of May/June 2019; Treasurer's Report; and Staff Reports.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the committee chairs as follows:
Commissioner Alter – Finance Committee, Commissioner Aberman – Marketing Committee,
Vice President Khoeun – Parks Committee and Commissioner Desai – Recreation Committee.
Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Alter and Desai were absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Desai entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

UPDATE ON TALKING FARM OPERATIONS BY FARM MANAGER MATT RYAN

Farm Manager Matt Ryan presented a PowerPoint with photos and details on the progress of the Talking Farm. The mission of the Talking Farm is to provide education and hands-on experience to members of the community to expand the awareness, importance, and availability of food grown sustainably. The District provides property at Tot Learning Center for their operations and has a cooperative agreement to help facilitate the Talking Farm's mission.

Currently there are five fields and two hoop houses producing crops. Mr. Ryan said The Talking Farm is aesthetically pleasing.

The Talking Farm sells their organic produce to seven local restaurants and at two farmers markets in Skokie and Evanston. Customers can purchase produce boxes through a CSA membership. 10% of the food grown is donated to a local food pantry. The Talking Farm hosts four Farm Table Dinners per year with 25 – 50 people in attendance. The next Farm Table Dinner is June 30th. The Talking Farm has an internship program, volunteer groups, and partnerships with local school groups.

Board President Wendy Aeschlimann said the organization is currently making the transition from a working board to a governing board. She spoke about the Talking Farm goals which are to increase funding, hire additional staff, complete the development of the farm and expand the mission-specific programming.

Commissioner Aberman and President Reid commented on how excited they were to see the development of the Talking Farm. When the Talking Farm first came to the Board with its ideas and vision it was difficult to envision how this would develop and become a community resource. President Reid said he is very pleased to have The Talking Farm at the farmers market selling organic produce.

Commissioner Desai said she was pleased that The Talking Farm has a relationship with the Tot Learning Center children. Ms. Aeschlimann said they are looking to expand programming with Tot Learning Center and her hope is to make the farm a national model.

Ms. Aeschlimann mentioned a regional event for farmers in October led by a national expert on the urban farming to be held at The Talking Farm. This event will bring people to Skokie.

Executive Director Ohrlund asked about planting of fruit trees in the southwest corner of the farm. Mr. Ryan said the Talking Farm recently received a grant from National Fruit Tree Planting Association and 30 fruit trees will be planted this week. Currently there are 30 fruit trees planted along the site perimeter.

President Reid thanked Ms. Aeschlimann and Mr. Ryan for the update on The Talking Farm.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Ms. Gail Schechter addressed the Board regarding the use of pesticides. She circulated a petition online and received 185 signatures in support of organic pesticides and lawn care products. Ms. Schechter read a letter from Amy Bartucci of Park Ridge on the changes implemented by the Park Ridge Park District using organic pesticides and lawn care products. President Reid said the Board will hold a workshop to discuss pesticide use in the future and thanked Ms. Schechter for expressing her concern.

GEOMAPPING REPORT ON RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Assistant Superintendent Marquardt said the software that tracks all the District registrations has the ability to export the registrations to Excel and plug into Google Maps. Mr. Marquardt displayed the results using Google Maps showing the geographic distribution for various program areas. Mr. Marquardt said we are reaching many communities with District programming. Mr. Marquardt will continue to monitor and track District programs.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF FIXED ASSETS ORDINANCE #19-008

Superintendent Guynn requested authorization to dispose fixed assets Ordinance #19-008. The items to be disposed of have outlived their usefulness and will be disposed of through an online auction. The items for disposal are:

Year	Make	Description	Model	VIN #
2006	GMC	Savanna	Passenger Van	1GJHG39UX61176619
2009	Ford	F-450	Stake bed	1FDAF46R09EA14038
2012	Toro	Zero Turn Mower	74977	S/N 311000131

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve Ordinance #19-008 authorizing the disposal of various fixed assets. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO BID REPLACEMENT OF BALLFIELD BACKSTOPS

Superintendent Guynn requested authorization to bid the replacement of ballfield backstops at Terminal Park, Lorel Park and McNally Park. The backstops are at least 25 years old and in need of replacement. The backstop at Lorel Park sustained some damage during the winter and it is recommended to replace the dome style backstop with an upright backstop. The project is budgeted at \$68,000.

Commissioner Desai moved to authorize staff to prepare bid specifications for the replacement of the backstops at Terminal Park, Lorel Park and McNally Park. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS AT CHIPPEWA AND MULFORD PARKS

Superintendent Guynn requested authorization for the replacement of playgrounds at Chippewa and Mulford Parks. Park Services staff will remove the playground equipment and installation will be bid for the new playground equipment. This will save the District money as well be a team building experience for Parks staff. The Chippewa project is estimated at \$105,450 and the Mulford project \$98,050.

Vice President Khoeun asked about playground equipment installation using in-house staff. Executive Director Ohrlund said the work is generally contracted out. The District has worked with Kids around the World to remove old playground equipment for reuse in other parts of the world. The equipment at these two playgrounds is very old and not usable so it was decided to perform the demolition in-house.

Commissioner Desai moved to authorize staff to prepare bid specifications for playground equipment and installation for Chippewa Park and Mulford Park. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND FINAL STATUS OF 2018-2019 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS

Executive Director Ohrlund said throughout the year the Board was given updates on the District and Division Goals. Staff has completed the vast majority of the goals and most of the non-completed goals will be moved to the current fiscal year. The goals were reviewed. Staff answered questions about individual goals. No motion required, informational purposes only.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS

Executive Director Ohrlund said the final draft of goals was developed for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and asked for comments or questions from the Board. Discussion took place. Commissioner Aberman suggested some of the goals be more measurable. Executive Director Ohrlund will have the goals updated to represent the Board input.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the 2019-2020 District and Division goals for the current fiscal year. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Alter was absent. Motion carried.

Executive Director Ohrlund mentioned the new Staff and Community Committee Reports that will become a regular Board report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Aberman reported on a citizen complaint she received regarding the sand area at Lawler Park playground and asked when it was scheduled to be replaced. Superintendent Guynn said the sand would likely be replaced when the playground equipment is replaced.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The date for the public hearing for Laramie Park renovation is Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakton Community Center.

The date for the public hearing for Chippewa and Mulford Parks is Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakton Community Center.

Park Services Committee Meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

A Board Workshop for the Comprehensive Plan will be scheduled at a later date.

Executive Director Ohrlund said M-NASR Executive Director Sue Bear's retirement party is Thursday, June 20, 2019. The new Executive Director Tricia Brightlow started today at M-NASR.

The annual Liponi mini-golf fundraiser is Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at Skokie Sports Park from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Reid said the “Hot Dogs in the Park” event at Laramie Park today was a great event. Superintendent Guynn said 500 hot dogs were given out. Superintendent Tuft said there were about 400 people in attendance. Commissioner Aberman said it is interesting that there are so many fun things going on in the District.

President Reid congratulated Assistant Superintendent Marquardt on the Pride event held on Sunday, June 9. Commissioner Aberman said she heard many positive comments about the event and was sorry she was unable to attend as it was held on a religious holiday. Commissioner Desai said the face painters were amazing. Mr. Marquardt said Edison School provided an excellent location for the event but he is looking at Lincoln Junior High School or Madison School for next year.

Executive Ohrlund gave accolades to Mr. Marquardt for the Skokie Pride event. Mr. Marquardt said there will be a Jewish Pride event held at the Skokie Heritage Museum on July 29 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Jon is working with Keshet and the Jewish Child Family Services. A movie that was produced by Keshet about growing up Jewish in the LGBT community will be shown.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Desai moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary