

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
OCTOBER 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Marketing and Communications Manager Jim Bottorff
Mr. Mark Jeretina, Speer Financial Inc.

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. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2020, bills payable for the month of September /October 2020, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #20-007 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
APPROXIMATELY \$2,899,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS, SERIES
2020 OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the adoption of Ordinance #20-007 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2,899,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2020. Treasurer Schmidt introduced Mr. Mark Jeretina of Speer Financial Inc. to discuss the bond sale. Mr. Jeretina said the refunding bond issue is for the principal and interest on the Series 2001B Capital Appreciation Bonds payment of \$2,300,000 and \$599,000 of debt service extension money for use on capital improvements and bond issuance costs. Five bids were received.

The low bidder is Park Ridge Community Bank, Park Ridge, Illinois with a true interest rate of 0.7900%. President Reid was pleased with the extremely low interest rate.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve Ordinance #20-007 to authorize the issuance of approximately \$2,905,300 of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds Series 2020. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

2020 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION #20-002

Treasurer Schmidt asked for approval of the 2020 Tax Levy Resolution #20-002. Treasurer Schmidt said the CPI for the 2020 levy year is 2.3% and that a public notice and hearing is not required as the Truth-in-Taxation increase is less than 5%. Staff recommends the approval of the 2020 tax levy in the amount of \$8,431,000 which does not include debt service costs. With the debt service costs the total levy is \$11,360,000. At the November Board meeting the tax levy will be presented and the final legal adoption of the Levy Ordinance will be requested.

Commissioner Aberman asked about the amount of the 2019 tax levy. Treasurer Schmidt responded last year's tax levy was \$8,241,015. With debt service the 2020 total levy would equal \$11,360,000 as compared to the 2019 tax levy of \$11,246,219 which is a small increase in the total levy.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve Resolution #20-002 as part of the legal process in approving the 2020 tax levy. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Superintendent Marquardt requested approval of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District second lease amendment which allows for the sales and consumption of alcohol at Skokie Sports Park. The updated lease agreement and resolution approving and authorizing the second amendment to the original 1994 agreement were included in the Board packet and discussed and approved at the September 15, 2020 Board meeting.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the terms, authorizing the execution of the second amendment to the lease agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District at Skokie Sports Park and approve Resolution #20-003. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COOK COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – COVID FUNDING

Executive Director Tuft requested approval of the Cook County Intergovernmental Agreement for COVID funding. The District will apply for a \$5,000 reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses through Cook County. These are funds that Cook County received from the Federal CARES Act. The District is eligible to apply to be reimbursed for expenses for PPE, face shields, sanitation, separators, plexiglass, etc.

Vice President Khoeun asked if the District would be eligible for more funding. Mr. Schmidt responded at this time there is no further federal or state assistance for governmental agencies. Mr. Schmidt said through the Illinois Environmental Management Association (IEMA) we can submit some of our expenses and apply for some of that funding.

Commissioner Alter moved to approve Resolution #20-004 approving the terms and authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement and subrecipient agreement for Coronavirus relief funds. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF LARAMIE PARK CHANGE ORDER #3

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of Laramie Park Change Order #3. The change order is for several concrete items, the removal of existing turf and installation of sod. The cost of the changes is \$8,950.00 with a total cost of the project at \$1,319,839. Mr. Guynn said the project is still \$70,000 under budget. President Reid commented that Laramie Park looks great.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Change Order #3 for the Laramie Park project in the amount of \$8,950.00. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Superintendent Guynn said a list of capital improvement projects was attached to the Board packet in order of priority, listing completed or in progress items, planned items for spring 2021 and items placed on hold. Originally four playgrounds were planned for this year and we will be able to complete all four projects.

Vice President Khoeun inquired about the Skatium renovation project. Executive Director Tuft responded that staff is waiting to hear from the PARC grant, and the Skatium project would be funded in the future. Most of the costs would occur in FY2021-22.

No motion necessary, informational purposes only.

VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEE SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Executive Director Tuft explained that a voluntary employee separation agreement will be offered to all full-time staff. It is a way to reduce costs. Several park districts and companies have offered this type of agreement. The agreement is voluntary. The agreement offers \$750 for each IMRF service year with the Skokie Park District with a maximum of \$15,000 (20 or more IMRF years) and two months of insurance. This agreement allows the District to have the final decision in whether to accept the employee's separation application. Savings is based on the employee's length of service, their current salary, the possibility of eliminating or restructuring the position, the length of time the position would remain vacant and/or by re-hiring the position at a lower salary. The agreement will be offered to staff beginning tomorrow, with a deadline to apply of November 6. Staff lay-offs are being considered and this may be a way to avoid them or have fewer layoffs. President Reid asked what would happen if an employee changed their mind. Ms. Tuft responded the employee has 45 days in which to withdraw their application. Vice President Khoeun said she is much more comfortable with offering this agreement to staff.

No motion necessary, informational purposes only.

APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS FOR THE IAPD ANNUAL MEETING

Commissioner Desai entered the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Executive Director Tuft requested approval of the credentials for the IAPD Annual Meeting. A delegate and two alternates need to be designated.

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve Mike Reid as the Skokie Park District delegate, Susan Aberman as 1st alternate and Khemary Khoeun as 2nd alternate to the IAPD annual business meeting on January 30, 2021. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman led a discussion regarding the Board participating in the adopt a park program. Superintendent Guynn will forward a list of parks for the Board to consider. The Board agreed that spring would be a good time to select the park.

Commissioner Desai received a request from a resident to winterize Pooch Park. Mr. Guynn said staff will be putting up wind shields at the shelters in a few weeks.

Commissioner Aberman attended Things That Go Bump in the Night this past weekend and said staff did a good job with the event.

Vice President Khoeun is attending a health care symposium via zoom with the Skokie Public Library. The symposium will discuss coping with COVID-19.

Vice President Khoeun is currently applying for the Village Trustee position and is in the screening process.

Commissioner Aberman thanked the Board and staff for the lovely plant she received today in memory of her mother.

Commissioner Aberman expressed kudos to the Weber golf staff. The revenue at the golf course has doubled this year and it is a silver lining of COVID-19. Congratulations to Rich Lee and staff.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman presented an IAPD award and pin to President Reid celebrating his fifteen years on the Park Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Aberman congratulated President Reid with the award and a speech listing his many accomplishments including many facility and playground renovations over the past fifteen years on the Board. President Reid thanked the Board and staff. President Reid truly enjoys being a part of the Skokie Park District.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Aberman recognized Adriane Johnson, Chairman of the IAPD Board as the newly appointed senator in her district. She was instrumental in getting some of the Board members to participate in IAPD's Master Board program and encouraged them through the years. President Reid said she will be missed.

Treasurer Schmidt mentioned that on Sunday, October 25 there will be a Walk and Roll from 11a.m. - 3 p.m. in downtown Skokie.

Mr. Guynn reminded Commissioners that the Park Trek Steps Challenge ends on Sunday October 25 and asked Commissioners to get their can goods for the food drive in by Friday, October 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Khoehn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary