

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 15, 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
Skatium Manager Kurt VonHelms
Director of Information Technology David Hunt

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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT

President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order at 7:02 p.m. Treasurer Schmidt said the BINA hearing is for the proposed \$2,921,000 General Alternate Bond Sale Series 2020A. This is the annual refunding issue with an additional \$400,000 for Debt Service Extension Base. President Reid asked for any comments regarding the General Obligation Alternate Bond sale, Series 2020A. There were no comments or questions. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

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 the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020, bills payable for the month of August/September 2020, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

IMRF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Executive Director Tuft introduced Kate Setchell and Brian Glover via Zoom from IMRF to explain the IMRF Retirement Incentive program that is being considered. The single most expensive cost to the District is personnel. There are 26 people that would be eligible for the early retirement incentive. The employee must be at least 50 years old and have 20 years of IMRF service credit.

Mr. Glover explained the process for an employee to request the early retirement incentive in great detail. He explained the cost to the District and the cost to the employee. An employee can purchase up to five years of service. If an employee decides to take the early retirement incentive, they cannot work for an IMRF employer in the future.

Ms. Setchell said there is a one year and one day window from when the employer adopts the early retirement incentive to when the employee must retire. By adopting the early retirement incentive, it allows the employer to reduce staff or re-hire staff at a lower salary, saving the District money.

Vice President Khoeun had a question about the timeline for the employee to retire once they submitted the paperwork to IMRF. Ms. Setchell said that once paperwork is submitted the employer can specify a date for the employee's retirement.

Ms. Tuft thanked Ms. Setchell and Mr. Glover for the presentation and said the early retirement incentive would be discussed further in Executive Session.

SKATIUM RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Marquardt gave a brief history of the Skatium mechanics from 1974 through 2015. The current operating system is obsolete with few replacement parts available. Skatium Manager Kurt von Helms has been doing his best to keep the system operating. Over the past three years the District has spent over \$150,000 keeping the equipment operational and this cannot continue.

Mr. Marquardt recapped the Skatium renovation project from 2018 to date. In 2018 Stantec Consulting Services was hired to provide a comprehensive preconstruction analysis of the project. In February 2019 bids were received and after much review and discussion staff recommended all bids be rejected and that the project be reevaluated for potential savings and rebid in the future. In December 2019 the Board approved a PARC Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for the Skatium project and staff is waiting to hear if the grant will be awarded. The estimated date of grant recipient announcements is November of this year. In order to qualify for the grant, the bidding process cannot begin prior to the grant award. The estimated cost for the renovation is \$4.5 million. The anticipated project start date is April 1, 2021 with completion in late fall of 2021. If the grant is not announced and/or if Skokie is not selected, the Board may need to decide to proceed with the project and fund the entire project.

A question was asked if the project could be done in pieces and Mr. von Helms said all the operations are so intertwined it is not possible to do the project in different pieces. Mr. von Helms said the project is four years overdue and the Skatium is running on borrowed time.

Executive Director Tuft summarized the need for the project offering two options: (1) to proceed now or (2) wait until November to see if the District is selected as a grant recipient and

then have another discussion on the project. If there is a catastrophic failure in the meantime, a decision would have to be made at that time.

No motion at this time, informational purposes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Reid and Commissioner Aberman attended an "Annie Oakley" performance at the Skokie Heritage Museum. The actors put on a great performance outdoors in the heat.

Vice President Khoeun and Commissioner Desai attended the Cricket award ceremony at Skokie Sports Park East and were interviewed on Asian television.

President Reid mentioned that Mayor Van Dusen's son passed away last week. Superintendent Guynn said the family is purchasing a memorial bench at Devonshire Park.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Executive Director Tuft reminded the Board of the grand opening ceremony for Laramie Park on Sunday, September 17 at 11 a.m. Invitations will be sent to all the groups discussed at the last month's Board meeting.

The last drive-in movie for this year is on Thursday, September 27 at Skokie Sports Park East. Superintendent Labus said currently there are 55 cars registered for the movie.

Ms. Tuft received a letter and some photos from former Executive Director Ohrlund thanking staff and the Board for the tree memorial at Central Park for his deceased mother.

Ms. Tuft informed the Board that the candidate packets for the 2021 Consolidated Election will be available on Monday, September 21. Petitions can be circulated beginning on September 22. Commissioner Alter's position on the Board is up for reelection.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Alter moved to enter executive session to discuss minutes of executive session meetings for purposes of approval of the minutes and semi-annual review of the minutes, and to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve the content of the Executive Session Minutes of March 17, 2020. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Following review of Executive Session meeting minutes dating to January 2004, Vice President Khoeun moved to release the minutes from March 17, 2020 and to have those remaining minutes not previously released remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

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 9:29 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary