

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
DECEMBER 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid
Vice President Minal Desai
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe

Remote Attendance: Commissioner Susan Aberman

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Botticoff
Aquatics and Special Facility Manager Scott Runko
Aquatics and Facility Supervisor Claudia Bidstrup
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

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

President Reid asked Commissioner Aberman to confirm that her audio is working properly acknowledging that she could hear all board members. Commissioner Aberman responded yes. President Reid asked all board members if they could hear Commissioner Aberman, and all responded yes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jaffe 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 November 21, 2023; bills payable for the month November/December 2023, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF THE 2023 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE #23-009

Treasurer Schmidt requested approval of the 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance #23-009 which is a legal document that is filed with the Cook County Tax Extension Office. Mr. Schmidt

said the amount of the Tax Levy is \$9,508,000 and does not include debt service cost, or the loss and cost factor added by the County. President Reid asked for any questions or discussion and there were none.

Commissioner Jaffe to approve the 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance #23-009 in the amount of \$9,508,000. This does not include debt service costs, or the loss and cost factor added by the County. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners vote aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DEVONSHIRE AQUATIC CENTER DROP SLIDE REPLACEMENT

Superintendent Guynn requested approval of the Devonshire Aquatic Center Drop Slide Replacement. Mr. Guynn said the slide needs to be replaced as it is very old and has been leaking. Commissioner Jaffe asked why we could not get more bids and Mr. Guynn said there are limited manufacturers of these specialized slides.

Vice President Desai moved to approve the bid from Whitewater for the Devonshire Aquatic Center Drop Slide Replacement for a total of \$84,797. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE FIXED ASSETS ORDINANCE #23-010

Mr. Guynn requested authorization for the disposal of fixed assets Ordinance #23-010. Staff will auction the two vehicles that have outlived their useful life. Below is the list of vehicles.

Assignment/ Vehicle Number	Year	Mileage	Vin/Serial Number #	Manufacturer
2005 GMC Sierra #127	2005	128,140	1GTHC23U25F917580	GM
2008 GMC Canyon #80	2008	118,093	1GTCS19E788146923	GM

Vice President Desai moved to approve Ordinance #23-010 authorizing the disposal of various fixed assets. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR CHANNELSIDE PARK AND POOCH PARK**

President Reid said the approval of the City of Evanston Intergovernmental Agreement for Channelside Park and Pooch Park will be taken off the agenda tonight and moved to the January board meeting.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR PARK
BOARD COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Schmidt requested authorization for business-related travel for the Park Board Commissioners for the January IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve business related travel for President Reid, Vice President Desai, and Commissioner Aberman to the IAPD Conference in January. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

REVIEW STATUS OF 2023-2024 DISTRICT GOALS

Ms. Tuft said staff has made really good progress completing goals over the first six months of the fiscal year. President Reid asked for questions, reviewing the goals page by page. Goals discussed include the Sustainability position, IT Manager position, Fitness First sign project, dance floor at Devonshire Center, Skatium locker rooms refreshment and Pooch Park improvements.

No motion required, for informational purposes only.

2023 POOL REPORT AND 2024 POOL FEES APPROVAL

Mr. Scott Runkle, Aquatics and Special Facility Manager introduced the new Aquatics Facility and Pooch Park Manager, Claudia Bidstrup, to the board.

Mr. Runkle gave a presentation highlighting the 2023 pool season and made recommendations for the pool hours and fees for 2024. Topics discussed in detail were concessions, attendance, birthday parties and private rentals, special events, staffing, lifeguard certification, rescues, and programming.

Commissioner Aberman thanked Mr. Runkle for the good presentation.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the possibility of hosting a sensory sensitive swim at the pool and Mr. Runkle said he is trying to schedule a day and time for next summer. Commissioner Jaffe thanked Mr. Runkle for the good pool report.

Vice President Desai moved to approve the 2024 pool hours and fees as proposed. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Reid said an Efficiency Committee Meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, which will be followed by the Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Tuft will send out a draft of the efficiency report to review before the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman received a call from Rabbi Posner commending the programming of the Hanukkah celebration, 8 Nights, 8 Lights, at Devonshire Cultural Center. This was a new program and Rabbi Posner was happy with the attendance. Commissioner Aberman said it was nice to hear for a first-time program. Ms. Tuft received a complimentary email from the Rabbi as well.

Commissioner Jaffe attended the Village of Skokie Menorah Lighting Ceremony last night and it was very nice. There were about 70 people in attendance. It was a lovely event in downtown Skokie.

Vice President Desai said she heard from residents that dogs were getting ill at Pooch Park. Ms. Tuft said we have not had any reports of illness specific to Pooch Park. There is a respiratory virus going around in dogs in the United States.

Vice President Desai said some residents told her that the ball dispenser at the golf range overflows. Mr. Guynn said there is a faulty sensor and staff are working to repair it.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that President Reid and Commissioner Aberman have invited legislators to the IAPD/IPRA conference luncheon in the past and asked if they wanted to do this again this year. President Reid said he and Commissioner Aberman will coordinate the invitations.

Ms. Tuft spoke with the Park District of Highland Park, and they are not currently installing outdoor park cameras. Mr. Guynn looked into the costs to install cameras and they range from approximately \$35,000 in parks without a shelter and \$13,000 in parks with a shelter.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if the Oakton Center cameras will face the new pickleball courts and Mr. Guynn responded yes.

Ms. Tuft heard from Kim Vigue at the Mitchell Museum who approved the letter and survey she prepared to send to the various tribal nations.

Ms. Tuft asked the board to select a date for a public hearing regarding the proposed Pooch Park improvements. The date selected was January 23, 2024, at 6:30 a.m. with a location to be determined. Vice President Desai suggested posting this on Facebook.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW PROCESS

President Reid said the Executive Director review process will be done at the January board meeting and he distributed the evaluation form to the Commissioners. President Reid asked the Commissioners to complete the form and return to him a week prior to the January meeting.

Commissioner Jaffe suggested conducting a 360 review with Ms. Tuft's staff. He will complete the form and give it to Ms. Tuft to distribute.

COMMISSIONER VACANCY

President Reid discussed the Commissioner vacancy. The last time there was a vacancy the position was advertised on the website and via social media. The board then interviewed applicants. The board agreed to repeat this process for the current opening. The tentative timeline is as follows: the vacancy will be posted in January, candidate interviews will occur in February, and a decision will be made to appoint in March.

OLD BUSINESS

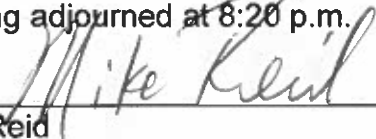
Commissioner Aberman asked about pickleball revenue and Mr. Schmidt explained that the budget allocation for pickleball was incorrect. The actual revenues for pickleball are favorable and the budget has been corrected.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Mike Reid
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

January 16, 2024