

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JUNE 20, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

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

Absent: Commissioner Mary Oshana

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
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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Earl Weiss has been a Skokie resident for a long time and also instructs a martial arts class at the Oakton Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays. He is concerned that his Monday martial arts class was cancelled due to low enrollment. He would appreciate it if the Monday classes could be offered as it is better for the students to have two days of classes per week. He explained that some people sign up for the class the day of the class and he usually has enough people registered to run the class. He said the program guide does not include his program on the same page as other martial arts classes and makes it difficult to locate. There have been issues with online registration and he feels the cost of the class is high. Mr. Weiss thanked the board for their attention. The Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Ms. Amato said she will discuss with staff and follow up with Mr. Weiss

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT

President Reid called the Public Hearing on the Bond Issue Notification Act to order at 7:15 p.m. He asked for any comments regarding the General Obligation Alternate Bond sale, Series 2023A. There were no comments or questions. President Reid closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

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

Ms. Tuft said the agreement for the Channelside soccer fields and Pooch Park has been updated from the original 1999 agreement, but the terms have not changed. Currently the park district maintains and operates both and bills Evanston for half. Capital projects are addressed and require the city of Evanston to approve the projects if funding is requested from them. The park district can complete projects without the consent of the city of Evanston if the park district funds the entire project.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the pathway trail by the soccer field. Ms. Tuft said we do not take care of that property as it is the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's property. Commissioner Aberman asked if MWRD will extend the lease when it expires in 2032 and Ms. Tuft did not see any reason why they would not.

Vice President Desai moved to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Evanston for shared use of certain grounds and facilities, Channelside Soccer Fields, and Pooch Park. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR POOL AND BEACHES**

Ms. Tuft said the original reciprocal agreement was signed in 1999 and needed to be updated. The agreement allows for Evanston and the Park District to mutually agree on the fees for the beaches and pools for the resident and non-resident fees every year. The agreement is good for both Evanston and Skokie residents. Commissioner Jaffe asked if going to the beach was free for Skokie residents and Ms. Tuft explained that Skokie residents pay but at a lower rate than other non-residents. Vice President Desai asked if Skokie residents know about the agreement. Ms. Tuft and Mr. Guynn will be sure to include this information in next year's pool information when it is released in the spring.

Vice President Desai moved to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Evanston for a reciprocal fee agreement for resident and non-resident access to certain grounds and facilities. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Ms. Tuft requested approval of the Land Acknowledgement Statement. The acknowledgment statement was presented at the listening session and the small group of attendees had a good discussion. Commissioner Jaffe was moved by the community listening session and appreciates the staff and board's approach. Ms. Tuft said a change was made on the website; the parks with native names now include the name in the native language.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Land Acknowledgement Statement as presented. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried.

FINAL STATUS OF 2022-2023 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS

Ms. Tuft asked for any questions or comments on the 2022-2023 District and Division goals. Several goals were discussed by the Board and staff.

No motion required, for informational purposes only.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS

Ms. Tuft asked if there were any questions or comments on the 2023-2024 District and Division Goals. Commissioner Aberman and Vice President Desai asked for clarification on some of the goals and Ms. Tuft explained each in more detail.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the 2023-2024 park district goals. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried.

REVIEW VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Ms. Tuft said a requirement for the Distinguished Parks and Recreation Agency (DPRA) accreditation is that the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Core Values should be reviewed. Ms. Tuft's said the current rendition has worked very well and conveys what the park district is. Commissioner Aberman discussed the district's core values with another Distinguished Agency representative who thought the park district covered all its bases. Commissioner Aberman said it was good to get another opinion. President Reid said they are perfectly fine and that the board worked hard to establish these core values.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the current version of the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Core Values. Vice President Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The special board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 29,2023 at 5 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Reid said he was unable to attend the weekends events of Juneteenth and Pride this weekend as he was ill. Ms. Tuft was at both events and reported that Juneteenth was busy in the beginning, but attendance was lower toward the end of the event.

The Pride event was well attended. Cassie Schaffer from Emily Oaks Nature Center did a great job organizing the event. The only negative was that it was on Father's Day. Staff will not schedule it on Father's Day next year.

Commissioner Jaffe was at the Pride event and asked if both events were park district events as he did not see the park district logo. There was discussion and Ms. Tuft said we need to do more branding next year.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft told the board that the Liponi Mini-Golf event is Wednesday, August 16 at Skokie Sports Park. This year registration can be done online.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Tuft asked the board to discuss dates for the park tours. Three dates were selected as possible dates. Commissioner Desai will check to see if all three work and the dates then the dates will be shared with Commissioner Oshana who is absent. Three parks are on the list so far, Gleiss Park, Skokie Sports Park East, and Lawler Park. Ms. Tuft said to let her know if there are any requests for the remaining parks. Commissioner Aberman said she thought we were going to focus on the parks that have been recently developed and/or the parks that are scheduled for development in the near future. Director Tuft agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

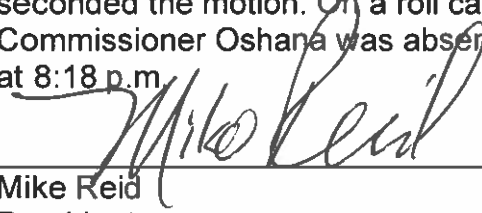
Vice President Desai said a resident asked her if LED lighting could be added at the Central Park baseball field area. Mr. Guynn replied that lighting is not planned, nor would be planned at Central Park. There is LED lighting at Laramie and Terminal Parks. Vice President Desai said rental rates at Laramie Park are high. Ms. Tuft said staff can look into this.

Commissioner Aberman said baseball is a dying sport and should not be a priority. Commissioner Aberman said community surveys do not have baseball as a high priority. Commissioner Jaffe asked if we could get the statistics from the affiliates.


Vice President Desai said residents want to sponsor a netted batting cage at Central Park. Mr. Guynn said Central Park is not a viable location due to space constraints. He will look to see if it could be added at Laramie Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Mike Reid
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

July 18, 2023