

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF DUPAGE  
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**July 17, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Ray Jablonski called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview, Darien, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

**PRESENT:** Ray Jablonski, Luanne Spiros, Frank Noverini

**ABSENT:** Cathy Marchese

**Staff:** Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Matt Henderson: Director of Parks and Facilities, Jordan Rossi; Sportsplex General Manager, Gina Madden; Attorney

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one wishing to present public comment.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Ray Jablonski reported that the City ask that we draft a proclamation for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and present at their August meeting.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff will come up with a list and present the draft at the next Board meeting.

Director Matt Henderson reported on the pickleball courts and demand.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion of Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Darien**

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone discussed the details of the handouts provided in the packet. She reported that it was discovered that “High Haven” was a sponsor of the concert series the City is holding at Westwood Park. She further reported that the stage sign post was “High Haven” and that the on-site tent was “High Haven Cannabis”.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff reached out to the City and were informed that their attorney said they were in compliance with advertising laws regarding cannabis.

President Ray Jablonski reported that he spoke with Mayor Joe Marchese who stated that High Haven was not selling marijuana and that that they were a stage sponsor and in compliance.

Executive Director Gurgone provided samples of the promotional items that High Haven distributed at the City's concert on June 27<sup>th</sup> and the photos that were posted by High Haven on Instagram about the movie event. The promotional materials included QR codes and a sign that said "Get High with Us."

There was discussion regarding what the District will allow on District property and selling advertising and legal ramifications.

Attorney Gina Madden reported on the legalities and if High Haven was or was not advertising Cannabis. She reported that the statute states that advertising of Cannabis cannot happen on public property and what could happen if the County chose to penalize the District because it is on Park District Property. She reported that she has reached out for further clarification from the State and County.

Executive Director Gurgone recommended posting on the website that the concerts are a City event and residents should contact the City if questions, comments, or concerns. She reported that staff will work on new guidelines for selling advertising for the District as a whole and other third-party groups such as the City, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

Attorney Madden reported that she reached out to the City's attorney that the Board is considering the law and all the facts and reached out for an opinion.

Executive Director Gurgone summarized the next steps and that Gina can send an email to the City's attorney, informing him that the District is awaiting more information from the State and State's Attorney.

**b. Resolution 2024-25-02: OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for Darien Park District Westwood Park Project.**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff met with kids in all District Summer Camps to discuss ideas for DPD Community Center and Westwood Property. She reported that they discussed the grant process for the project and that Wight is working on conceptual drawings which will be available at the August meeting. She further reported that the grant application is due by September 13, 2024.

**Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve Resolution 2024-25-02: OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization for Darien Park District Westwood Park Project.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Noverini, Spiros, Jablonski**

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**c. Resolution 2024-25-03: Resolution Approving Membership in IAPD**

Executive Director Gurgone reported that years ago, the District was a member of IAPD, and the Board at the time felt it was very expensive at the time and not necessary.

Attorney Gina Madden reported that she is currently a member and there are two inhouse attorneys that she routinely bounces ideas and that one is also a licensed lobbyist.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that IAPD offers many benefits and resources to the staff and board and that membership would be prorated for 2024.

**Commissioner Spiros moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve Resolution 2024-25-03: Resolution Approving Membership in IAPD.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Spiros, Noverini, Jablonski**

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**a. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11) –Probable or imminent litigation**

**At 5:27 p.m. Commissioner Spiros moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to adjourn into Closed Session for 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) – Probable or imminent litigation.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Spiros, Noverini, Jablonski**

**NAYS: None**

**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

**ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)**

**At 5:55 p.m. Commissioner Spiros moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to reconvene to open session.**

**Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:**

**AYES: Spiros, Noverini, Jablonski**

**NAYS: None**


**President Jablonski declared the motion carried.**

President Ray Jablonski reported that there will be no action on Closed Session.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.**



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**Ray Jablonski, President  
Darien Park District**



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**Frank Noverini, Secretary  
Darien Park District**