

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING**

June 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Ray Jablonski called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Cathy Marchese, Sivia McIvor (7:01)

ABSENT: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS

President Ray Jablonski opened the meeting to anyone wishing to present public comment. He stated that all comments were limited to three minutes.

Mr. David Decuir stated that Mr. Jamie Carpello over the last year has had verbal altercations with people at the gym. He stated that his altercations are political in nature and that the ladies in the gym are terrified. Mr. Decuir stated that Mr. Carpello is a loose cannon, has spit at people and that something needs to be done. He stated that he has gotten in confrontations with him twice and reported it to the front desk. Mr. Decuir is recommending that the Park District expel Mr. Carpello from the gym.

Mr. Decuir submitted a petition.

Mr. Dave Dewolf stated that he appreciated the Code of Conduct and suggested additional recommendations.

Mr. Mike Labate stated that something needs to do be done about this guy.

Ms. Jean Hopa stated that she had an incident with Mr. Carpello several months ago and that he has a mental problem and screams at the television and that everyone is concerned about his actions.

Attorney Gina Madden stated that the Fitness Center is a government facility and that a unit of government cannot just remove someone. She stated that someone cannot be removed because of

freedom of speech. Attorney Madden stated that staff cannot act as the police and that police should be called if anyone has an altercation, and the police will deal with the situation.

A gentleman in the audience stated that Mr. Carpello spit on him in the parking lot and that he went to police but that he did not want to file a report.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that police did follow up with everyone involved.

Attorney Madden stated that staff have made changes in the fitness center and have updated the Code of Conduct addressing violence, profanity, etc. and that all members were required to sign the updated Code of Conduct before entering the gym. She also stated that staff cannot violate any members privacy, so they cannot state what has been addressed with any members.

Mr. Tony Balisario stated that he has known Mr. Carpello for years and he is a loose cannon.

Ms. Harriet Janecke stated that there was a recent incident and it was reported to the desk.

Attorney Madden stated that these were addressed and that there hasn't been another incident reported since all of the changes were made. She also stated that staff have been present in the fitness center and have not witnessed any issues.

Superintendent of Recreation Jen Krantz reported that physical signs regarding the Code of Conduct will be posted when they are available.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Henderson reported that the police are well aware of the incidents.

There was no one else wishing to present public comment.

COMMUNICATONS

There were no communications to report.

OFFICER REPORTS

- a. **President** –President Ray Jablonski had no report.
- b. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the Treasurer's report ending May 31, 2024.

Commissioner Noverini made a motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Spiros to approve the Treasurer's report ending May 31, 2024.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, Spiros, Marchese, McIvor, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

c. Commissioner Reports

There were no Commissioner reports.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Gina Madden had no report.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone reported that there will not be a meeting in July and that the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12th.

Executive Director Gurgone highlighted the SEASPAR Annual Report. She stated that the Board received a Draft Intergovernmental Agreement for Darienfest and summarized the comments at the recent City Council meeting.

President Ray Jablonski stated that he met with Mayor Joe Marchese and that they exchanged emails regarding Darienfest.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the City continues to ask about a “transfer of ownership of Westwood Park to the City.” She stated open space is a premium in Darien and that Westwood Park is a part of the Community Center property. When the District purchased Fairview School, they did so because Westwood Park was next door. The Park is used for many programs, including camp, preschool, and many sports programs. She stated that the City has stated that this proposal would avoid the District’s insurance requirements.

Executive Director Gurgone discussed that she had spoken with each Commissioner individually, and that all were not in favor of any discussions about transferring ownership of the Park to the City. She stated that this is the first opportunity to discuss in person as a Board if the Board has any additional comments.

Commissioner Sylvia McIvor stated that she is not in favor of giving Westwood Park to the City. She stated that open space is a premium and Westwood Park is an important part of the District’s open space. All other Commissioner’s agreed that they were not in favor of giving Westwood Park to the City.

Commissioner Luanne Spiros stated that she was disappointed in the comments made at the recent City Council meeting. She stated that insurance is not silly, as it is protecting all of the Darien taxpayers.

There was some discussion regarding insurance and liability.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the terms of insurance for Darienfest in 2019 have been the same and that every vendor has always provided a Certificate of Insurance. She reported that

the terms from PDRMA have not changed since 2015. She further reported that both the District and City attorneys agreed on the contract.

Attorney Gina Madden reported that staff met with the City and requested a list of vendors/volunteers. She reported to date that the list has not been received. She further reported that a definition for volunteers could have been created.

b. Finance Report

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the first deposit of property tax revenues was received. She reported that the 2024 annual audit is scheduled for the week of July 8th.

c. Sportsplex General Manager

General Manager Jordan Rossi stated that he would answer any questions regarding his report.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities

Director Matt Henderson reported that he provided a copy of the Recreation Report. He provided an overview of the events and reported that the preschool held their graduation and picnics.

Director Henderson reported that Summer Camp open house was a great success with over 200 people. He reported that the 50th Anniversary and Grand Opening at Darien Community Park was held on June 6th and was an amazing night.

Director Henderson provided an update on the Westwood Park improvements, the construction projects including Driftwood Park and Gardenview Park/802 and reported that the seasonal staff has started and that staff is trying to get all the projects completed.

i. Tree Inventory

Director Matt Henderson provided a full report for the tree inventory with an overview of all the trees on the District property, tree locations mapped out using GIS technology and a health grade for each tree. He provided a slide show and a brief presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA)

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, Warrants, Resolution 2024-25-01: A Resolution transferring

excess fund balances from the Corporate and Recreation Fund to the Community Center Capital Fund for designated projects.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, McIvor, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for June 27th concert, pending attorney review
- b. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for July 25th concert, pending attorney review
- c. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for August 29th concert, pending attorney review
- d. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for Fall Festival/Okttoberfest pending attorney review
- e. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Darien for National Night Out, pending attorney review

Commissioner Noverini moved, duly seconded by Commissioner McIvor to approve New Business items a – e.

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Noverini, McIvor, Marchese, Spiros, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

f. Election of Officers

Commissioner Marchese moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Noverini to reelect the following officers:

Ray Jablonski – President

Luanne Spiros – Vice President

Frank Noverini – Secretary

Cathy Marchese – Secretary

Upon roll call the following Commissioners voted:

AYES: Marchese, Noverini, Spiros, McIvor, Jablonski

NAYS: None

President Jablonski declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner McIvor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Marchese that the meeting be adjourned.

Upon roll call vote the Motion was thereby carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



**Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District**



**Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District**