

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Sycamore Park District
Tuesday, August 27, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County, Illinois, held at the Sycamore Park District Community Center Building located at 435 Airport Road in Sycamore, Illinois is called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

Will the recording secretary please call the roll.

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are physically present and will be participating in the meeting in person: **Commissioners Doty, Schulz, Strack and Kroeger.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present, but will be participating in the meeting via video and/or audio conferencing: **None**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present and will not be participating in the meeting: **Commissioner Graves.**

Staff members present were Jeanette Freeman, Director Gibble, Jackie Hienbuecher, Jeff Donahoe, Lisa Metcalf, and Theresa Tevsh.

Guests at the Board meeting were:

Mark Hubble- 469 ½ W. Exchange St., Sycamore

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –
Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Schulz seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent at this time.

President Kroeger read the following:

The next agenda item for the Board of Park Commissioners is a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposal to sell not to exceed \$5,300,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving, and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, including, but not limited to, the construction of items identified in the District's Vision 2020 Plan, and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto. All persons desiring to be heard will have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

To open the discussion, the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Park Bonds are to use the proceeds to complete the construction of capital projects detailed in the District's Vision 2020 Plan and to pay the costs of issuance of the bonds. This includes, but is not limited to, construction of soccer complex, ball diamonds, installation of golf course irrigation system, and two trail projects.

President Kroeger asked if there were additional comments from the Park Commissioners.
There were none.

President Kroeger asked if there were any written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Park Bonds?
There were none.

President Kroeger asked if there were any oral testimony of any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Park Bonds?
There were none.

President Kroeger stated that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Park Bonds.

Motion

Commissioner Schulz moved to close the Hearing. Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent at this time.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion

Commissioner Schulz moved to approve the July 23, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent at this time.

Motion

Commissioner Schulz moved to approve the July 23, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes to remain confidential. Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent at this time.

Claims and Accounts Approval

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$172,310.73.
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent at this time.

Correspondence –

KSRA Audit
Pay-it-Forward House Thank You

Commissioner Graves arrived at 6:06 pm.

Public Input –

Mark Hubble proposed that in 2021 there should be a frisbee golf course in Sycamore. Commissioner Strack noted that he had talked to Mark before on this and appreciated him coming to share the idea. He also noted that the five-year strategic planning is happening soon, and we will be surveying the community and perhaps we can add that to ask if the community would like this. Commissioner Strack noted they can try to let him know by Spring if this will be a part of the plan.

President Kroeger noted he has been working with the Mayor on his ideas of doing trees at our entrance to the sports complex. The idea has now gone out to the Middle School and the plan is to have the trees run down Route 23 on the other side of the bike path. Eventually will go further. He believes it passed the school board last week. He also noted there would be nothing on the park side to do except maybe maintenance on the trees. These will be on school property but asking the Park for cooperation on this. Director Gibble noted this is in lieu of planting trees at the sports complex entrance.

Positive Feedback –

- President Strack thanked the Park District and all the Park Board members for the kind gift of a tree for his brother. There will be a celebration of life on 8-31 from 12-4 at Frances.
- Commissioner Graves noted that for the golf league on Wednesday nights Kirk and his staff put on a dinner for the golfers and was much appreciated.

Monthly Report – Supt. of Recreation Theresa and Lisa Metcalf: Lisa noted that in 2016 Supt. of Parks Jeff Donahoe played a big part in determining the fees based on what it cost to mow and maintain the fields. The fees changed in 2017 along with the Leaf a Legacy contribution rate. Other than the affiliates, everyone pays the new fees plus the LAL contribution for the next five years to help with the sports expansion. The affiliates pledged certain amounts over the five years, so their fees stayed the same. Their pledges are all due by 2021. Director Gibble noted that SYB's is due 1-2020 and Girls Softball is due 12-31-2020. He noted he has reminded all of the affiliate organizations about 3 months ago of their pledge amounts due. Lisa noted that if the pledge is not paid by the date due, we can go back and charge them the new rate since 2017. She then noted that after 2021 all will pay the new fees that were started in 2017 unless the fees have gone up at that time.

Plan Commission Report - Commissioner Strack noted that will be going to the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone meeting. They had a meeting a while ago with some proposed changes to the agreement. This related to prior development on NIU property. They were proposing to exempt those pieces of development from the employment requirements and the income requirements of employees. Commissioner informed them that this was inconsistent with the representations made to the taxing bodies so suggested it be modified. The Enterprise Zone group will take back to the drawing board.

There was an Ad-Hoc committee on growth related to impact fees. Every three years we get a new set of appraisals on what land is worth and they recalculate what that means in terms of impact fees. He proposed a revision to the definition of land where it says this is what the Park District views as undesirable land. The lobbyist for the Realtor Association in this area made a presentation that impact fees should be suspended completely since there is an accelerated rate of growth. Commissioner Strack doesn't anticipate this happening.

The Plan Commission focused on the transaction of land ownership from the City to the County.

Director Gible noted to add to that since this relates to Update on Trail Easements/Acquisitions. That issue has raised a problem with the plats the City and County developed for the parcel they are talking about. This created a five foot error on the previous approved plats for our land swap for the trail projects. So, we are back to square one with IDOT with Nathan Schwartz sending the City County plats now to IDOT for approval. He wanted to let the Board know that there may be a concern on IDOT part with the new plats.

Old Business

Executive Director Committee Update – Commissioner Strack noted they had a candidate for the committee, but they are gone from January to April and would only be able to help by video if the board was ok with that. Commissioner Doty noted this would be the time frame that most of the work would need to be done. Commissioner Schulz gave another name of someone so Commissioner Doty will try to contact this person.

Consideration of Retirement Agreement – President Kroeger noted this was drafted by our attorney Derke. There have been changes suggested by him and Supt. of Finance Hienbuecher. This is the final agreement.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Retirement Agreement as presented.
Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Update on Trail Easements/Acquisitions – Director Gible noted he has one complete set of documents and he is ready to file. The checks are cut to pay the Ehlers. He is waiting for the documents on the Manczko property with the latest round of negotiations. They want their own plat on the property. Since this property is now in a trust their attorney wants some changes to the language, so we are waiting at this time.

Update on Soccer Complex Project – Director Gible noted things are going well. Wagner is the main contractor working now doing all the trench work, storm water work and should probably be done soon. The only thing still outstanding from permit perspective is the City issued the permit less the building itself. The city wanted some final specifications and the electrical documents. He knows there was some communications between the City and contractors. He has not heard any concern about having seed down by the 15th of September.

Update on Pool Assessment - Supt. of Parks Jeff Donahoe noted that the company came through with the pool running and people swimming. They will be coming back out on 9-10 to check with the pool empty. The pool is now drained so they can look at the cracks, lights, etc. The company is saying that for a pool this age, it looks pretty good. There has already been a lot replaced in the mechanical room. Director Gible noted we should have the report some time in October.

Golf Course Irrigation Update – Supt. of Park Jeff Donahoe noted the equipment has been delivered and most of the piping. We will keep the current system running till October. He noted the whole course was Julied and have the map from the City on water lines, etc. He will be meeting with the company on Thursday and they are hoping to start on Tuesday. Depending on the weather, they are hoping to have the majority of the work done by middle December.

Community Wide Survey Discussion/Input – Director Gible noted he will get the first draft of the survey today. There are about eleven individuals that will look at it and critique it. The draft will then go back to Ron to revise it.

Set Dates on Future Study Sessions – Director Gible noted we will need a study session when the first set of survey results come back, possibly in October. If the Board feels a need to hold a study session for other topics that have come up, we should have one. The first study session will be held on October 29th at 6:00 pm.

Park Tour: September 7, 2019 – There was discussion on the date for the tour. It was decided to change the meeting to September 21st .

New Business

Approve Training and Development for Executive Director – Director Gibble noted he has been trying to go to this for training for several years, but simply hasn't had the time. It has been in the budget every year since Gibble came to work here, but not expended. This year he is suggesting he go to do some recruiting if the Board would like him to. Commissioner Schulz noted she is concerned that the \$2000 could go towards other things. Commissioner Graves noted that it could be a benefit for Director Gibble to reach out to possible executive director recruits. Director Gibble noted he can post the job description and offer times to meet along with handing out our brochures, etc. He also noted they run a great high-quality job mart there.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Training and Development. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. Commissioners Graves, Doty, Strack and Kroeger voted Aye. Commissioner Schulz voted Nay. Motion carried 4-1.

Lauren Underwood Visit to Sycamore Park District and Airport Road – Commissioner Schulz noted this is a timeline as part of the list of concerns of the neighbors to the soccer complex on Airport Road. One concern on the list was having their mailboxes moved and thanks to Lauren Underwood and her staff the mailboxes were moved. The residents have started to receive mail in the moved mailboxes except for one resident that refused to have his moved. Still working on the speed in this area. Commissioner Schulz noted she had received a call from Lauren Underwood's aid and Lauren would like to meet the neighbors to see how it is going. She went over the schedule and noted Dave Severson, Jeff Keicher, the Mayor, County Board Members for this area, our Board and staff. Vac will be providing a bus to take everyone down Airport Rd.

Public Input – None

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 7:15 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Schulz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doty

Voice Vote

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeanette Freeman
Recording Secretary
Sycamore Park District