

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JANUARY 17, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

Vice President Michael Reid
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Mary Oshana

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks and Planning Corrie Guynn
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Remote Attendance:

President Susan Aberman

Absent:

Commissioner Minal Desai

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

President Aberman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2022; bills payable for the month December 2022/January 2023, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

2023 BOND FINANCING TIMELINE

Treasurer Schmidt presented the 2023 Financing Timeline which calls for two bond issues. The first issue is for an estimated \$2,500,000 of alternative revenue source bonds, for capital improvements. The second issue is the annual refunding issue to pay the Series 2003 Capital Appreciation Bonds principal and interest of \$2.3 million.

Commissioner Jaffe asked what the district bond debt rating was and Treasurer Schmidt said it was Aa2.

No motion required, informational only.

APPROVAL FOR BUS SERVICE BID

Superintendent Guynn requested approval for the bus service bid. Three bids were received and First Student, Inc., was the lowest bidder. First Student, Inc. has provided bus service for the park district for the past five years. The contract is for one year with an option to renew for an additional five years. Executive Director Tuft said they have done a good job for the district and staff are comfortable using them again.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the bid of First Student, Inc. to provide bus services in 2023, with the option to renew the contract for an additional five years. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MULTI-VEHICLE PURCHASE BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the multi-vehicle purchase bid for two 2022 or newer Ford 250 Regular Cabs 4 x 4 with plow, and a 2022 or newer Ford 250 Crew Cab 4x4. Bidding the three vehicles as one package provides a cost savings for the district. Mr. Guynn anticipates receiving approximately \$10,000 per vehicle when the older vehicles are sold at auction.

Commissioner Jaffe said the cost of vehicles is at its peak right now and only one bid was received. President Aberman said that it is probably hard for dealers to get the vehicles, so other companies did not bid.

Mr. Guynn said when the stake bed truck was ordered two years ago it took 14 months to receive the vehicle and it could take up to 14 months to receive these vehicles as well. Mr. Guynn would like to get these approved and ordered.

Commissioner Oshana asked if Mr. Guynn considered electric vehicles and he said not for these type of vehicles. Electric vehicles may be considered for a park monitor vehicle in the future.

Ms. Tuft said the bid could be rejected and rebid, but if pushed back it could be two years down the road before the vehicles were received, and that is the concern.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve the bid of Bob Ridings, Inc. to provide three vehicles for \$181,989.00. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

CENTRAL PARK CONSTRUCTION BID

Mr. Guynn said five bids were received for the construction at Central Park. D&J Landscape was the low bidder at \$481,128.84. D&J Landscape did the renovations at the nine park installations over the last two summers. Mr. Guynn is very comfortable with using them. They are a non-union contractor but are required to pay prevailing wages on this project. Hitchcock Design Group estimated the cost of the project at \$453,504. However, Mr. Guynn said there should be some savings on several items and the cost should decrease in the form of a change order. Staff will install the exercise equipment which will save the district some money.

There were two alternative bids for this project: the removal and replacement of the asphalt pathway throughout the park and the installation of irrigation on the sports fields. Staff recommends rejecting both alternates. Staff will re-mill, pave and widen the path and the installation of the irrigation will be re-bid.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the tennis courts and Mr. Guynn said the courts will be bid separately. The tennis courts project will likely begin in August.

Commissioner Oshana asked about sustainability in regard to this project. Mr. Guynn said all of the sand is given to local water departments and the metal components are recycled. The footings are brought to Skokie Sports Park East and with help from the Village of Skokie, the metal is separated from the footings for recycling and the concrete is ground down and reused.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the bid of D&J Landscape for \$481,288.84 and reject Alternates 1 and 2 for the Central Park Construction Project. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Oshana abstained from voting. Commissioner Desai is absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CENTRAL PARK SPLASH EQUIPMENT

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Central Park splash pad equipment. The equipment will be ordered through the OMNIA cooperative purchase program. The equipment includes six spray items, valves, manifold, controller, drains, and the cabinet to house these items.

Commissioner Oshana moved to approve the purchase of Splash Pad Play Equipment at Central Park from Water Odyssey through ONMIA cooperative purchase program for \$72,188.28. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CENTRAL PARK SAFETY SURFACING BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Central Park safety surfacing bid. Two bids were received. The lowest bidder was Perfect Turf for a total of \$190,480.00. Mr. Guynn has used Perfect Turf on several other projects and has been satisfied with the quality of their work.

Vice President Reid asked about the type of surfacing and Mr. Guynn said the surfacing is rubber. Commissioner Jaffe asked about the life expectancy of the surfacing. Mr. Guynn said it should last ten to twelve years but may require patching in heavy wear locations.

Commissioner Jaffe moved to approve the Central Park Safety Surfacing bid from Perfect Turf for a total of \$190,480.00. Commissioner Oshana seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE SPORTS PARK MINIATURE GOLF CARPETING REPLACEMENT BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Skokie Sports Park miniature golf carpeting replacement bid. The turf on the mini golf course is very worn and was last replaced in 2008. Commissioner Jaffe said it does not look good.

Two bids were received with the low bid from Scharm Flooring for \$46,226.00. Pricing came in higher than the \$20,000 budgeted, which was an old, budgeted amount that was only for the eighteen-hole course. Sufficient funds are available in the capital budget due to the bond sale and other projects being on hold. The practice hole, nine-hole course and the eighteen-hole course will be replaced.

Commissioner Jaffe asked about the mini-golf hole structures. Ms. Tuft said staff has been painting them.

Commissioner Jaffe asked if, because of the turf renovation, the admission cost will increase. Mr. Guynn said that is being considered.

Commissioner Oshana asked how long the mini-golf course would be closed for construction. Mr. Guynn said each course would be done separately, with the eighteen-hole course closed for a maximum of a week and a half.

President Aberman and Vice President Reid are very excited about the renovation.

President Aberman moved to approve the Skokie Sports Park Miniature Golf Carpeting Replacement bid from Scharm Flooring for \$46,226.00. Commissioner Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Tuft stated that Park Board Commissioner business-related travel for the IAPD/IPRA conference must be approved.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Tuft said the board will discuss the date for the March budget meeting at the February board meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Aberman said she thought this month's staff board reports are more informative and staff is doing a great job since she asked for more comparative information. President Aberman asked Mr. Guynn about the leaks at Devonshire Center and Oakton Center. Mr. Guynn said staff is looking at coating the seams on the air handlers at Devonshire Center. Funds will be included in next year's budget to address the leaks at Oakton Center, and some large patches have been done.

Ms. Tuft will let Ms. Labus know that President Aberman complimented the staff board report as she made the changes as requested.

Commissioner Oshana asked about the new native specialist. Mr. Guynn explained his job duties. Commissioner Oshana asked if we market this information about the native specialist. Jim Bottorff said he has done articles in the SPD e-newsletter on the certified arborist and can do an article about the native specialist.

Commissioner Jaffe was told by a resident that lives by Devonshire Center that the plants by the facility signs are weeds and not native plants. Mr. Guynn will have staff look into it. The sign beds do not typically have native plants but should not be full of weeds.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft asked if the board planned on attending the Legislative Breakfast on February 10 at Oakton Center. All the commissioners replied that they will be attending.

Ms. Tuft reported that the contract with the Mitchell Museum is in final review. Ms. Tuft sent it to staff for one final look and then she will sign the agreement and get started on that work. Ms. Tuft will keep the board posted.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Oshana said Spring Greening was extremely successful last year. She was wondering what was happening this year. Ms. Tuft said the date is April 2, 2023. Lee Hansen takes the lead with Liz Zimmerman from the Village of Skokie. The event format does not change much year to year.

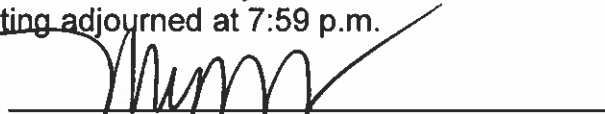
Commissioner Oshana asked about Earth Day. Ms. Tuft said it will be at Emily Oaks Nature Center on April 23, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m. Commissioner Oshana asked what the specifics of the event were. Ms. Tuft said they generally have native plant sales, a path walk, food vendor and kids games. President Aberman said it is very interactive for the children and a wonderful event.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice President Reid seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Desai was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary



Mike Reid
Vice President

February 21, 2023