

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners
and the Sycamore City Council, City Council Chambers
Monday, February 1, 2016**

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and City Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Steven Braser, Rick Kamer, Curt Lang, Pete Paulsen, Becky Springer, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp.

Also in attendance were City Manager Brian Gregory, Building & Engineering Director John Sauter, Fire Chief Pete Polarek, Police Chief Glenn Theriault, Engineer Mark Bushnell, and Treasurer Adam Orton.

President Strack called the Sycamore Park District meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The Special meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County, Illinois, held at the Sycamore City Council Chambers, located at 308 West State Street in Sycamore, Illinois is called to order at 6:02 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2016.

Will the secretary please call the roll.

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

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:

Staff members present were Program Supervisor Sarah Rex, Supt. of Golf Ops Kirk Lundbeck, Supt. of Parks Jeff Donahoe and Recording Secretary Jeanette Freeman and Council Derke Price.

The Invocation was done and then the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderson Kramer moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Braser seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion

Board Commissioner Schulz moved to approve the agenda and Board Commissioner Graves seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Board President Strack called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Members present voted aye. Motion carried. 5-0.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Update on the Sycamore Park District's Action 2020 Plan and Discussion of Current and Future Cooperative Opportunities.

Supt. of Golf Ops Kirk Lundbeck said he was standing in for Director Dan Gible. He noted he wanted to update Council on the Vision 2020 Plan now referred to as Action 2020 Plan. He provided a timeline and showed that there is community involvement through several committees. He said the committees they have formed are trails, community center, splash pad, dog park sled hill and soon will have the golf irrigation committee. He said they are working on new soccer fields and then the old soccer fields will be turned into baseball fields. He distributed illustration of the new community center complex that covered only half of the property and left space for expansion.

City Manager Gregory said their staff has had discussion with the Park District about annexing this property with an annexation agreement.

Park Board President Strack said this was a good time to talk about annexing and cooperation with the City. He said there are costs involved with improvements that they hope the City will be sensitive to so they can spend their money on amenities.

Aldersperson Braser said that was vague and wanted specifics about the improvements.

Board Commissioner Schulz noted they were hoping the City might consider allowing them to operate with gravel parking until they had the money for asphalt.

Aldersperson Lang asked if there would be any caution lights placed at Airport Road with increased traffic.

Park Board President Strack noted safety was an issue, but they were concerned that the City might require turn lanes on Airport Road and that would cause a hardship for the Park District to be able to do the amenities they want to do.

City Manager Gregory noted that City Engineer Bushnell reviewed the parking numbers and the times and uses do not require a turn lane at this time.

Park Board President Strack expressed gratitude for the City to work cooperatively to collect fees for the dog park, policing, and to share mowing and equipment.

Aldersperson Tripp expressed concern about shade in the dog park.

Park Board President Strack said the District have requests out for people to provide trees.

Park Commissioner Graves noted the District can use tarps for shade and are in contact with Boy Scouts to refurbish some of the wood from the house and barn structure that will come down.

Park Board President Strack noted the City has been working with the Park District regarding trails. He said they have identified a trail and come to an agreement with the School District to connect Old Mill Park to the Leon Larson Park. He asked the City to be cognizant about the trails during planning and zoning sessions.

City Manager Gregory said through DeKalb-Sycamore transportation study they have received 80% funding for the trail connection from Route 64 to the Park on Airport Road

President Strack noted there are three parks currently in new developments that have not been turned over to the Park District. They are not yet Park worthy. He noted the Park District will accept the park sites once they are in the form in the annexation agreements and until then, we have no authority to force the developer to do anything. He said we are concerned that the annexation agreement will expire, so those need to be renewed.

Aldersperson Tripp said she did not realize they were not up to expectation.

Park Board President Strack said that in order for the District to improve a park, the development needs to be about 2/3 completed. He said the annexation agreements and impact fees only account for dirt and in the future he would like the Plan Commission to ask for extra money to fund improvements.

Aldersperson Stowe said he thought they should decide on consistent fees from the developer and not go through that discussion at each development

Park Board President Strack said we are reviewing the tax abatement issue and anticipate approving it at the February Board meeting.

Aldersperson Lang asked about the police patrolling the Park.

Chief Theriault said he and Director Dan Gible have discussed how they will align the Park's and City's ordinances and the cooperation between the two taxing bodies.

Park Commissioner Schulz said we need police enforcement for leash laws and excrement pickup.

Program Supervisor Sarah Rex said we are working on a pro-active marketing campaign for dog care and park user.

Park Board President Strack mentioned the pile of black dirt on a developer's property that will become park land. He encouraged City Council to discuss the enforcement of that issue.

City Manager Gregory said he would like to see fescue planted on all dirt piles.

Aldersperson Braser asked how much the Park District had given up to abatements.

Park Board President Strack said he could not quantify it and personally he felt they were giving something to large companies who did not need it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm and Aldersperson Lang seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Special Meeting Joint Meeting at 6:45 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Tucker. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schulz.

Voice Vote

President Strack 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