

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Sycamore Park District  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County, Illinois, being held at our Clubhouse, located at 940 E. State St., Sycamore, Illinois is called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Vice President Schulz read off the Zoom information from the agenda.

Will the recording secretary please call the roll.

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty made a motion to permit Commissioner Kroeger to participate remotely. Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

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

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present but will be participating in the meeting via video and/or audio conferencing: **Commissioner Kroeger.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present and will not be participating in the meeting: **None.**

Staff members present were Director Jonelle Bailey, Jeff Donahoe, Jeanette Freeman, Jackie Hienbuecher, Kirk Lundbeck, and Theresa Tevsh. Sarah Rex was present via Zoom.

**Guests** Via Zoom:

Steve Braser

Denise Ackman

**Guests:**

Ken Nelson

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –**

**Motion**

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

**Voice Vote**

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

**Approval of Minutes –**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the January 26, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Claims and Accounts Approval**

**Motion**

Commissioner Graves moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$124,854.80.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Correspondence –**

- IPRA Photo Contest – Nicholas McCarney  
Commissioner Schulz gave kudos to Nicholas for winning the contest.

**Public Input –**

Commissioner Kroeger asked if Dan Gible received his award at State Conference. Director Bailey noted that yes he did, and Sarah will send the video out to the board.

Commissioner Schulz noted she is pleased to see all commissioners are here in person except Bill. She feels we should keep meeting in person.

**Positive Feedback –**

**Planning Commission Report –** Commissioner Strack noted they had additional discussion about Spider Tattoo going into their new location.

### **Old Business**

**Legacy 2025 Update:** Director Bailey noted that we updated our sustaining legacy we are working from. We added some diversity equity inclusion opportunities to our legacy component. We are currently working on KPI's and ROI's for our programming and we are dealing with TSnap to see what people are looking for.

We are currently updating our Vision and Mission, so we are better prepared for the next 5 years. For trails, the bridge should be going in this March. We are working on acquisition of land for the second half of the trail. For the sports complex looking to bid in April for the new fields.

Commissioner Strack noted that Sycamore Youth Baseball previously had applied to Major League Baseball for grants. We need to make them aware of the timing so they have time to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Strack asked if there is a timeframe to hear back from Shodeen. Director Bailey noted the last email from them to us and the city was about 3 weeks ago. Commissioner Strack noted that the City and the Park District needs to work together on an agreement on timeframes. Director Bailey noted we have been getting timely responses. Commissioner Kroege asked who took Brian Gregory position and that person should be in the loop. Director Bailey noted that Interim Maggie Peck is in the loop and up to date on this.

**MMNH Update:** Director Bailey noted that we are waiting on the survey and the title. Derke is working on the title and we have requested the survey. The appraisal will be completed after the company completes the appraisal for the property for the second half of the trail.

**Sexual Harassment Policy Res. 02-2021:** Director Bailey noted the board had previously approved this, but legal changed some language. So, we just need the board to approve again.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Sexual Harassment Policy Resolution 02-2021.

Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

#### **Roll Call**

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

**Memorial Park IDNR Playground Review:** Director Bailey noted the layout of the playground we are putting in by the baseball fields is in their packet. This is just an update for the board.

**Ken Nelson Proposal:** Director Bailey noted Ken Nelson submitted a request for consideration of the Park District taking over a section of the property of his new development. It would be a wetland detention area with a path. This is near North School. In the board packet, Nicholas had submitted figures on the cost of this and the additional education of the bioswale we would be creating. She wanted to get the boards thoughts on this. Commissioner Schulz wondered how far this was from the Steczo Park. She also wondered how hard it would be to maintain this area and already has heard bad things about trying to maintain our current outdoor area like that. Supt. Donahoe asked if this area floods. Ken Nelson noted that this area is prone to flooding. He is trying to change things and the path would be high enough. Supt. Donahoe asked if the work would get rid of the water, since we do not need another stagnant pond area. Ken Nelson noted there is a drain, and it should drain better but it would take time to drain. Commissioner Strack noted at times there is standing water there but not at all times. Ken Nelson noted this is just a concept drawing at this point and things can be changed. There was more discussion on this. President Kroeger noted we need to see additional plans and how the runoff would happen. When houses are put in, there is a lot of roof. He would like to see the calculations on how much water would sit on this property.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Kroeger moved to table until we have further information. Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

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

#### **New Business**

**Review of Executive Summary:** Jeanette Freeman noted this is the first draft of the Executive Summary and asked for any changes to be sent to her. The final will be brought to the March meeting for final approval and then the binders will be brought to the April meeting.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Discussion and Planning:** Director Bailey noted in the packet there is the list that was sent to all staff. She asked them to rank their top 10 or 13. She went over the top six and had more discussion on the ideas. She then asked the board to send Sarah their rankings.

**Mission/Vision redefined:** Sarah Rex noted from the first survey that went out, they received some great words. They took these words and sent out to all staff today. This will further narrow down how we are defining the park district. Next week, she will meet with Director Bailey, Supt. Tevsh and Commissioner Doty to go over the results and refine from there.

**Rental Policy Changes:** Supt. Tevsh noted that through COVID we have been getting calls from people needing space and unique requests. They did a review and with Directly Bailey's experience in all the facilities she has rented out we felt we needed some changes. We added the Riverview Room, and we evaluated all the spaces we have and what people ask for when renting from us. They also defined our groups and category they fall into for the fees. They just wanted to make the board aware of these updates.

**Rental Policy Changes – cont'd**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the rental policy changes as presented.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**North Grove Master Plan:** Director Bailey noted we are working with ERA and Upland Design to create the playgrounds and development. With the cost and the community survey that would go along with it, at this time staff is recommending that we hold off until next year. We have other projects this year that have a greater priority.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the recommendation as presented to hold off for now. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Reston Ponds Master Plan:** Director Bailey noted we also worked with ERA and Upland Design to get a master plan for what we could do with the 12 acres that is currently under contention with the developer. Part of the agreement with Shodeen is that if they would grade it and seed it to our specifications, we would then start working on the master plan aspect of it. We are upholding our end of it and we need to have a master plan regardless of how we move forward. She is recommending we move forward with the master plan this year, so we have something ready. Commissioner Schulz noted we need a timeline on this with Shodeen to show us they are really going to do something. Director Bailey noted the Park District and the City have signed off on the grading plan. We are waiting for Shodeen to approve and then we can move forward. President Kroeger noted there has been progress with Shodeen and they seem to be committed to this. President Kroeger noted we should have full disclosure to the residents, but Commissioner Schulz recommended not meeting with residents unless Shodeen is in the meeting.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the staff recommendation to start the process as presented. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

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**Heeter Lease:** Director Bailey noted this is an update for the lease we have with Heeter. She is recommending approval.

**Motion**

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Heeter Lease as presented. Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Study Session for:** No meeting was planned.

**Public Input:**

Director Bailey noted she wanted to update the Board on this. We did get a proposal for the Founders Park playground renovation. The budget for this is \$100,000. Upland Design will be sending a rendering and it will be on the agenda at the next meeting. Supt. Donahoe noted this has been on the list to update and it's in the capital budget.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 7:08 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doty.

**Voice Vote**

Vice President Schulz 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