

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Sycamore Park District
Tuesday, November 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

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 Ackmann, Doty, Graves, and Strack.**
Commissioner Kroeger was absent.

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 Kroeger.**

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

Guests at the Board meeting were:

Kelsey Lynch – Grad Assistant

Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –
Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda with Supt. of Recreation, Supt. of Parks and the Budget reports being pulled for discussion. Also move Agenda Item #68 Award Bid for 2021 General Obligation Bond to before Correspondence Agenda Item #64. Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote

Vice President Doty called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Kroeger was absent.

Approval of Minutes –
Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the October 26, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote

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

Claims and Accounts Approval
Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$1,057,098.48. Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

The Items Commissioner Strack pulled from the consent agenda:

Budget:

Commissioner Strack noted the Park is doing fantastic. He noted he did a comparison with 2019, 2020 and 2021 operationally. He would like the board to look at doing something different with the tax levy. Director Bailey noted she will discuss more later in the meeting.

Supt. of Recreation Report:

Commissioner Strack asked Supt. Tevsh to elaborate on her comment in her board report regarding the high school basketball program. Supt. Tevsh noted she made communications happen with them. The high school program happens in January, and she wanted to make sure there was no conflict with our basketball program. There was possibly a conflict with the high school December 4th tryout day. The high school program worked it out for the kids that are in our program.

Supt. of Parks Report:

Commissioner Strack asked Supt. Donahoe about working with the Library that was in his report. Supt. Donahoe noted that for the new trail section the Library approached us to do a Trail Story. The Library will be in charge of it and it is in the area that the Forest Preserve is going to manage. People can read a story on the signs along the trail. Our staff and Forest Preserve staff put the posts in the ground and put the boards on the posts. The Library will take care of putting in the different stories. Supt. Tevsh noted the Library will have 6 themes a year and the Park will have 6 themes a year. Director Bailey noted the City wants to put a Kiosk at the end of the trail that would show the hot spots in town. It will have City and Park information here also, so we will work with the City on this. Supt. Donahoe noted the Schramers donated 2 benches on the trail. It seems everyone likes the trail.

New Business:

Award Bid for 2021 General Obligation Bond: Supt. Hienbuecher introduced Mark from Speer Financial to go over the bid results. Mark noted they took bids for the bond and there were four bids. The winner was Resource Bank at .39%. The bonds are scheduled to close on December 7th, which is when the district will receive these funds. He recommends that the Park District accept the bid. Supt. Hienbuecher noted the other bids were at .51%, .57% and .595%.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to accept the bid from Resource Bank. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

Correspondence –

- **IAPD Award** – Director Bailey noted that we received the Best of the Best Award for our work in the intergovernmental agreement with Dekalb County Forest Preserve for the Great Western Trail.
- **Pumpkin Scramble** – Commissioner Strack noted the Golf Course has done spectacular. Director Bailey noted that Kirk and staff did a really great job with decorating and keeping the course together and everything for the event.

Public Input –

Supt. Tevsh introduced Kelsey Lynch our Grad student. She started as a summer intern completing under grad from NIU. Kelsey noted during her under grad she worked on our special events. This included the Holiday House Contest and the organization tree decorating. She initiated the youth basketball league and started it during her undergrad work and continued it during her Grad work last year. This is the second year for the program and we have double the players and coaches including girls this year. She noted she is interested in Parks and Recreation, but in the athletics area.

Commissioner Strack noted he has been investigating the rules of the City regarding trees in the parkway. The City requires a permit and he would like to get a petition to have the City modify their ordinance to no longer require a permit.

Positive Feedback –

- Commissioner Graves noted that all staff is doing a great job in everything. He is hearing more compliments from the community.
- Commissioner Ackmann noted she has heard positive feedback on the Pumpkin Run and the Fireworks.

Planning Commission Report: Commissioner Strack noted there was no November meeting so nothing to report.

Old Business

Construction Updates:

- **Founders Park:** Director Bailey noted that Founders is all ready for the playground equipment, just waiting for it to arrive. It probably will not be installed until Spring. At that time, it will cost more money due to the fencing, etc. during the winter. Georges Landscape will be submitting an estimate cost and she will bring to the board.
- **Memorial Park:** Supt. Donahoe noted now that soccer is done, the construction company has a really good start. The playground is installed, and they will keep working until they can't. They have done all the concrete work they could get done.
- **Riverside Soccer Complex:** Supt. Donahoe noted the soccer complex should be ready for spring. He noted there are a few spots, but most of it should be fine. Director Bailey noted that we are accepting the property from the sub, and we will take care of the rest.

Supt. Donahoe noted they are taking the old tiles out of Old Mill Park and will be putting in certified playground mulch.

Pool Updates: Supt. Donahoe noted he has made progress on the pool heater. The heater we have doesn't exist anymore, so with a more modern model comes new rules. The State of Illinois IDPH requires that we have a State of Illinois pre-approved engineer and contractor to put in the new heater. We are using WT for the engineering, and they will submit a permit to the State. We should be ready by mid-May if all goes well.

Director Bailey noted the pool survey was sent out and she will have the results at the next meeting along with the Pool Focus Group recommendation.

New Business

Ordinance #05-2021: An Ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$555,265 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021, of the Sycamore Park District, DeKalb County, Illinois, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, for the maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding bonds of said Park District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Ordinance #05-2021. Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

Resolution #06-2021 - A resolution determining the amounts of money exclusive of the election costs estimated to be necessary to be raised by taxation pursuant to the proposed levy of the Sycamore Park District: Supt. Hienbuecher noted we are required to determine an estimated amount to be levied not less than 20 days prior to the adoption of said ordinance. So, we do this resolution at the November board meeting for the estimate and then we have to pass the tax levy at our December board meeting. She went over the figures that she is recommending for the levy and the reasons why. She noted that we are hearing that all of our costs are going up. Supt. Donahoe noted that on all of the products/services he buys he is receiving notice there will be big increases in the pricing, possibly double digits percentages. Director Bailey noted that our engineers have indicated at least a 13% to 20% increase just on what they are doing. The bridge has already gone up over \$100,000 between last year and this year. Commissioner Strack did note that he has talked to people, and they told him steel cost has doubled in price which would explain why the bridge cost would go up that much. Commissioner Strack asked Supt. Hienbuecher to try to put dollar amounts on the different things she is talking about going up.

Resolution #06-2021 - A resolution determining the amounts of money exclusive of the election costs estimated to be necessary to be raised by taxation pursuant to the proposed levy of the Sycamore Park District – cont'd:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Resolution #06-2021. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

Membership Fees/Rates: Supt. Tevsh noted due to minimum wage increases, in 2020 we increased our daily fees at the splashpad, pool and community center. Then in 2021 we increased our memberships and passes. We will have a dollar increase again for minimum wage increase. She is recommending not do an increase on memberships this year. She is hearing that other facilities are holding where they are at this year as well.

Motion

Commissioner Graves moved to approve keeping the Membership Fees/Rates at the current rates as presented. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

Vice President Doty called for a roll call to approve the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Strack abstained. Commissioner Kroeger was absent

Aquatics Fees/Rates: Supt. Tevsh noted she is recommending a 10% increase, but we will still show a loss.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Aquatics Fees/Rates as recommended. Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

Golf Fees/Rates: Supt. Lundbeck is recommending maintaining current rates for one more year.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve keeping the Golf Fees/Rates at the current rates as recommended. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

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Recommendation for Audit: Supt. Hienbuecher noted her staff recommendation is asking the Board to consider Lauterbach for one more year. She will then do an RFP after this year. Lauterbach will continue with the fees the same as last year.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Lauterbach as our auditor as recommended.
Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

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

RFP Recommendation for Bank Services: Supt. Hienbuecher noted she will show an RFP for the December meeting. Then can get the RFP out and bring the selection to the Board at the January meeting.

Joint Review Board update: Director Bailey noted she informed the Board on the TIF plan from the City.

Affiliate's: Supt. Tevsh noted she is recommending new fees for 2022. It will be a 5% increase for affiliates, with a 10% increase for outside user groups-non affiliate.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the new fees as recommended. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Roll Call

Vice President Doty called for a roll call to approve the motion. Three commissioners voted Aye and one commissioner voted Nay. Motion carried 3-1. Commissioner Kroeger was absent.

Holiday Party Update: Director Bailey noted this will be on January 7th at Fatty's.

Special Announcements – December Study Session: None was scheduled.

Public Input – None

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 8:02 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves.

Voice Vote

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

Respectfully Submitted

Jeanette Freeman
Recording Secretary
Sycamore Park District