

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Sycamore Park District
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

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 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

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, Strack and Kroeger. Commissioner Graves arrived at 6:20 pm.**

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 absent at this time. He arrived at 6:20 pm.**

Staff members present were Director Bailey, Jeff Donahoe, Jeanette Freeman, Jackie Hienbuecher, Kirk Lundbeck, and Lisa Metcalf.

Guests at the Board meeting were:

- None

Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approval of Minutes –

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the September 26, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Commissioner Ackmann 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.

Claims and Accounts Approval

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$100,234.26.
Commissioner Ackmann 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.

Correspondence –

- IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala
- Thank You from Nicholas's Parents

Public Input – Director Bailey noted about the Best of the Best Gala, 100 anniversary declaration, and the Medal Gold Award. Each board member has a packet from the actual award ceremony.

Positive Feedback –

- President Kroeger noted the golf course is doing awesome.
- Jeanette Freeman noted that concessions did an awesome job for the last Saturday of softball by having 60 hotdogs ready and kept warm for the in between games lunch for the 3rd/4th grade level. Between Melissa, Missy and the staff working that day (Joey and Kaeden) they did a great job.

Plan Commission: Commissioner Strack noted there were three items discussed.

1. Townhomes behind Meijers requested a variance to give a 25 feet setback instead of 30 ft.
2. Chris Mayer, who is the owner of the Ideal Industrial Park is looking to put in a dinner/banquet reception facility. There is an ordinance that you can't serve liquor within 100 feet of a church. This was just a workshop on this so no decisions were made.
3. Behind Hobnobbers there is some vacant ground that has been designated commercial space since developed. Steve Glasgow and a group of investors have owned this land for 18 years without any activity. They made a proposal to put apartments on three lots. The challenge is the developer wants a density above the high density the city has. If they build what they want, it would be around 96 apartments.

Commissioner Strack noted he is looking for direction from the board. The board noted they would be in support of the dinner club with the change in the setback. The board noted they would not support the high density for the apartment project.

Commissioner Strack brought up the new fire station. He has spoken with the city council as a private citizen. He feels it is more of a want and not a need. Director Bailey noted there will be a conversation meeting on November 8th at the fire department.

Old Business:

Construction Updates:

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted this will be discussed in executive session.
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- **Reston Ponds:** Supt. Donahoe noted they are working on the parking lot, some of the trail and base for the pickleball courts and other things.

- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted we now have the quit claim deed and has been filed with the county. We officially own the property.
- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted the initial engineering meeting took place and we will have the construction meeting soon.
- **District Softball field:** Director Bailey noted the bid opening is on November 9th. The school will have the final decision and they will be making the payments. Construction should start early summer with the field in place fall of 2025.
- **Community Garden Area:** Director Bailey noted she will be setting up a meeting with Cornerstone principal and the mayor.

Conduct Ordinance Change: Director Bailey noted we have had parasailers at the soccer complex. We are requesting they have a permit, so we changed our conduct ordinance for this.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the conduct ordinance change as presented.
Commissioner Strack seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote

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

Open Positions:

Superintendent of Golf Updates: Director Bailey noted we have an interview next week and will go from there.

Naturalist: Director Bailey noted this job description has been updated and sent out to staff to review. We will post in early December through the end of January.

New Business

First Draft of the budget: Supt. Hienbuecher noted this is the first draft of the capital budget.

IAPD Business meeting delegate: Director Bailey noted she will attend the meeting, but we need a backup. Our delegate will be Jonelle Bailey with President Kroeger as 1st alternate and Commissioner Graves as 2nd alternate.

Health Insurance Recommendation: Supt. Hienbuecher noted the information is in her staff recommendation.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the health insurance as presented. 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 5-0.

2024 Training Budget: Director Bailey note this includes training for staff and board members.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the training budget as presented. Commissioner Ackmann 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.

2024 Rates/Fees –

Facility:

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the facility rates as presented. Commissioner Ackmann 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.

Golf:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the golf rates 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.

Mobile Stage for Good Tymes area: Director Bailey noted she will have more information on other options at next month's meeting. She gave some information on a mobile stage and showed a video on it. There was some discussion.

Community Survey Proposal: Director Bailey noted that in our strategic plan we have a community survey planned for 2024/2025 so we can better prepare for what the community is looking for. We are looking at using the NIU Center for Governmental Studies for this. We can structure the questions so we can specifically ask what we need to focus on. Commissioner Strack asked if we could have a group of citizens look at the survey before it goes out to the community.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the community survey 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.

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Unclaimed Property: Supt. Hienbuecher noted this is just to let the board be aware that this is happening. We must issue a check to the state in the amount of uncashed checks, and they hold it until someone claims it.

100th Anniversary Celebration: Director Bailey noted that after our next board meeting, we will have a small celebration. She told the board we will be bringing items we want to put in our time capsules so if they have anything to bring that night.

Special Announcements – None

November Study Session: None was scheduled.

Public Input – None

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Graves for the reasons listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doty.

Roll Call

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

5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

The Board convened to Executive Session at 7:33 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger present along with Director Bailey, Recording Secretary Freeman, and Supt. Hienbuecher.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. 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.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 7:54 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger present.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 7:54 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Doty. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves.

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