

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Sycamore Park District
Tuesday, December 19, 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 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 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 Graves was absent.**

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

Guests at the Board meeting were:

- John McGovern

Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –

Motion

Commissioner Strack 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 November 28, 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.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the November 28, 2023, Executive Session Meeting Minutes to remain confidential. Commissioner Doty 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 \$1,306,745.91.
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 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Correspondence –

- **Connie Dortch – Memorial** – It was decided to plant a tree onsite with the location to be determined later.

Public Input –

Presentation from Academy Member John McGovern. John noted he is a past president for the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Agencies. There are 10,000 parks and rec agencies in the United States. Only 300 have been a finalist for the Gold Medal award and only 78 have won the Gold Medal award. He noted our park district is elite being a finalist and this is due to the hard work of staff and the vision of the board. He congratulated Sycamore Park District on behalf of the Academy.

Positive Feedback – President Kroger noted Paul is now on board with us and this is Kirk's last meeting. He thanked Kirk for all his service.

Plan Commission: Commissioner Strack noted there was no meeting. He did hear at the city council meeting they passed a levy that will hold dollar assessment constant and return the \$120,000 mistake made.

He also noted the county held the tax levy constant, but the school district did not.

Old Business:

Construction Updates:

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted this will be discussed in executive session.
- **Reston Ponds:** Director Bailey noted no further movement due to the weather. She is hearing a lot of positive feedback from people seeing things going in.
- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted we are still waiting to hear on the OSLAD grant.
- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted we are waiting on the construction date. We are finalizing the paperwork and then they will set the construction meeting.
- **Community Garden Area:** Director Bailey noted this is still on hold, but we will be adding it to monthly executive session conversations.

Construction Updates- cont'd:

- **District Softball field:** Director Bailey noted Commissioner Graves talked to Chauncey and he thought it was done because they only got one bid. Director Bailey is waiting to hear back from Mark and Nicole on an updated bid package and date. She and Supt. Donahoe told them to change the date on when they want the construction to start, and they might get more bids. Their original bid was for spring and all the construction companies are booked.

Open Positions:

Naturalist – Director Bailey noted the position will be posted in January and hoping to have someone hired by the end of February.

Budget Draft: Supt. Hienbuecher noted there were some changes made. She will be bringing back the final operating budget in January.

New Business

Introduction of New Supt. of Golf Services: Director Bailey introduced Paul Price as the new Supt. of Golf Services and welcomed him. She then gave everyone his background and told him we are very excited to have him here. Paul noted everyone has been very welcoming and looking forward to this year.

KSRA Report – ARISE: Director Bailey noted she is asking Dawn with KSRA to give a quarterly highlight, so we have a better idea of our partnership with them.

Travel Approval – Conference:

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve 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 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Consider staff compensation and Adjustment recommendation: Director Bailey noted this will be discussed in executive session.

Park Playground Assessments: Supt. Donahoe noted he wanted to do an update on what is going on at our playgrounds. What we have done to them and what the future plans are.

2024 Meeting Dates:

Motion

Commissioner Ackmann moved to approve the 2024 Meeting Dates as presented.
Commissioner Doty 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.

2024 Holiday Dates:

Motion

Commissioner Ackmann moved to approve the 2024 Holiday Dates 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 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Ordinance #06-2023: TAX LEVY ORDINANCE, Levying and Assessing Taxes for the SYCAMORE PARK DISTRICT, DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS for the Year 2023.

Supt. Hienbuecher noted we are not asking our current taxpayers for additional dollars. What happens to their EAV and how that affects their rate is beyond our control. We are capturing the new growth.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Doty 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.

Director Bailey noted she wanted to touch base on the marketing highlights from Sarah. The report shows our reach and how people visit and engage with us. It is a true testament to how much we are engaged with the community.

Phone Stipend:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Doty 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.

Uniform Allowance:

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve 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 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Special Announcements – None

January Study Session: None was scheduled.

Public Input – None

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 6:55 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Strack for the reasons listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackmann.

Roll Call

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.

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
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 7:01 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Strack and Kroeger present along with Recording Secretary Freeman. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackmann.

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.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 7:35 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Strack and Kroeger present.

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Directors and staff Compensation: This was discussed in executive session.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve as presented and discussed. Commissioner Doty 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.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 7:36 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Ackmann. 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 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Freeman
Recording Secretary
Sycamore Park District