

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Sycamore Park District
Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

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 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

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

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

Guests at the Board meeting were:

- Klint Mathey, Sycamore

Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –

Motion

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Doty 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 Ackmann was absent.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the December 19, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. 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 Ackmann was absent.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the December 19, 2023, Executive Session Meeting Minutes to remain confidential. Commissioner Graves 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 Ackmann was absent.

Claims and Accounts Approval

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$141,191.05.
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 Ackmann was absent.

Correspondence – None

Public Input –

Positive Feedback –

- Commissioner Graves thanked staff for putting on a nice gathering and thanked Kirk Lundbeck for his years of service.
- Director Bailey also thanked staff for their hard work on the Fire & Ice Event.
- Commissioner Graves noted for the many years he has been on the board, this is the best annual report.
- President Kroeger gave hats off to being voted the Best Municipality to work at in DeKalb County.

Plan Commission: Commissioner Strack noted there were two things addressed. The first was the parcel of land behind Farm & Fleet. The owner has owned this property for over 20 years. The Plan commission approved a single-story townhome development. This would fall under the high-density bucket but within the UDO. After the Pappas conversations, it was very hard to say no to this one. The other item was information about a single lot being split up into two units.

Old Business:

Construction Updates:

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted that some of this will be discussed in executive session. The trail has been adjusted by the engineers and has been sent to IDOT for approval. We are in the same position we were with FS Grain. According to Roger it has been approved and we are just waiting on paperwork.
- **Reston Ponds:** Director Bailey noted the construction has started. We are waiting on the construction schedule.
- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted we had the construction meeting today via zoom. They will be sending us a project schedule and looking to start in March. There is a delay on some parts which won't be here until July. They will do everything around these parts. We are hoping to go live in July. President Kroeger noted it would be good to let Swedberg Electric know what is going on with this. Supt. Donahoe noted when it is close to switching over, he will let them know.

Construction Updates- cont'd:

- **District Softball field:** Director Bailey noted no updates on the softball field. It is in the hands of the school at this point. We recommended, as well as ERA, to rebid it, but have the construction start later in the year in the fall.
- **Pool Building:** Director Bailey noted as we are looking toward our new strategic plan in 2025, she is looking at gathering quotes for tearing down the pool building and taking out the pool. We literally can't do anything with it. We are trying to get the overall cost to tear it down, fill it in legally. Supt. Donahoe noted they have gotten some names from other places that had pools removed and filled in before. Klint Mathey asked if a greenhouse could be put over the pool. We are putting out a community survey asking what people would like to see on that area. President Kroeger noted the reason the pool was shut down was the age of all the equipment with a lot of it being over 40 years old. The staff had put band aids on as long as they could. It got to the point it would be over \$100,000 to start putting money into it. Director Bailey noted we started putting information out on the pool starting in 2020. We sent out a summer mailer to homes talking about the pool. We put information on our website and in our brochure. President Kroeger noted that after the pool closed, we didn't have much feedback from the community.

Open Positions:

Naturalist – Director Bailey noted the position closes February 8th. We have five applicants at this point. We are hoping to have someone hired by the end of February.

New Business

March Meeting Date Change: Director Bailey noted the March 26th meeting is being changed to March 19th. There were going to be at least two board members gone on the 26th and we need to definitely have 3 board members present.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the March meeting date 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 4-0. Commissioner Ackmann was absent.

Approve FY 2024 Operating Budget:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the FY 2024 Operating Budget 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 Ackmann was absent.

Approve FY 2024 Capital Budget:

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the FY 2024 Capital Budget 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 Ackmann was absent.

Ordinance #01-2024: ANNUAL ABATEMENT ORDINANCE: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017A, of the Sycamore Park District, DeKalb County, Illinois:

Supt. Hienbuecher noted this is the official way we have to submit to the County that we are not collecting taxes to pay these bonds.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Tax Abatement Alternative Revenue Bonds 2017A Ordinance 01-2024 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 Ackmann was absent.

Ordinance #02-2024: ANNUAL ABATEMENT ORDINANCE: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (alternate Revenue Source), Series 2015A, of the Sycamore Park District, DeKalb County, Illinois:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Tax Abatement Alternative Revenue Bonds 2015A Ordinance 02-2024 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 Ackmann was absent.

Ordinance #03-2024: ANNUAL ABATEMENT ORDINANCE: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (alternate Revenue Source), Series 2019A, of the Sycamore Park District, DeKalb County, Illinois:

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Tax Abatement Alternative Revenue Bonds 2019A Ordinance 03-2024 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 Ackmann was absent.

Ball Field Light Replacement: Supt. Donahoe noted Com Ed is doing their program again. Luckily, the company we used for other lights got our numbers and analyzed all our fields. We use enough to make Com Ed say it is worthwhile for them. We have a signed contract for it, and we are already in the system. Commissioner Graves and Kroeger asked to have this added to the annual report.

Motion

Commissioner Strack moved to approve 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 4-0. Commissioner Ackmann was absent.

Community Survey: Director Bailey noted she sent out a copy of the draft survey. She would like the board to review all of the questions on the survey. The main question she wanted to talk about is the one we are asking about the pool. She read off the draft different versions of the question. The cost would be approximately \$16,000,000 (based on 2022 numbers) which includes property acquisition, engineering, and construction. Commissioner Doty noted the alternative question with the dollars listed is clearer. President Kroeger noted the costs in two years have gone up a lot. Director Bailey noted that if we want to go the direction of a referendum for 2025, we have to make a decision soon. President Kroeger noted we need to just put the question out there and see what the community says. This would be a few years down the road. Commissioner Doty noted the survey would drive our direction. Commissioner Strack asked again if we want to approach doing a joint pool. Director Bailey noted DeKalb community does not want it and DeKalb Park District is doing their own renovation of their pool. She also noted that we approached Cortland on a joint pool and at the time they did not want a pool. That may have changed. President Kroeger noted \$16,000,000 is a lot for 2 months of use. Director Bailey noted there are a lot of good things about having a pool, but it is the multi million cost. Commissioner Graves noted that Neidra Erickson put on Facebook a petition to get the park district to build a pool.

Motion

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the use of the second question on the pool. Commissioner Graves 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 Ackmann was absent.

Annual Report: The board noted it is very well done.

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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 6:52 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 4-0. Commissioner Ackmann 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 7:02 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger present along with Director Jonelle Bailey and Recording Secretary Freeman. Commissioner Ackmann was absent.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Graves. 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 Ackmann was absent.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 7:21 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger present.

Motion

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 7:21 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. 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 4-0. Commissioner Ackmann was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Freeman
Recording Secretary
Sycamore Park District