

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Sycamore Park District  
Tuesday, February 27, 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 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 Ackmann, Doty, Graves, and Kroeger. Commissioner Strack arrived at 6:01 p.m.**

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:

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

**Guests at the Board meeting were:**

- Mike & Laura Kvasnicka
- Shawn Ajazi – Progressive Business Solutions
- Steve Braser – Mayor of Sycamore
- Jonathan Buettner, Sycamore
- Camden Lazenby, Shaw Media

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –**  
**Motion**

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda with the amendment of moving Agenda Item #67 Solar Panels to before Public Comment. 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 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes –**  
**Motion**

Commissioner Ackmann moved to approve the January 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. 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.

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the January 23, 2024, 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 5-0.

**Claims and Accounts Approval**

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$205,672.50.  
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.

**Correspondence –**

- Sycamore Fire Department Thank You
- Sycamore High School Thank You

**Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted we have an addendum to the solar panel agreement. Shawn with Progressive Business Solutions gave an update on what the change is. He noted in the final design they needed to change the type of panels being used so it decreased the overall size of the system. We are still on target for completion in September of 2024. They should be starting in approximately May or June. Commissioner Graves asked how long the shutdown will be and Shawn noted approximately 4-8 hours. Commissioner Strack asked about the financial benefits be diminished with the panels being smaller. Shawn noted it would be slightly diminished and he will send the information. Mike Kvasnicka asked what the initial outlay is versus how long it takes to recoup the amount paying out. Commissioner Strack noted there is no initial outlay. They get a return on their investment from Com Ed, and we get a reduction in our costs.

**Public Input –**

**Pool**

Laura Kvasnicka noted she is here to talk about the pool. She was part of the community pool focus group in 2021. There has been a lot of talk on Facebook about the improvements made to Reston Ponds. People commented on the post and then asked about our pool. Someone had started a petition with 281 supporters. She thought she would make a final effort to let the Park know there are people that do want to see a pool. She has heard all the reasons not to keep the current pool and about the expense of it. President Kroeger noted the board appreciates her coming and being the spokesperson for the committee. He noted we have a survey going out and will have questions in the survey about the pool. If the citizens of Sycamore feel they want a pool, we have done some preliminary pricing, and it is about \$16,000,000. We cannot build a pool in the same location because of it being in a flood plain. For the pool, property and engineering it would be approximately \$16,000,000. This is approximate, since we do not have a design and pricing for that design. For two and a half months from opening to shutdown for the season, it is a big expense for a short time. President Kroeger also noted the board kept the pool open as long as we could. The board decided if it got to a certain amount to pay for repairs and equipment, they would not go over a \$50,000 threshold.

**Public Input- Pool continued:**

President Kroeger noted that if it turns out that the majority of the citizens want to do a pool, we will stand behind that. Director Bailey noted that NIU will do the survey and they are doing random pockets. Then we will list the survey on our website for anyone else who wants to take the survey. NIU will be doing emails, mail and calls for the survey.

Mike Kvasnicka noted he was also on the pool committee. He noted he has a lot of contacts in the pool industry and gave all his contact information while on the committee. He offered to try and get better pricing on things for repairs, and no one reached out to him. He noted they were told in the meetings we can't rebuild there and no repairs because of being in a flood plain. He questions this, because he is also FEMA flood adjuster and it doesn't cover pools anywhere. Director Bailey noted we couldn't make changes over 50% of the property without having to raise everything 6 feet to meet the current IDNR restrictions. This is what the engineers told us.

Laura Kvasnicka asked if we get to the point the survey goes well, maybe think about something like Batavia Beach which is in a flood plain.

Commissioner Graves asked if Laura had a group to report back to and people that might be willing to be on a committee. Mike noted that Laura reached out to people that were on the committee last time. Most said they felt they were blown off last time. Laura noted she will be on WLBK tomorrow, so this may drum up more interest as well.

Commissioner Strack shared some financial information. This is based on if the pool would be about \$16,000,000 and if the current EAV stays constant. So, it means for taxpayers, if there was a referendum for \$16,000,000 for every \$100,000 value on their home, they would be paying \$63 approximately per year to fund the referendum for 25 years to pay for the \$16,000,000 for a pool. Laura noted that you can make \$8000 more on your home if you have a pool. President Kroeger noted we are not here to fight against it. If the citizens want one and we have enough people behind it, we will go for a referendum. We are not against a pool and actually kept the pool open several years longer than we thought we could. Supt. Donahoe and his staff put band aids on the pool for years and kept the equipment going. Some of the equipment is no longer used in the industry.

Mike asked why we couldn't take around \$1,000,000 and upgrade the equipment. Director Bailey noted that based upon the surveys we have done since 2011 the features that people are looking for can't be put in the same area. People are looking for slides, zero depth water features, toddler areas, lazy rivers which are the things we got from the surveys. For the price tag, we are looking at purchasing property, engineering costs and construction. For the current location, we cannot meet the needs or wants of the community.

**Positive Feedback –**

- Director Bailey noted the Self Care Fair went well and staff did a great job. They received good comments and participation.

President Kroeger left the meeting at 6:28 p.m. and Vice President Doty took over the meeting.

**Plan Commission:** Commissioner Strack noted there was no meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Construction Updates:**

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted the trail has been adjusted to reflect the change. We are waiting to hear from IDOT if the changes have been accepted. We will then get new appraisals and offer each of the property owners an adjusted fee.
- **Reston Ponds:** Director Bailey noted some construction started this week. This should be done by June.
- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted this was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- **High School fields :** Director Bailey noted no update on this.
- **Pool Building:** Director Bailey noted we are still gathering cost information on this area. We are also waiting for the survey to see what the community wants there.
- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted we were awarded the OSLAD Grant. We are moving forward planning the bids for construction for fall of 2024 with construction to start in 2025, with completion in 2026.

**Open Positions:**

Naturalist – Director Bailey noted we have offered a position to a candidate. They have accepted and we are waiting for final paperwork.

**Community Survey status:** Director Bailey noted there are some minor changes being made and will be sent out on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> if no other changes are needed.

**New Business**

**Bi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes:** Director Bailey noted there was nothing to be released.

**MOU Annual Review:** Supt. Metcalf noted this is the time of year we point out all the MOU's we have with everyone and when they are up for renewal. When they come up for renewal, she will bring them to the board at that time. Aggression Volleyball will no longer be an affiliate. They will be considered a large rental moving forward.

**Rental Updates for Large Rentals:** Director Bailey noted we are requesting approval for the policy we were going to change with the caveat that we adjust the pricing.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve as presented with the caveat the pricing is adjusted. 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 at this time.

**Strategic Planning Location/potential dates:** Director Bailey noted she sent everyone dates and documents to review. She would like to have one full day for discussion of the strategic plan. She would like to have the leadership team there all day, other staff attend as they can, and the board come later in the afternoon. She will pick a date that the majority can attend. She is asking for approval of the cost to range from \$275 to \$600 for the day including food and rental.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the expenditure. 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 at this time.

**ADA Audit/transition plan:** Director Bailey noted she told the board she would get a full quote on the cost to do the entire district and have it assessed. This will be covered by our ADA funds and the cost is \$29,832.00.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the \$29,832.00 cost. 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 at this time.

**Special Announcements – None**

**March Study Session:** None was scheduled.

**Public Input – None**

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 6:45 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Ackmann for the reasons listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves.

**Roll Call**

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 at this time.

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 6:46 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Graves, Strack and Doty present along with Director Jonelle Bailey, Recording Secretary Freeman, Supt. Hienbuecher, Supt. Donahoe, Supt. Metcalf and Supt. Price.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Graves. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackmann.

**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 at this time.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 6:55 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Graves, Strack and Doty present.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 6:55 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Ackmann. 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 at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Freeman  
Recording Secretary  
Sycamore Park District