

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

The regular meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County, Illinois, being held at the Sycamore Golf Club, A Facility of the Sycamore Park District in the Riverview Room located at 940 E. State St, Sycamore, Illinois is called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 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 Ackmann, Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger.**

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: **None.**

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

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda with pulling Supt. Metcalfs report and moving Introduction of New Staff to before Positive Feedback. 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 Doty moved to approve the March 19, 2024, 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 5-0.

**Claims and Accounts Approval**

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$191,942.30.  
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.

Commissioner asked about the percentages on the classes in Supervisor Hoblits report. Supt. Metcalf noted these percentages are on the classes that ran.

Director Bailey made a comment on Sarah's report. These are the foundation posters, and they will be put on cups, mugs, and bags, etc.

Commissioner Graves asked how the new pickleball building has affected us. Supt. Metcalf noted that the advanced players went there, but we still have other players and sometimes the advanced players. We also now have about twenty players that came here from the YMCA when they dropped silver sneakers.

**Public Input –**

- Paul Fix: Paul noted the idea came from the Northern Exposure show. The idea captured him about launching something. He works in the physics department at NIU and other science departments. Focus has been education and having fun. He thought about this for Pumpkin Fest being fun and family. He would like to build, with collaborative efforts of people that he has access to, a 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval trebuchet. He gave more information on the idea and showed his example of a trebuchet. There was more discussion on it. President Kroeger noted that we could talk more later about Paul being able to raise money to recoup his investment, but the park district would probably not be able to help with it. He also noted he had concerns about the safety aspect of the ladder and making sure there are no pinch points.

Director Bailey noted that Jeff, Kiara, herself, and Paul can meet to check out locations.

**Introduction of New Staff:** Supt. Donahoe introduced Kiara Rodriguez as our new Naturalist. Kiara then introduced herself and gave some information about her background and education.

**Correspondence –**

- NIU

**Positive Feedback:**

- Supt. Price noted the course is in immaculate conduction. He has been told by numerous people Jeff's staff is crushing it.
- Commissioner Strack told Supt. Price he appreciated his positive attitude.

**Positive Feedback:**

- President Kroeger noted the garbage is really bad on RT 64. He saw the Lyons Club doing cleanup out in the area. He sent a big thank you to the president of the Lyons Club. He knows that Jeff Keicher is trying to get a bill passed in the state making the garbage haulers responsible for their cleanup.
- President Kroeger noted his company was involved with the new rec center in Oak Park. The building is the first one in the state with net zero. It is being shared how they financed the building and the grants they received because of the clout Oak Park has. We need to try and look into grants and the money available in our state more.

**Plan Commission:** Commissioner Strack noted there were changes to the UDO proposed. It defines establishments that sell tobacco. They are proposing new stores that sell tobacco be at least 250 feet from residences.

**Old Business:**

**Construction Updates:**

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted we received the signed documents from FS Grain. It has been sent off to Ancel Glink. We also sent in all the papers for the change, and we are waiting for IDOT to officially approve the change.
- **Reston Ponds:** Supt. Donahoe noted the playground is being installed this week. Upland Design is meeting with them this week out on location also.
- **Solar Panels:** Supt. Donahoe noted they are done installing the panels. We are now waiting for the electrician to do their part.
- **Ball Field Lights:** Supt. Donahoe noted we are still waiting to get on the schedule with Duralex.
- **Pool Building:** Director Bailey noted she has reached out to some companies regarding this. We have a meeting this week to discuss the process and recommendations.
- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted they had a meeting today with Upland and we now have a schedule.
- **Memorial Park Fields:** Director Bailey noted there is nothing on this.
- **Community Garden:** Director Bailey noted she has not received any response from the property owners, so she is asking the board for help on this.

**ADA Audit/Transition plan status:** Director Bailey noted this has started. We had an initial meeting on this and now have a schedule. We will not get the final assessment until approximately the end of September. They will note what are the first projects we will need to address so we can start planning.

**Strategic planning Date:** Director Bailey noted the date is June 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff will start at 8:30 and she noted the board can come when they are available.

### **New Business**

**Plan Park Tour** – Director Bailey noted this has not been done in a long time, so she is asking the board if they want to plan a tour. They are planning one for the Foundation board. The board noted they will try to join the Foundation board tour if possible.

**Capital Funds Quarterly Update:** Supt. Hienbuecher noted this is just updating where we are with the capital projects in the budget process.

**Special Announcements** – None

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

**Public Input** – None

### **Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 7:16 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Doty for the reasons listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves.

### **Roll Call**

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

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 7:20 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Graves, Strack and Kroeger present along with Director Jonelle Bailey, Supt. Hienbuecher, Supt. Donahoe, Supt. Metcalf, Supt. Price, and Recording Secretary Freeman.

### **Motion**

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Doty. 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 5-0.

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

**Motion**

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

**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