

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Sycamore Park District  
Tuesday, July 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, July 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, 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: **Commissioners Ackmann and Graves.**

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

**Guests at the Board meeting were:**

- Ariel Ries
- Tim Kemnitz
- Amy Schmidt

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda moving Agenda #63 to after Plan Commission Report. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Approval of Minutes –**

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the June 25, 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Approval of Minutes – cont’d:**

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the June 25, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes to remain confidential. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Claims and Accounts Approval**

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$337,085.39. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Correspondence –**

- Steve Wilder – Supt. Sycamore Schools
  - At this time, Commissioner Strack mentioned that there is a paved path on Freed Road before Brickville Rd. that is in bad shape and needs to be paved. Director Bailey noted they could talk more about in Executive Session.
  
- KSRA Foundation Golf Outing

**Public Input – None**

**Positive Feedback:**

- Commissioner Strack noted it looks like we are back on target as far as our budget goes.
- Director Bailey noted our Foundation Outing was phenomenal and had a great response.
- President Kroeger noted the Sip-N-Savor was a great success and each year it gets better. The music was a great addition and a lot of little things made it better.
- President Kroeger asked if we have any incentive for signup with fall coming. Supt. Metcalf noted we do around October we do offer discounts.

**Plan Commission:** Commissioner Doty there was no July meeting so he will start attending the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also noted that on the 8-12 meeting there will be a public notice regarding the Brian Grainger development adjusting from 4 units to 6 units.

**Fargo Skateboarding Skate Spot:**

Ariel Ries went over the information that was given to the Board regarding the different options they have come up with. Director Bailey noted they will get more information from other communities and go from there.

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve continuing to research. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Old Business:**

**Construction Updates:**

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted we are still waiting to hear from IDOT for that last parcel of trail to see when the new updated design has been approved.
- **Reston Ponds:** Director Bailey noted the dedication went very well and the pickleball players have asked for a wind screen. The Parks Foundation has agreed to pay for part of the wind screen. Supt. Donahoe noted they have discovered a need to connect the neighborhood to the west to the park through sidewalks. The approximate pricing for the path our cost would be about \$7500 with 25% of the total being paid for through ADA.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the project. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted they received notice from Swedberg Electric the shutdown would be between 8-12 thru 8-16. They would start about 7 am and it would be approximately 3-4 hours. Once the confirmed date has been decided they will let all staff and the public know. Supt. Donahoe noted
- **Pool Building:** Director Bailey noted no additional updates at this time.

**Construction Updates – cont’d:**

- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted we were awarded the grant and we are prepping the bidding plan.
- **Riverside Soccer Complex:** Director Bailey noted she and Supt. Donahoe met with ERA and they did adjust the design as we asked for.
- **Community Gardens:** Director Bailey noted we are at the same state as last month.
- **WPA Shelter:** Director Bailey noted we have the pricing for the different options for the roofing. Supt. Donahoe noted these are just numbers to have for budget planning.

**New Business:**

**Executive Session Minutes Review:** Director Bailey noted there were no minutes that she felt should be released at this time.

**Dog Park Policy:** Director Bailey noted that Chris Hoblit put this draft together. There has been an uptick of perceived negative interactions at the Dog Park. We didn't have anything in our rules regarding some of this. We felt we needed something more specific.

Tim Kemnitz noted he is a user at the dog park for the last year and a half. He noted it has changed a lot since he joined. There are more incidents with a few dogs that are aggressive. Some dogs get excited, and it turns to aggression. There seems to be an inconsistent message from the park management. It is getting to be concerning. He noted it seems like the park district management is satisfied when owners say they are getting training, or working on it.

Director Bailey noted there have been some incidents that we did not hear about until later after the incidents. This is why we want to put this in place so there is more consistency and so people understand there are consequences.

Commissioner Strack noted personally he feels that if a dog bites a person the dog should be done. President Kroeger noted that dogs tend to bite and nip when playing. That is different than aggression where a dog attacks another dog and that is when you need to remove that dog.

Commissioner Strack noted part of the problem is there is a level of subjectivity which is a real challenge.

Director Bailey noted there were a few things that can be cleared up later. Tim Kemnitz asked for it to be cleared up tonight unless not a good time.

President Kroeger then noted there are new rules that staff has put together for the board to comment on and approve. The board wants to hear from Chris and staff first.

Recr. Supervisor Chris Hoblit noted he started from scratch and he looked at what complaints have been filed and suggestions that have been made to come up with this draft.

**Dog Park Policy – cont’d:** Recr. Supervisor Hoblit went over the rules he is suggesting be put in place and the consequences. There was some discussion on this. Director Bailey noted this year has been a huge uptick in issues. Recr. Supervisor Hoblit noted there are about 260 members and has had very few complaints. Supt. Price asked if there would be any educational part of a membership. Recr. Supervisor Hoblit noted he has been talking to a new trainer of dogs and talking about an orientation for membership.

Amy Schmidt noted she has been a dog park member for about 5 years. Her dog was involved in two incidents in the park and they have been suspended. She noted that in both incidents her dog was not the aggressor. She noted she made an effort to talk to the dog owner but was ignored. She is behind what the park is trying to do. She noted that the email she received said when her suspension ends she is responsible for preventing any further aggressive incidents. She noted her dog was not the aggressor. The other dog has been involved in other aggressive incidents since they have been gone. She noted that if another dog snaps at her dog she is not going to stop her dog from responding to that. In the first incident her dog was just wanting to play and the other dog snapped at her dog. This was the first time her dog has engaged like this and she corrected the behavior with her dog. She noted that she was told we received over 12 emails from people that spoke on her behalf and on the disposition of her dog. She noted she is not responsible for someone else’s dogs behavior. She noted she loves the community the park district has supported there and is very sad she has seen it diminish this year. She then noted she was blamed for incidents out of her control.

President Kroeger noted he appreciated her speaking out and we have some work to do. He asked her to give them a chance to work through this.

Commissioner Strack started his motion to go adjourn the regular sessions to go into Executive Session and Tim Kemintz asked if it is recorded. Commissioner Strack noted it is recorded but the release is restrictive.

**Request to incorporate – ES:**

**Special Announcements** – None

**August 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 Strack 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were 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 7:57 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Doty, Strack and Kroeger present along with Director Jonelle Bailey, Supt. Hienbuecher, Supt. Donahoe, Supt. Metcalf, and Recording Secretary Freeman.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Kroeger. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 8:10 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Doty, Strack and Kroeger present. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 8:10 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Doty. 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 3-0. Commissioners Ackmann and Graves were absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Freeman  
Recording Secretary  
Sycamore Park District