

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS APRIL 16, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:30 p.m. via remote access by Zoom video. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Antokal, Caron, Cohen, Lapin, Patinkin (5)
Absent: None (0)

And there was a quorum in attendance. Also present were Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Laura McCarty, Jay Zahn, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members.

No public comment via email was received prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Roll Call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Antokal, Cohen, Lapin, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

FINANCE REPORT

Approval of Disbursements

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the Voucher Listing dates April 16, 2020 in the amount of 498,774.00 which includes 1,786.09 in travel and training expenses.

Discussion followed:

Commissioner Antokal asked about the shade structures and if the affiliates were helping to cover any of the cost. Director Nehila responded that these are the shade structures for preschool playground that the Pediatric Sun Foundation provided a donation of \$30,000 towards the structures.

Commissioner Antokal asked if staff has asked the owners of the Deerbrook shopping center for relief on the easement. Staff responded that they have had several conversations and they are not willing to provide any type of relief. Treasurer Cohen asked staff to have legal counsel review the agreement for any possible options.

Vice-President Caron asked about the payment to Anderson Lock. Staff responded that this was budgeted work for new doors and new locks for the park maintenance facility.

Treasurer Cohen asked if the down payments for the summer concerts are refundable. Staff responded that they will be contacting performers regarding cancellation and refunds.

Commissioner Lapin asked about a payment to Acoustic Associates for pickleball. This was for review of a private study and an analysis of the sound curtain material.

Commissioner Lapin asked about the replacement of the chemical controller at Deerspring. Staff responded that they budgeted for a complete replacement of the chemical pump controller system.

President Patinkin asked what the annual maintenance for Meraki. Staff responded that it's an annual payment for the maintenance agreement for our network.

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President Patinkin asked if it was possible to cancel the printing of the pool schedule clings. Staff responded that they don't believe that have gone to print but will look into it and cancel if possible.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Lapin, Antokal, Caron, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Center Advisory Committee Appointments

The Recreation Center Advisory Committee had three committee members whose terms expired in February 2020. Commissioners questioned whether the candidate that doesn't have a membership should be on the committee because they wouldn't have any perspective on what goes on at the center. Commissioners recommended voting on the other 2 applicants and getting more information from the other applicant.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Antokal to appoint Steve Bierig and Elizabeth Seward to the Recreation Center Advisory Committee for three-year terms beginning April, 2020, and table Jay Keltner's appointment until the May board meeting pending further information. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Antokal, Caron, Lapin, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Golf Advisory Committee Appointments

Motion made by Commissioners Antokal, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to appoint Kevin Butler, Dan Mazur, Casey Kremer and Sharon Edwards to the Deerfield Park District Golf Advisory Committee for 3-year terms effective April, 2020. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Antokal, Lapin, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

2 ½-Year Update of Strategic Plan

Provided to the board was an update on the district's Strategic Plan which was officially adopted in September, 2017. The plan contains 6 core strategies, 19 goals and 73 objectives. Since the plan's adoption, 63 objectives have been completed or added to. Staff should be commended on their efforts in reaching the level of success they have with the plan and look forward to the development of a new plan in approximately 2 years.

COVID-19 Operations Update

Director Nehila provided an update on COVID-19. The district is continuing with minimal operations at this time. Lay-offs and furloughs will take place on April 11, 2020. This is a fluid situation and the Stay at Home Order is ultimately the determinate for us to resume programs and activities. All spring programs through June 6 have been cancelled.

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The next focus is to project summer operations, with summer camp and pools the main areas of focus. Communications with D109 indicate that we will have access to the schools.

Staff is looking at scenarios for the pool operations. These situations are based on the current staffing of 55 lifeguards hired to date.

Staff feels that the first step towards normalcy will be opening the golf course. Staff has worked on developing a no-contact method to accommodate golfers when the time comes. Staff reported that our earlier outings are moving to later in the season if possible.

Commissioner Lapin asked how the golf course frozen food sales went. Staff responded that the sale went phenomenally well. A lot of the products that needed to be moved were sold.

Staff provided and reviewed 3 different pool scenarios for the summer. Options include operating one pool only or one pool with full hours and one with limited hours. Mitchell Pool will be the pool to be open as scheduled. Deerspring may be limited to weekends, Coho use and lap swimming. The district is waiting for guidelines from IDPH an CDC before any plan can be finalized.

Blumberg Park Playground Renovation Update

Director Nehila reported on the Blumberg Park Playground Replacement Update. Staff is looking for board direction on moving forward with this project. With the current COVID-19 virus situation, a decision whether to continue planning and designing this project ensued. Commissioners felt now was not the time to be taking any recreational activities away. Commissioner Caron suggesting moving any non-essential capital projects scheduled for 2020 to 2021. Commissioners agreed that this is a great idea and it makes sense to diminish the capital project plans for 2020. Essential mechanical, roofing and parking lot paving projects will continue to be planned for completion. Director Nehila felt confident that the 2020 capital project expenses can be reduced by half. Treasurer Cohen mentioned that the district has borrowing leverage if it is needed. Director Nehila mentioned that the district has bonds that will be ending in 2023 and with the district's AAA rating the district is in good shape. Vice-President Caron commented that the district is in good shape with fund balances as well. Director Nehila commented that the district is trying to be prudent but depending on what happens this summer the fund balances are going to be impacted.

Commissioner Antokal commented that even with the AAA rating the funds might not be available next year and if they are the rates will be high. He suggested that now may a good time to investigate rates on borrowing money in case the district would need to do that.

Other

Director Nehila reported that the Lake County Board Admin & Finance Committee met recently. An agenda item was the deferral of the property tax distributions from 30-90 days. These distributions usually take place in spring and fall. Local entities learned of this and submitted written documentation to ask the committee not to take the item to the full board. After reading several letters aloud, including the Deerfield Park District's, the committee decided against the taking proposal for deferral of property tax payments to the full board.

The next meeting will be the Regular Board Meeting on May 21, 2020, no Finance Meeting will be held. Commissioners recommended changing the regular meeting start time to 7:30 p.m.

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Director Nehila applauded the staff for doing such a fabulous job during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice-President Caron commented that she is impressed with what the staff has done during these extraordinary times and appreciate their hard work. The entire board agreed with the sentiment.

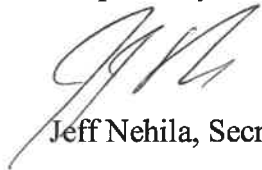
Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:41 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Lapin, Antokal, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary