

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS September 17, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:02 p.m. via remote access by Zoom video. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Antokal, Caron, Cohen, Lapin, Patinkin (5)
Absent: None (1)

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No emails were received prior to the meeting specifically asking to be read as public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Lapin, Cohen, Patinkin (4)
NAYS: None (0)
ABSTAIN: Antokal (1)
Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 Workshop Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Lapin, Antokal, Cohen, Patinkin (5)
NAYS: None (0)
Motion passed in a roll call vote.

FINANCE REPORT

Approval of Disbursements

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Treasurer Cohen, to approve the Voucher Listing dated August 20, 2020 in the amount of \$1,114,868.97 which includes \$486.49 of travel and training expenses. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Discussion followed:

Commissioner Lapin asked what Paycor is. Staff responded that it's the district's Payroll Processing Company.

Treasurer Cohen asked about the siding repair at the clubhouse. Staff responded that the repairs were done on the back door/ ramp area including interior walls and the roof of the clubhouse due to water damage over the years.

Vice-President Caron asked about the July sales tax of over \$4,000 paid to Illinois for the golf course. Staff responded that there was \$37,000 worth of food and beverage sales and \$15,000 in pro shop merchandise sales, so we pay 8% on those amounts.

Vice-President Caron asked about the large dollar amounts of some of the refunds. Staff responded that it may be due to the initial registration of the R.E.C. program. After getting in several parents had made other arrangements and withdrew.

Vice-President Caron asked about the eleven refunds for \$100 each to the same person. Staff responded that the refunds may be due to cancellations as well as refunds of household balances. Staff will verify.

Vice-President Caron asked about the cart revenue. Staff responded that 95% of course bookings are coming in online, so staff has to guess who is walking or riding. In a normal year there are 16 different codes, this year staff created one new GL code named Daily Play and Cart Rentals to lump it into for this year and next year instead of guessing. Treasurer Cohen asked if staff was keeping track of the \$5 single cart rider fee. Staff responded that it is being tracked.

President Patinkin asked if staff could look into the large refunds. Staff will verify that the refund amounts are correct.

President Patinkin asked about the large electric bill for the community center from mid-May to mid-June when the building was mostly closed due to COVID. Staff responded that last year's bill was \$1,000 less. The district is on a fixed rate plan, but the other charges could have gone up. The building was open and maybe because it was hotter in the month of June the air conditioning ran more. Staff will review the data for energy used.

President Patinkin asked if there was going to an inflow when we get that 2nd tax installment. Staff responded that the county gave people extra time to pay their taxes this year due to COVID.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mitchell Park Advisory Committee

President Patinkin reported on the August 27, 2020 and September 10, 2020 Mitchell Park Advisory Committee meetings. Vice-President Caron commented that she has some concerns about the direction being given to the committee about renaming the pool. Treasurer Cohen stated that his motion clearly stated that the renaming was only for the park. His compromise for agreeing to the renaming of the park was that the name of the pool wouldn't change. He stated that the committee should not be discussing changing the name of the pool. The committee should be abiding by what the board voted on. President Patinkin commented that he and Director Nehila are not pushing for the pool name to be changed but are responding to inquiries from committee members. Treasurer Cohen stated that President Patinkin's response should be that it's not open for discussion because the board already voted to keep the name of the pool. President Patinkin feels that by not changing the pool name the board would run in to the same problem again. He commented that the board has an opportunity to honor James Mitchell in a bigger way by acknowledging that the park and pool go together. Commissioner Lapin commented that the pool is a separate entity and came years later. It was named after James Mitchell because he secured the funds to build the pool and the pool had nothing to do with condemning the land. He stands behind the motion. Commissioner Antokal commented that he agrees with Commissioner Lapin and feels that the decision to change the name of the park was difficult enough and he prefers to leave the pool name as it is. President Patinkin stated that he will let the committee know that the board has asserted that the pool name should not be part of the change. Treasurer Cohen stated that it's not an assertion, the board passed a motion and are bound to that. President Patinkin commented that the committee will advise the board of their recommendation and the board can vote on it. Vice-President Caron feels strongly that if the board were to reconsider the motion to change that part about the pool, she would definitely suggest the board reconsider the entire motion to change the name of the park. If the committee is going to vote to undo what the board voted on than she would like to reconsider all of it.

President Patinkin stated that he hears everything the board is saying but he also sees an opportunity. It is a wonderful committee with very good insight and will spread the word. He thinks there is no question there is not going to be some other opportunity for a comprehensive and maybe even better naming opportunity for James Mitchell. Treasurer Cohen stated that the board doesn't need to because the pool is already named for him. 4 out of 5

board members are content to keep Mitchell Pool as Mitchell Pool. President Patinkin is reporting on what the committee said since this is a committee report. Vice-President Caron stated that there are members of the committee that mentioned reconsidering renaming the park. If we are going to reconsider what was voted on, she would be in favor of reconsidering the entirety of what they voted on. She feels it is inconsistent to say the reason the park is going to be renamed is because the board voted on it but in the same vote, the board can just take out the part about renaming the pool. Treasurer Cohen commented that it is a tough committee to manage with 20 people and 20 different opinions. Instead of having a discussion about naming Mitchell Pool, 4 board members just stated they don't want to change the name. He's interested in getting name recommendations for the park. Director Nehila is looking for clarification and commented that the name Beverly keeps coming up so if the board could share their feelings on using another name for the park that would provide some direction. President Patinkin mentioned that he told the committee that naming the park after another person wasn't advisable. The committee was asked to submit their top 3 names and Director Nehila will compile the results. Commissioner Antokal stated that he is in agreement that the name should be inspirational. Vice-President Caron commented that she felt that people changed their opinion between the two meetings on some of the suggested names. Commissioner Lapin commented that there was a lot of work done to put this committee together and the board shouldn't put their thumb on the scale and should let the committee make their recommendation. Vice-President Caron would like to hear the committee's reasoning behind the names they recommend. If there's a really good reason behind the choice of an individual's name she may change her mind. She is concerned that since a group of people has decided 50 years after the naming what the current name symbolizes she wants them to say what the symbol of their recommended name is so it's on record and so the board can consider the symbol when voting on a new name. Treasurer Cohen stated that he favors a non-individual name unless someone comes up with an exceptional name with merit and solid reasoning behind it. Commissioner Antokal commented that his mind is not closed to a change if there is something spectacular that surfaces that happens to be an individual's name. He would be happy to consider it, but right now is in favor of not naming the park after an individual. President Patinkin stated that if Commissioner Lapin is on board, then the board will all agree that the preference at this time is to not name the park after an individual but if there is a name that knocks the board's socks off and the reasons behind it the board might consider it. Vice-President Caron commented that listening to both meetings she didn't get the sense there was the name of a person that even the committee was strongly in favor of. It sounded at times like they were trying hard to find a person, but it sounded like there wasn't a strong consensus for any of the names of people that was proposed. Commissioner Lapin noted that the historical society came up with Floral Park. President Patinkin commented that several committee members suggested Floral Park. Vice-President Caron would like to hear what the committee recommends. She thinks having them give their 3 options and the reasons behind them is a great idea.

Director Nehila brought up the issue of renaming of the pool. He doesn't think the committee was encouraged to come up with that thought. They shared their feelings and it seemed as "they thought the renaming of the park and pool were a package deal." It was a vicarious moment or two because President Patinkin explained the board's motion and committee members wanted to know if they could suggest a name change for the pool. The committee was told they could suggest a name change for the pool, but there was no guarantee, never an inference that the name change for the pool was a probability. Treasurer Cohen commented that the motion was very clear and if it comes up in the next meeting the committee can be told that the board was polled in a live meeting and are not interested in changing the name of the pool and the board is standing by the vote on the motion. He doesn't want renaming of the pool to be encouraged anymore; the committee should focus on the park. Vice-President Caron understands there are people that absolutely think the name of the pool should be changed but there are people that absolutely think the name of the park should not be changed. Nobody is going to be 100% happy and it's an unrealistic goal to try and make everybody happy with everything that's decided. The board voted and nobody on the board wants to change their vote. The board knew what they were voting for, it was no accident. President Patinkin commented that he will report to the committee accordingly. He reiterated to that once again he sees an opportunity to avoid conflict with the community as a whole and to have a total win win situation in terms of honoring James Mitchell that won't result in controversy going forward. He will leave that discussion for another day and understands his marching orders.

Vice-President Caron commented on a statement that has come up a few times that because of the racism there are people that don't have the ability to use Deerfield facilities. She understands where they are coming from that

because black people don't live in Deerfield, they don't have immediate access. If that comes up again she would like for President Patinkin or Director Nehila to point out to the committee that all of our parks and facilities are available to everybody and there are definitely people of color that use our parks and facilities. She thinks that sometimes there is a tendency to conflate racial integration with economic integration and so the idea of a sister city program is a great idea to come out of this. But those are not the kids that would be living in Deerfield if the development had gone through. So as people are giving their reasons for things, she would like to keep the record straight and point out that there are subtle difference in these and they just can't be conflated.

Vice-President Caron commented that she has noticed that all of the suggested names are referring to integration of blacks. One of her first concerns at the beginning was if the board want this to strictly to be about that housing development or does the board want to be, now going forward, inclusive to all minorities. Deerfield does have other people of color. Are we limiting this symbol to be just correcting one past situation or do we want to be inclusive to people who live here now? Treasurer Cohen asked if we want look all into the past or also take into account the future because it sounds like it's mostly about what happened 60 years ago. Which is fine, but when it comes to the naming of the park or education both should be considered. History is relevant but you also have to plan for the future. Color means more than just black now. It's not just about integration but also about diversity so whatever the board does should incorporate both if possible. The education by the school districts, the park district and the village is a big part of this. He thinks Vice-President Caron's comment is well taken. Listening to the committee meetings is seems that their focus is more on 60 years ago. The committee needs to consider the past, present and the future in everything they do if they are really going to accomplish something with this concept.

Vice-President Caron commented that the committee commented that if that development had gone ahead that Deerfield would be totally different than what it is now. That is possible but it's also possible that it might not have gone that way. Do we know for sure that the 10 or 12 black families would actually have moved in to that development and on the other side of it, knowing the feelings of a lot of people in town, would white families have moved in to that development. And what are the implications of whether or not that would have happened. Also, assuming that the whole development sold exactly as the plan would have been, again those were 4-bedroom houses, those were not low cost subsidized affordable homes. It would have been upper-middle class families moving into those houses. The idea that underprivileged kids would now be having an equal life in Deerfield is not necessarily an accurate outcome of what would have come from that development. No one knows, there's a lot of what ifs along the 60 years. The assumption by some people that the town would all of the sudden be this perfectly diverse town because of that one development can't be assumed. Commissioner Antokal commented that the direction Vice-President Caron is going is 100% correct and it depends on what individual and what narrative they choose to plug in as to how that would exponentially have manifested itself some 50-60 years later. Nobody knows, it's pure speculation. Vice-President Caron commented that there have been black families that have lived in Deerfield since then. Some of the story that is being told is a projection and it could be correct, but no one knows and it's not fact.

President Patinkin commented that part of the thing the community shouldn't lose sight of is that there was an ugly past in Deerfield's history, and it shouldn't be swept under the rug. What the results of that ugly past is, is that what led to today, that is Vice-President Caron's statement. Vice-President Caron's concern is that by trying to correct that mistake is the board overlooking people of color that actually do live here now and what message is being given to them. Are we so focused on that one incident that we are losing sight of people that are Deerfield residents now? Director Nehila commented that some of it is the education and how the story is told. It's not just that development, but that can serve as the launching pad for many other things, as the board knows the development itself has been the impetus of many other discussions. He commented that he has been learning and he hopes to have a good summary provided from D109 and D113 on what the districts are teaching. That will be interesting to see because you'll see if there is anything that can supplement or add to it. Director Nehila had encouraged Nikki to read the Power Point, The History of Deerfield Park District, and she did. He feels that it helped because a lot of those things were omitted from the story. The educational component will be a topnotch result because the committee has enthusiastic people that want to contribute. This sister city adoption is a great idea and could be an extension of the total movement or what the project turns out to be.

Director Nehila asked President Patinkin to briefly mention the idea of using one or both of the homes as a museum. President Patinkin commented that there would be no greater collaboration that the district could be part of than if each body politic would set aside some small portion of their budget towards renovating and maintaining one or both of those houses as a museum. That could be incorporated into the education program and the elementary schools, high school and the community at large could benefit. In the district's 5-year Strategic Plan update there are a couple of strategies and goals that this would absolutely fulfil. If this situation that started as a controversy can be turned into a community-wide collaborative effort it could be a wonderful thing not just for the Village of Deerfield but the entire Chicago area. Depending on if a museum could be created, yes there are accessibility issues but nothing that's not insurmountable, this could turn in to a wonderful thing not only for our community but the Chicago area at large. A lot of people in the community are in support of it so let's see what comes of it. Treasurer Cohen commented that since the district already owns the houses it would be pretty easy. Vice-President Caron stated that her concern would be the accessibility issues but if the houses themselves could be used that would be ideal. If not, maybe we could build something in that location. President Patinkin commented that he's been to museums all over the country, many in small old houses that have been made accessible. Vice-President Caron commented that she doesn't want to fix one problem and start another, but she is definitely on board for pursuing a museum. Commissioner Lapin stated that the education component is the most important part of the board's motion.

Golf Advisory Committee

A verbal report was given on the September 9, 2020 Golf Advisory Committee. Topics of discussion included operational and maintenance updates, upcoming events, the 2020-2021 Competitive Market Analysis and fee recommendations for 2021. The most time was spent discussing the staff recommendation to change daily passes to have Friday be considered weekend play. No consensus was reached on this issue. Fee recommendations will be presented to the board at the October 1, 2020 Special Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Nova Care Rehabilitation Lease Agreement

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the three-year lease agreement with Nova Care Rehabilitation that would commence November 1, 2020 and run through October 31, 2023. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Discussion followed:

President Patinkin expressed concern over the commencement date of November 1, 2020 when the true commencement date would be based on receiving an occupancy permit from the Village of Deerfield. Also, there is no date as to when the rent payments begin, and wording related to a prorated rent payment based on receiving the occupancy permit.

After discussion, Treasurer Cohen amended his motion. Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the three-year lease agreement with Nova Care Rehabilitation that would commence November 1, 2020 and run through October 31, 2023, subject to potential revisions by park district attorney and lessee. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Approval – Mitchell Pool and Park Shelter Roof Replacement Project

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the base bid from Filotto Construction, Inc. Crest Hill, IL for a shingle roof replacement at Mitchell Pool Bathhouse, Admission Building, Filter Equipment Building and the Park Shelter for a total cost of \$27,900. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Pay Request #1 DCG Roofing Solutions for SRC West Roof Rehabilitation Project

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve Pay Request #1 as submitted by DCG Roofing Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$188,574.39 for work completed to date on the SRC West Roof Rehabilitation Project. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Request for Use of Woodland Pavilion and One Baseball Field for a Homerun Derby Benefitting JDRF

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Treasurer Cohen, to approve the use of Woodland Pavilion and one baseball field to hold a fundraiser benefitting the JDRF on Sunday, October 11, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

3-Year Strategic Plan Update

Director Nehila provided a 3-year 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. As the board knows, COVID-19 hit in March which had adverse effects on the district's operations and services. Despite those obstacles, staff has been able to add to 28 existing objectives over the last 6 months. Significant highlights include applying for another IAPD Best of the Best Award, multiple initiatives in invasive plant removals, ash tree removals and adding native plantings to the parks and the golf course. In addition, the district successfully underwent a review for the state's accreditation program. That review was successful and the district will receive a 5-year accreditation beginning in January, 2021.

Compliments to all staff who were able to react to COVID-19 related challenges as well as contributing to our overall Strategic Plan's Strategies, Goals and Objectives. A significant number of objectives have already been met, (63), and more have been enhanced.

The key for the next Strategic Plan will be a community needs assessment. The challenge is how we drive a survey in Phase 4. Treasurer Cohen suggested doing a mini survey now but waiting to do a larger survey until after COVID. Vice-President Caron suggested doing a survey but ask people to answer based on post-COVID circumstances. She doesn't feel it's worth the time or money to find out what people want during COVID but is more interested in what they want in the future.

Other Matters

CARES Act

Staff has submitted the paperwork for the reimbursement through the CARES Act. The district will be recouping about \$67,000.

Halloween Hoopla

Halloween Hoopla has been revamped for this year. There are 3 different events with two time slots each that can accommodate 50 people each. All events will be held outside and are all sold out. Commissioner Caron commented that the village will not be promoting an official Trick or Treating this year.

Jewett Park Fields

Staff reported that DYBA will be using the Jewett Park ballfields for the first time on September 26, 2020.

Thank You to Staff

Commissioner Antokal thanked staff for the great job helping with the blood drive.

IPRA Conference

IPRA has not made an official decision on the status of the IPRA Conference.

NRPA Conference

The NRPA Conference, as far as in person, has been canceled but virtual options will be offered.

Board Meetings

The option to return to in-person board meetings can be made at anytime the board feels comfortable to do so. Under the current COVID environment, Commissioners agreed they prefer to be cautious and continue with virtual meetings.

IAPD Best of the Best

The district won the IAPD Best of the Best award with the submission of the partnership with North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics. This year's Gala will be virtual.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.


Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary