

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:01 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 was Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Nehila read an email from Alec Lopata, Amy Lopata, Gale Gand and Rayan Falouji which will be attached and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Lapin, Antokal, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin (5)
NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

MITCHELL PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION REVIEW AND APPOINTMENTS

After the July 1, 2020 Special Meeting, the district began soliciting for applications for the Mitchell Park Advisory Committee. A total of 11 applications were received from citizens, including Susan Hawkinson from the Presbyterian Church who expressed an interest in serving in some capacity even though she doesn't live in Deerfield. Vice-President Caron stated that she worked with Susan on the Northwest Quadrant Task Force and believes she will be valuable on the committee. President Patinkin commented that he would be fine taking all the applicants. Commissioners agreed that it would be worthwhile to accept all applicants to the committee. The committee will be tasked with:

- Recommending a new name for Mitchell Park
- Proposing other ways to honor James Mitchell
- Developing educational proposals to accurately teach the history of the integration issues time period in Deerfield.

Other persons serving who have been identified by public agencies included:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Rick Patinkin | Deerfield Park District Board of Commissioners |
| 2. Dan Shapiro | Village of Deerfield |
| 3. Alyson Fieger | West Deerfield Township |
| 4. TBD | D113 Board of Education |
| 5. Katie Bittner | D109 Board of Education |
| 6. Nikoletta Antonakos | D113 Social Studies Dept. |
| 7. Ken Abosch | Deerfield Public Library |
| 8. Jean Spagnoli | West Deerfield Township |
| 9. Graham Ambrose | as appointed by President Patinkin |
| 10. Gale Gand | as appointed by President Patinkin |

Director Nehila had surveyed applicants regarding days they would be available to meet. It looks like Thursdays will be the best day for the majority.

President Patinkin suggested discussing the parameters of the naming so this information could be shared with the committee. Vice-President Caron would like the committee to discuss what the name should symbolize and if the name should be appropriate for the 1960's or the current times. Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Lapin presented a list of related reading materials he would like the committee to read. Vice-President Caron added two additional titles to the list. Treasurer Cohen asked if the committee was being limited to integration issues or diversity and inclusion as well. He commented that the reading list's focus is integration. Vice-President Caron mentioned sharing committee member emails so they can inform one another which of the reading materials they read prior to the first meeting.

Commissioners recommended the advisory committee be prepared for their first meeting by doing research on the subject. A welcome letter will be sent, and the list of reading materials will be provided to committee members.

Commissioner Lapin commented that the email from Alec, et. al. asking for the committee to include people of color isn't possible since the district doesn't ask for applicant's race on the application form.

Vice-President Caron commented that education doesn't mean just school education but community education as well. Vice-President Caron would also like the committee to discuss what type of event should be held after a new name has been chosen.

President Patinkin mentioned that the committee could meet on August 27 and hopefully one more time prior to the September 17, 2020 board meeting when a status report is to be provided to the board.

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to appoint Alan Baruch, Loren Rivkin, Chris Goodsnyder, Joel Seeskin, Hazel Herzog, Jacob Kraemer, Debbie Serota, Richard Shay, Ellyce Rumick, Christine Di Grazia and Susan Hawkinson to the Mitchell Park Advisory Committee with Susan Hawkinson serving in an ex-officio status. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

OTHER MATTERS

Kenny Rudin Playground Dedication

The dedication for the Kenny Rudin Playground at Brickyards Park is scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

CARES Act

Lake County will be distributing \$1.6 million dollars they received through the CARES Act to Lake County Park Districts. Deerfield Park District will receive \$65,000. This will be used to contribute towards PPE and COVID related expenses.

Skatepark Update

Director Nehila reported that mandatory face masks signs were posted at the skatepark, but users are not complying. Staff has been working with the police to obtain compliance. Due to the high risk when the skatepark is crowded, Director Nehila is considering closing the skatepark soon.

Operational Updates

Staff is beginning the budget process for next year. Staff will be holding Zoom advisory committee meetings as the fall is the time of year the board receives fee recommendations from advisory committees.

Budget Forecasting

Staff will be updating the 7-year capital plan. The 2020 deferred projects will be shifted to 2021 and the annual projects from that point will all be pushed back a year. Recreation and Golf will have considerable variances. Staff is working on a way to simplify the information.

Preschool

Several of the preschool teachers and a couple of early childhood staff have elected not to return. Staff is challenged with hiring new staff.

Vice-President Caron asked how many children are registered for preschool. Director Nehila stated that the number are solid, and the district should be able to accommodate those registered and provide a safe and valuable service to the community.

Mitchell Pool

Mitchell Pool will be reopening on Monday, August 10.

Patty Turner Center

The opening of Patty Turner Center has been deferred until further notice due to the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Deerfield as well as the hesitancy of the PTC members to return to the center. The well received virtual programming will continue.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is winding down. The regular camps will be ending on August 7 and there is one week of Extra Added Attraction beginning August 10. Vice-President Caron praised staff for their efforts in providing a successful camp program.

Rotary Lunch

The first in-person Rotary Lunch was held on the deck at the golf course. Director Nehila gave a presentation on the park district history from 1951-1969. This was the first group setting to be at the course for dining. This provided a good practice run for staff.

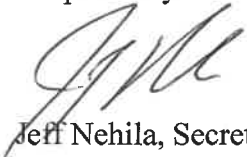
Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:07 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary

Jeff Nehila

From: Alec Lopata <alec.lopata@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Jeff Nehila
Cc: Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila; Amy Lopata; Gale Gand; Rayan Falouji
Subject: Public Comment for Thursday Special Meeting

Dear Deerfield Park District Board,

We believe there are several criteria that the Board should use in deciding which community members to appoint, but we want to emphasize two areas in particular.

First, it is important that the voices of people of color in our community are uplifted in this effort as much as possible. When discussing the racial history of Deerfield and how to best move our community forward, the input of people of color is key and something that the Board should actively endeavor to include in the membership of the Advisory Committee. An Advisory Committee that lacked this diverse perspective might miss crucial elements of why Mitchell Park should be renamed and how the history has impacted people of color in Deerfield.

Second, it is important that the Mitchell Park Citizens' Advisory Committee be comprised of people who are supportive of the mission of the Advisory Committee. In the July 1 special meeting, the Park District Board briefly considered whether to appoint an antagonist to the advisory committee. We were pleased that they chose not to do so at that time, and trust that they will adopt the same approach with the appointments to the Advisory Committee.

We are hopeful that these criteria are placed front and center in the discussion of who is appointed to the Mitchell Park Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Best,

Alec Lopata, Amy Lopata, Gale Gand and Rayan Falouji