

The Workshop 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, Jason Mannina, staff members.

Director Nehila read comments received via email prior to the meeting.

Two emails were asking for consideration on opening the tennis courts and the other to open the restrooms in the parks. As for the tennis courts, Director Nehila reviewed the guidelines that USTA distributed to be perceived as safe during self-play. Director Nehila feels that the guidelines are conceivable but do not guarantee compliance. The district will pursue opening the courts with the UTSA guidelines posted when the time is right. Both community members understood. President Patinkin asked what our neighboring park districts are doing. One district considered putting up one net to control the number of people but then again policing and enforcing are obstacles. They were considering hiring a park ambassador to monitor play. Director Nehila stated that the surrounding communities are attempting to be consistent. Director Nehila will continue to monitor. Treasurer Cohen commented that maybe in a couple of weeks we can look at the USTA guidelines and reconsider the opening of courts for single play only.

The other email was regarding opening restroom facilities within the parks. Director Nehila contacted them and explained that the district is trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Commissioners commented that the restrooms should remain closed.

### **DYBSA Recognition Request**

DYBSA requested the park board consider a request for recognition. President Patinkin expressed concern over not adhering to the district's naming policy. He suggested maybe DYBSA do a fundraiser to purchase a bronze statue for example. Treasurer Cohen commented that there are also smaller amenities that could be done as well. Staff will send DYBSA the district policy on naming and discuss options with them.

### **Covid-19 Operations Update**

#### **Parks Operations**

Parks are looking great. With the lack of use and the parks department doing a great job the parks are beautiful.

Several projects are underway and going well including the Kenny Rudin Playground, the shade structure at the preschool playground, fencing at Mitchell park and various projects at PTC.

Norcon was on site and got a lot of work done this week on Jewett Park. The next big step will be all the concrete work.

#### **Golf Operations**

Director Nehila reported that the golf course staff did an amazing job getting the course open. Staff reported that things have been fast and furious trying to comply with all of the guidelines in order to open. The new software kinks for reservations are being worked out and that is moving in the right direction. The golf course is in great condition. The course saw 211 people come out to play 9 holes the first day. Most people

seem to be wearing masks and helping prevent the spread. Staff is using appropriate personal protective equipment and disinfecting often.

The golf maintenance crew are working split shifts. They created partitions for their lunchroom and they are doing a great job of sanitizing equipment.

Staff is anticipating a frost delay on Saturday. Last year with the same temperature and dew point the delay was 1 to 2 hours. There will be extra staff in the pro shop Saturday morning to field calls.

The driving range was turned into the “Deerfield Short Course.” There are 6 holes, 50 to 150 yards, that allow instructors to give lessons. Staff is preparing for the next phase and is just happy to be open. Treasurer Cohen suggested that since we have a large parking lot, cars should park in every other space. Vice-President Caron asked about no garbage cans being on the course. Staff responded that there is a rule in place that there can be no garbage cans on the course at this point. This is meant to protect the workers from touching the garbage. Vice-President Caron asked about offering pull carts for sale. Staff responded that we sold some of the older unused models and now have 20 pull carts on hand for use later.

President Patinkin praised Jason for his ability to adapt.

#### District Operations

Director Nehila said the project and purchase deferrals add up to \$875,000.

Director Nehila sent a letter to Rep. Brad Schneider regarding local government assistance.

Director Nehila reported that the facilities have all been sanitized. The district will be having a commercial EPA approved sanitation done next week. All of the facilities’ counters will have safety shields. Staff has purchased PPE.

Director Nehila reported that three of the furloughed staff members are back.

Director Nehila reported all of the district’s special events through June have been cancelled.

Director Nehila reported that an announcement on Family Days events and fireworks should be coming soon.

#### Camps

Director of Recreation McCarty reported that while staff is doing a lot of preparations for camps and pools, staff is still waiting for guidelines from IDPH and CDC to help us provide a safe and successful summer.

As for camps, the initial start date was June 15, but it looks like that will be changed to July 6. Camp will run through August 7 with one week of Extra Added Attraction August 10-14. Staff feels like this will allow enough time to implement guidelines, prepare sites, train staff and get everything ready. The district is no longer accepting new camp registration. This will allow the district to confirm campers and staff numbers and get appropriate space at the schools. Camps will offer small groups to help insure and monitor social distancing. School District 109 is allowing us use of 5 schools to accommodate camps. School District 113 has stated that the district will not be able to use the high school for sports camps. Staff is working to provide sports camps at Caruso or SRC. Staff is also working with SD109 to get use of more rooms to accommodate more campers while maintaining the smaller groups.

Staff is working on new camp models which will then be shared with current camp registrants. They will be given an opportunity to register for the new camp before any new campers would be registered.

Typically, in a normal summer, we can accommodate about 1,100 campers. Staff is hoping to accommodate half this summer. Currently there are 845 children registered in camp. Staff sent out a survey to the parents of our camp registrants inquiring if they were planning to send their child to camp, about 50% said yes, 7% said no and 37% are unsure. There will be no fieldtrips and no pool time.

Staff sent a letter to our currently hired camp staff to inquire if they were planning to work for the district this summer. Responses have been favorable.

### Pools

Director McCarty reported that the scenario for the pools that is being considered is that Mitchell Pool would be open normal scheduled hours and Deerspring would be open on the weekends, for Coho use and for lap swim.

The district has stopped selling pool passes because the district can't offer the full value of the pass. All purchasers have been refunded.

Staff is working on different fee structures. The plan would be to offer open swim in 2-hour time blocks. After 2-hours the pool would close for 1-hour for cleaning, then open for another 2-hour block. Staff is working to offer the 2-hour reservation for purchase online prior to coming to the pool. This will eliminate contact with pool staff. Another option being considered would be to create a lap swim only pass. Lap swim will be available 7 days a week at both pools. Final parameters are still being developed based on capacity. The pools will not be offering any concessions this summer. NRPA has posted guidance from CDC relating to splashpads, diving boards and slides. It is advised that these amenities not be opened as they are hard to clean and can be crowded.

Staff contacted our pool hires to inquire if they are planning to work for the district this summer. Staff is getting favorable responses.

Staff is working on the logistics of swim lessons. One idea is to have lessons for 5 years old and younger and making them parent and child with the instructor on the pool deck.

While the district is waiting for guidance, staff is anticipating a late June/early July opening. This gives the district time to train staff, prepare facilities and have the guidance needed to implement a safe summer.

The key to implementing camps and pools successfully is to have enough staff and have the staff trained in all of the new guidelines.

Treasurer Cohen asked if staff would be getting rid of the deck chairs. Staff responded that a decision on the chairs has not yet been made but the deck will be marked with maybe 6'x6' sections for families.

### Other

#### NRPA

NRPA Conference scheduled to be held in Orlando in September has been canceled.

**Affiliates**

The Affiliates have officially canceled their spring seasons. DYBA hopes to do some baseball later in the summer.

**Property Tax Dollar Distribution**

The Lake County Board is considering have property taxes paid in three installments, 1 payment in the spring and 2 in the fall. This is good news as the district would still get the tax distribution in this fiscal year.

**Tax Appeals**

A report on the district's tax appeals will be available at the May board meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal to adjourn the Workshop 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