

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, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members.

Several public comments via email regarding renaming Mitchell Park were received prior to the meeting. Director Nehila read the emails that specifically said they were for public comment. Emails from Alec Lopata, Amy Lopata, Rayan Falouji, Gale Gand, Michell Fisher-Rohde Iain Lopata, Aarohi Mahableshwarkar, Orli Sheffey, Jennifer Sugarman, Kaitlyn Murphy, Lisa Cenek, Jordana Bornstein, Ryan Kambich will be attached and made a part of the minutes of this meeting. Director Nehila has received about 500 emails regarding renaming Mitchell Park.

Other emails received included support for and opposition to pickleball.

Vice-President Caron provided a comment for those listening via Zoom. She stated that the issue of renaming Mitchell Park has come up in the past. The district has studied it in depth and held a public meeting solely devoted to the renaming of Mitchell Park and no members of the public attended. There is an opportunity for education here. She stated she doesn't want the public to think the board is ignoring the issue. This should definitely be an agenda item for a future meeting. All of the writings and history about this issue do not include any park district information. Director Nehila researched old minutes, and using information gathered by the library, was able to create a more in-depth history of the timeframe. Director Nehila presented the information learned to the board at the May 2, 2019 workshop. This presentation can be found on the district's website. Treasurer Cohen suggested people take the time to read the presentation. Commissioner Antokal stated that with all the hype the issue was receiving last year, he was surprised no one from the public attended the presentation.

Treasurer Cohen recommended moving on as the board could not take any action at this meeting. This issue will be a future agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Operations Update

Director Nehila provided an update on ever-changing COVID-19 Operations. Governor Pritzker has removed the Stay-at-Home order and the State is currently in Phase 3. Staff is waiting to find out what directives are in the Executive Order and then will be waiting for the Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity who creates the guidelines for what's allowed in each phase. This phase allows a lot of opportunity for people to get out and recreate more. Staff has been modeling and preparing but can't move forward until the guidelines are received.

Tennis: Tennis is now available for doubles play as of June 3 and all courts are available for reserving. Staff will add more nets in the next couple of weeks. Lights will also be able to be used at Mitchell Park. The high school has been great in working with us and will keep their courts open.

Sachs Recreation Center: The recreation center can offer indoor tennis, one-on-one training and outdoor fitness classes. The training and tennis will start June 8 and the fitness classes on June 15. All of this information will be posted on all of the district's platforms. Outdoor classes will be held at Woodland Park

and SRC. No information regarding indoor programming has been received yet.

Youth Sports: Pegasus will start on June 8 with practices. DYBSA baseball starts June 4 and softball starts over the weekend. AYSO cancelled their spring season so they will be back in the fall.

Registration Office: JPCC Registration Office will be open starting June 8 by appointment only.

Vice-President Caron asked how people are going to know the registration office is open if it's only advertised on the website. Director Nehila responded that it will be advertised on our social media, door signage and word of mouth.

Patty Turner Center: Even though the center would be permitted to open under Phase 3, the district felt it best to protect the most vulnerable population and will not open until mid-August. Activities will be by appointment only in groups of 10. This will be done for 3 weeks before opening to larger gatherings.

Camps: Staff continues to plan for summer camp offerings within local, state and federal guidelines. Camp is scheduled to begin on July 6, 2020 for 5 weeks followed by one week of Extra Added Attraction. The district accommodated all of those previously registered and still have openings for new participants. Campers will receive a t-shirt and a gaiter style face covering but may wear their own mask. All camp sites will have extra masks in case someone needs one.

Basketball Courts: Basketball courts will begin to be opened up this month.

Dog Park: The dog park will be opening in Phase 4 scheduled to begin June 30 or sooner.

Outdoor Restrooms: Outdoor restrooms will be opening in Phase 4.

Playgrounds and Fitness Stations: Playgrounds and fitness stations will remain closed until further notice.

Picnic Shelter Reservations: Picnic shelter reservations will be allowed in Phase 4.

Golf: The golf course is in full swing. Currently allowed are foursomes, family members can ride together, outdoor dining, half a chipping green and half a putting green. Staff reported that the course is busy and the food service has kicked in. Dining reservations are being received. The mobile app is available to order food. Staffing levels are increasing, and training continues. Making a reservation for the driving range is working out very well. For the most part, customers seem to be handling all the guidelines well and are just happy to be there. Jr. Golf programming is beginning on June 8. Offerings have been well received. Treasurer Cohen praised the golf staff for doing such a good job.

Jewett Park Renovation Project: Staff reported that the project should be completed by the end of June. The skatepark is finished and the ballfields and turf work remain. Staff hopes to open the skatepark as soon as possible but the ballfields probably will not open until late July.

Kenny Rudin Playground: The Kenny Rudin Playground installation should be completed in the next 2 weeks. Rubber surfacing remains to be done. Vice-President Caron commented that the playground looks like it has some exciting features and she hopes children can play on it soon. The dedication has been delayed until later this summer when there can be a larger gathering.

Pools: The district had decided to delay the decision whether or not to open the pools until guidelines were received from IDPH. No IDPH guidelines have been received to date, in fact, it seems that IDPH has turned the whole issue over to the DCEO to determine the guidelines. All the district knows that in Phase 3 you can't operate a pool and in Phase 4 you can have a gathering of 50 people with proper social distancing.

Since the district has waited so long to make a decision, staff feels that opening 2 pools isn't a possibility. The target date to open a pool would be July 6. If you back up the date to when you need to start training lifeguards and finish completing getting the pool ready, staff feels that the best decision at this time would be to only open Mitchell Pool this summer. This decreases the burden to open 2 pools. Since there are no guidelines for swimming, swimming lessons, new protocols for lifeguards wearing face masks, distancing on deck and grass areas, checking people in/out, providing locker rooms, providing chairs, and so many other things still have to be finalized. Until these guidelines are received, we can't apply them. Commissioners agreed with staff's recommendation to only open Mitchell Pool this summer.

Commissioner Lapin asked if it might be possible to keep the pool open longer if college students won't be returning to campuses in the fall. Director Nehila responded that the lifeguards could certainly be polled to determine if enough guards will be available. This can be revisited at a later date.

Other

Open Meetings Act

There is a Senate Bill out right now that may add or change operational requirements during emergencies. The way it looks at this time a virtual board meeting will be held for June 18. Director Nehila will keep the board updated.

Mitchell Park Renaming Request

Director Nehila asked the board for direction so that he may address the hundreds of emails received regarding the renaming of Mitchell Park. Vice-President Caron asked if a meeting should be held on this topic. Director Nehila commented that the challenge is being able to invite the public due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Commissioners mentioned there are apps/programs that allows for hundreds or thousands of users to join a meeting. Commissioners felt that the issue should be discussed at a later date when the guidelines have been loosened/lifted and the public would be able to attend.

Blood Drive at JPCC

Commissioner Antokal stated that the blood drive is being held on Sunday, June 7 and appointments are already being received. Thanks to staff for working to make the blood drive take place.

Commissioners thanked all of the staff for their efforts during this entire situation.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

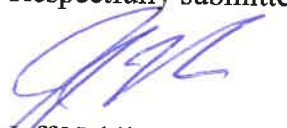
Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:49 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary