

**Deerfield Park District**  
**Pool Advisory Committee**

Minutes of September 24, 2020

The meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the following were:

Present: Sylvia Dresser, Shayna Lowe, Rick Patinkin, Jeff Nehila, Laura McCarty, Heather Lund

Absent: Mary Anne D’Onofrio, Samantha Garrity, Peter Greenfield

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Public Comments**

No public comment was received prior to the meeting.

**Recap of 2020 Pool Season**

Director Nehila provided an overview of the impact COVID had on the district as a whole and specifically the pools. The district closed facilities on March 13. After that point the district waited for official guidance from the state as to what was allowed. Golf and tennis were the first activities to be allowed with restrictions. Staff finally received some Phase 3 pool guidelines. Many discussions were held at board meetings regarding opening the pools. The district made a decision to try and open one pool with Phase 3 guidelines. Mitchell Pool opened on July 6. Even though it was an abbreviated season staff did an amazing job.

Laura commented that a lot of the planning revolved around waiting for guidelines. One major concern was if there would be enough staff willing to work to be able to open a pool. Fortunately, we ended up with a lot of staff. The other concern was how long we would have to get the pool ready to open and train staff. The pool was originally scheduled to open on June 6, but the date was pushed to July 6. The Phase 3 guidelines stated that we could open the pool for lessons, Coho Swim Team and lap swim only. In late June we finally received the Phase 4 guidelines that stated we could have public swim. We knew we were one of the only communities in the area that made the decision to open. We had to develop a lot of new systems. We now have a model to use for the 2021 season should we still be in Phase 4.

**Review of Pool Reports**

The committee reviewed the reports from the meeting packet starting with the history of swimming pool fees as well as the aquatic fees survey that included Northbrook, Highland Park, Glenview, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. Information was hard to gather because so many area pools didn’t open so no information was available.

The committee also reviewed historical data on pool coupons, daily fees, daily pool attendance, Learn to Swim enrollment, pool rentals, and the proposed pool schedules for 2021.

Season passes were not sold this year. Staff realized that by the time we opened and the short season and having to operate with limited capacity that we wouldn’t be able to offer the full value. That brought us to only being able to offer daily fee for public swim admission. We started with 50-person capacity but were able to increase to 75 based on space for social distancing.

The only pass sold this year was the lap swim pass. The lap swim pass sold out in minutes. There was a limit of 50 passes sold so that each user would have the opportunity to swim 3 times per week if desired. Reservations were able to be made online 5 days in advance. Staff added additional lap swim time blocks as some swim lessons were canceled.

Swim lessons were charged based on the number of classes offered as this program had to be revised as well.

### **Discussion/Committee Recommendations for 2021 Fees**

Below is a recap of fee recommendations for 2021:

- Increase the daily ticket by \$1.00 (from \$9 to \$10 each ticket)
- Increase lap swim season pass by \$5.00 for 2021
- Increase the swim lesson rate by \$2.00 per session for 2021

### **Other Items**

#### **Potential Operating Models for 2021**

Included in packets were three potential operating models for 2021. As a district we are preparing as if we will remain in Phase 4 next year but that could change at any time. If we remain in Phase 4, we will likely operate very similar to this year. Mitchell Pool would open full-time and if we have enough staff we would open Deerspring for lap swim, swim team and public swim on the weekends only. We would operate everything on a time block reservation system to control capacity. Lap swim passes would be sold for use at both pools and daily fee admissions will also be sold. If we can open both pools, Deerspring would open on June 5 and close on August 15 and Mitchell would open from June 12 – September 6.

#### **Capital items for Mitchell and Deerspring Pools for 2021**

Laura reported that the Deerspring splashpad renovation project originally scheduled for fall 2020/spring 2021 was deferred to begin in fall 2021/spring 2022. With Deerspring slated to close first next year, this gives the district time to get the project started so it can be completed in the spring of 2022.

We didn't do a lot of capital this year, but we did paint the lap pool and diving well at Mitchell before the start of the season

Shayna asked if the plans and equipment have been finalized for the Deerspring splashpad renovation. Director Nehila responded that the district was at the point where we had hired consultants and architects to begin designing and selecting equipment. The plan will include the splash pad only and not the kiddie pool. After reviewing the infrastructure cost for all the mechanical, plumbing and code issues that need to be addressed the renovation of the kiddie pool was removed from the scope of the project. Requests for Proposals for equipment were ready to be sent out when COVID hit. Once the proposals are received from vendors, staff can certainly distribute the drawings for the splash pad renovation.

Shayna mentioned she saw trucks and equipment at Deerspring and thought that the demo was beginning. Director Nehila responded that we are removing dead ash trees that are creating hazards.

**Pickleball Courts**

Committee member asked about the proposed pickleball courts at Deerspring. Director Nehila responded that the pickleball project was deferred due to COVID. The district still needs to get approval from the village board, but the village will not be discussing anything controversial until they begin meeting in person again.

Laura congratulated Aquatic Supervisor Heather Lund and the entire pool staff for doing a great job this summer with all the protocols and guidelines that were in place. Pool staff received two 5-star audit ratings.

With no further questions or comments, the Pool Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.