

**Deerfield Park District
Pool Advisory Committee**

Minutes of March 2, 2021

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

Present: Sylvia Dresser, Samantha Garrity, Peter Greenfield, Rick Patinkin, Jeff Nehila, Laura McCarty, Heather Lund, Jay Zahn

Public Comment

No emails marked for Public Comment were received prior to the meeting.

Review of Deerspring Spray Ground Equipment Proposals

On February 1, 2021, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was distributed to several qualified vendors/manufacturers to furnish spray ground equipment for the new Deerspring spray ground. The proposals were due back on February 12, 2021. A total of five proposals were received from four companies, one company submitted two proposals. Staff chose three of the five proposals to consider based on compliance with the RFP and staff's review. The three proposals chosen, Vortex, Water Odyssey and Rain Drop are all reputable companies that are considered industry leaders based on product quality and longevity of spray ground equipment. Proposals were included in packets for the committee to review.

The following is the timeline for beginning the project and it will be important to adhere to this timeline due to the amount of time staff are anticipating it will take to receive a permit for the project through IDPH. Adhering to this timetable will help to ensure the project can begin at the end of the 2021 pool season at Deerspring.

At the board workshop on Thursday, March 4, the Park Board will have the opportunity to hear the feedback from the committee and provide feedback on the equipment.

At the March 18 Park Board meeting, a recommendation for RFP approval and purchase will be presented. Based on the equipment selected, FGM Architects will begin the development phase for preliminary architectural designs and construction documents. After the design plans and construction documents are approved by staff and the Board in June, construction designs will be sent to IDPH and the project will be ready to be sent out for formal bidding. Staff is anticipating a 90-day review period with IDPH.

Bid proposal recommendations will be presented to the Board for approval at the July 15 Board meeting. Once approved, contracts will be executed, and staff will wait to receive permit approval from IDPH and the Village before construction can begin in September.

In addition, staff will be asking for an alternate bid for the spray ground surface. Many spray grounds industry wide are concrete or stained concrete, however based on the Board's feedback staff will ask FGM Architects to include an alternate bid for rubberized surfacing.

The first proposal reviewed was from Water Odyssey. Committee members agreed that it was sparse and didn't offer a lot of play options.

Sylvia asked about accessibility. Staff responded that they are all accessible but might not include accessibility for all play features.

Samantha asked if there was anything interactive. Staff responded that there are a few pieces that are interactive but not as many as in some of the other proposals.

Committee members agreed this was not their favorite.

The committee then reviewed the proposal from Vortex. Committee members commented that it looks more interactive and fun. They liked the bigger slides. Committee members liked the variety of play features, the sensory area, the number of play features and the variety of ages that can play.

The Rain Drop proposal was then reviewed. Peter commented that the slide was very small, and the play area was sparse. Samantha commented that it looks like it is for younger children. Children really like the slides and this one is too small. President Patinkin commented that only the Vortex equipment has water cannons which children really enjoy playing with. Sylvia agreed that it looks like it is for younger children, not children up to 8 years old.

Staff commented that the Vortex looks like it offers more features for the same money. We have equipment from Vortex at Mitchell and it has been very well received.

Sylvia asked if any of them will require a lifeguard. Staff responded that once the pool is open there will be lifeguards stationed in that area.

All committee members and President Patinkin gave the following ranking order: Vortex, Rain Drop, Water Odyssey. Staff ranking order: Vortex, Water Odyssey, Rain Drop.

Staff gave an update on plans for summer 2021 pool operations. We plan to open both pools this year. Deerspring will open on June 5 and will be used during the week for swim lessons, summer camps and Coho Swim Club. On the weekends Deerspring will offer lap swim and public swim.

Mitchell will be opening on June 12 and will operate similar to last year with an increase in the number of people that can be accommodated in each 2-hour time block. If guidelines change during the summer, we will make the necessary adjustments.

Staff thanked everyone for their time and input on the proposals.

The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is May 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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There being no further discussion, the Pool Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.