

**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

**March 18, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom video. The Secretary called the roll 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; Jeff Harvey, Jay Zahn, Laura McCarty, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2021, Regular Meeting; the March 4, 2021, Workshop Meeting; and the March 10, 2021, Special Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**FINANCE REPORT**

**Approval of Disbursements**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the Voucher Listing dated, March 18, 2021 in the amount of \$705,524.35 which includes \$1,094.99 of travel and training expenses.

Discussion followed:

Vice-President Caron asked about the high electric bill at Maplewood Park. Staff responded that it is due to the furnace in the restroom building that could be contributing to it. It is high compared to 2020, but in 2019 it was high during this same time frame.

Vice-President Caron asked what the results of the radon testing done in the preschool were. Staff responded that no radon was detected in the preschool.

Vice-President Caron asked about the 2021 year-to-date summary for golf lessons. Staff responded that we started taking lesson registration early this year in anticipation of golf booming this spring.

Treasurer Cohen asked if the pruning of the oak trees in Jewett Park is usually done in the winter and could any of the work be done in-house instead of hiring a company. Staff responded that winter is the best time to prune the trees and since these are very large oak trees, they require a lot of climbing and use of boom trucks.

Treasurer Cohen asked if we ever make new park signs in-house. Staff responded that we did occasionally make some in-house years ago, but now we don't have the set-up for staff to be able to do the signs in-house.

Treasurer Cohen asked about the large refund for over \$1,700. Staff responded that it is a refund for one child for our Little Scamper camp.

Commissioner Lapin asked about the additional equipment purchase for the Kenny Rudin Playground. Staff responded that initially we had left one piece of the old equipment in the playground. The Rudin family approached the park district and asked if that piece could be replaced with a new piece and agreed to pay half of the cost.

Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS:            None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

**PTC Members' Council**

A verbal report was given on the March 11, 2021 PTC Members' Council meeting. The Center has 525 active members as of March 1. Registration for March on site programs is light but increasing. One morning and one afternoon virtual programs are being held. Once the vaccination clinic opens, staff will increase the number of virtual programs being offered.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointments to Recreation Center Advisory Committee**

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, appoint Lauren Gordon, Anne Dickerson, Nicholas Solomon, Ilyse Steiner and Alan Barasky to the Recreation Center Advisory Committee for a 3-year term effective March 18, 2021. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS:            None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Appointment to Citizen's Golf Advisory Committee**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to appoint Mr. Paul Franson to the Deerfield Park District Citizen's Golf Advisory Committee for a 3-year term effective March 18, 2021.

Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS:            None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Appointment to Citizen's Pool Advisory Committee**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to appoint Andy Kettlewell to the Citizen's Pool Advisory Committee for a 3-year term effective 3, 18, 2021. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Strategic Plan 3 ½-Year Update**

The park district adopted its 5-year Strategic Plan in September, 2017. Within the plan there are 6 core strategies, 19 goals and 73 objectives. The district has benefitted from the plan for its alignment to community needs, the establishment of additional planning processes and district accountability. Nearly all of the objectives within the plan have been met and/or added onto. Only a handful of specific objectives remain to complete. A few of them are in process, (Gold Medal and GFOA Accounting Awards), and a few objectives covering car pooling and condensed work week examinations will be fully investigated and reported on by July of this year.

A number of the objectives have been integrated into departmental and individual performance plans and have established clear alignment within the district's operations. Congratulations to the district for achieving the significant majority of objectives to date.

**Resolution Authorizing Accounting Change to Preschool**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adopt Resolution #2021-01 authorizing the accounting change for the Deerfield Park District Preschool. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Update to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Manual**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve the update to Section 4006 of the Deerfield Park District's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Manual as presented. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Purchase Approval – Deerspring Spray Ground Equipment**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve the purchase of specified spray ground equipment from Vortex in the total amount of \$202,540 to furnish spray ground water features for the new spray ground at Deerspring Pool.

Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Request for Use of Woodland Pavilion and Running Trail for GiGi's Playhouse**

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the use of Woodland Park Pavilion and Running Trail to GiGi's Playhouse on June 5, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Resolution #2101-02 Authorizing Scott Nemanich and Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd., to intervene and take action in any Property Tax Appeal Board or County Board of Review Cases**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adopt Deerfield Park District Resolution #2021-02 authorizing its administration and attorneys – Scott E. Nemanich and Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd. – to intervene and take all necessary action in any Property Tax Appeal Board or County Board of Review Case as necessary to protect the interests of the District. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Community Survey Update**

Staff received and reviewed 4 RFQ's from firms interested in completing our next community survey. A total of 2 firms were selected by staff to continue on in the interview and selection process. Interviews with the 2 firms will be part of the April 1, 2021 Workshop Meeting.

**Other Matters**

**Investments**

Staff reported that we purchased a \$245,000 CD from First Bank of Highland Park and are getting 3.5% basis points on that CD. Staff will continue to research other higher yield opportunities.

**Floral Park Dedication**

Vice-President Caron mentioned that the new park signs are up at Floral Park. She asked how efforts were going to get the site completed so the district can hold a dedication. Staff responded that plans are moving forward to have the concrete work completed, the landscaping completed and the QR code sign installed. Other factors impacting the date of the dedication include COVID gathering restrictions and weather. Staff is hoping that as more people get vaccinated those COVID restrictions will be loosened and a date this summer for the dedication can be set.

**Golf Course**

Staff reported that the driving range is set to open on Saturday, March 20. The golf course is set to open, weather permitting, on March 26. The course has survived the winter in good shape, and we are excited to start our season.

The Friday Fish Fry attendance is up and down. One reason seems to be that those in between vaccinations are being extra cautious.

**Blumberg Park**

Staff reported that Kids Around the World removed the old playground equipment and installation of the new equipment will start soon. Staff anticipates a June reopening of the playground.

**Sachs Recreation Center**

**Postcard Return**

Staff reported that the new Sachs Recreation Center postcard was mailed to 21,000 households. 23 have already been redeemed and hopefully as people get their vaccines membership numbers will increase.

**RUSH Physical Therapy**

Staff reported that it has been a slow start for Rush Physical Therapy, but they do have a few clients coming in and out. Staff introduced Rush Physical Therapy to the Chicago Sky and North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics, and both have agreed to use them as their new physical therapy and athletic trainer provider.

President Patinkin and Vice-President Caron shared stories of how comfortable people feel in the Rec Center.

**Swimming Pools**

Staff is working on the time blocks for open swim and lap swim similar to the operating procedures last season. This helps staff control capacity numbers. We will only be selling a lap swim pass again this season. 54 lifeguards have been hired to date. The district continues to promote job opportunities through social media platforms, sandwich boards and advertising at Stevenson High School.

**Summer Camp**

Staff reported that 655 campers are enrolled in our summer camps and 100 campers are on wait lists mostly for the camps held at the community center and that is due to space limitations. We are currently looking to hire 15 additional camp staff.

**Safe Zone Program**

Staff will be participating in the Safe Zone program focusing on racism facilitated by the IPRA Diversity Committee on March 24. This is part of the DEI training and education processes the district is involved in.

**Vaccination Site**

A soft opening will be held starting on March 30 in order to help the Doctors Testing Group check their processes and procedures. Public roll-out will probably start on April 7 or 8.

**Restore Illinois Plan**

Governor Pritzker rolled out a Bridge Phase of the Restore Illinois Plan with a goal of getting to Phase 5. There are several metrics that need to be met before we get to the Bridge Phase, but it is a step towards Phase 5. Hopefully as more people get vaccinated, the state will move into the Bridge Phase.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

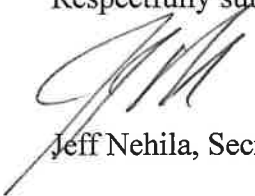
AYES:            Cohen, Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (5)

NAYS:           None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeff Nehila, Secretary