

**Deerfield Park District
Pool Advisory Committee**

Minutes of May 27, 2021

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

Present: Sylvia Dresser, Peter Greenfield, Andy Kettlewell, Lauren Patinkin, Sari Winick, Rick Patinkin, Jeff Nehila, Laura McCarty, Heather Lund

Absent: Samantha Garrity

Welcome

Andy Kettlewell, Lauren Patinkin and Sari Winick were welcomed to the Pool Advisory Committee.

Public Comment

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

Review of Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the March 2, 2021 Pool Advisory Committee meeting noting no changes/corrections.

Pool Advisory Committee Expectations

Laura reviewed committee member expectations and the meeting format.

2021 Pool Operations Review

Current Guidelines – Bridge Phase of Restore Illinois Plan

Laura presented the pool operations as they exist in the Bridge Phase. We do anticipate moving into Phase 5 on June 11.

Bridge Phase guidelines include facility capacity limits, time blocks and a reservation system. Time blocks are 2-hours for public swim and will include one lap lane available during public swim. Reservations for lap swim time blocks and splashpad time blocks are also being utilized. Capacity limits are 100 patrons at each facility.

Staffing

Heather reported that we have 96 lifeguards hired for the season. 44 of them have gone through their certification. Additional certification classes are scheduled for the remainder of the guards. We have 10 swim instructors hired and are looking to hire additional instructors. We have 6 head guards, 7 cashiers and 4 managers. We are also looking to hire additional cashiers.

Sylvia asked if the increase in pay contributed to the increase in lifeguard hiring. Heather responded that the pay is one of the factors. Another part is that we also changed the structure and have a head guard position which helped retain staff. We have 63 returning lifeguards this season.

Pool Operational Dates

Deerspring is opening June 5 through August 15. Mitchell Pool will open on June 12 through Labor Day, September 6. We will continue with the alternating of opening/closing of the pools. As of now, in the Bridge Phase, Mitchell Pool will serve as our public swim pool. Deerspring will offer lap swim, host Coho and be used daily for our summer camps.

Lauren asked if Mitchell will still offer the early morning lap swim. Laura responded that the 5:30 a.m. lap swim will be offered.

Sylvia commented that this is her second time on the committee and previously there has been discussion on alternating the opening /closing of the pools. She feels that Mitchell should always remain open at the end of the season as it is more accessible than Deerspring. Board Liaison Patinkin commented that Deerfield is a very fortunate community to have two amazing pools. People on both sides of town are territorial about the pools. This will be an on-going discussion.

Andy asked how the one swimmer per lane will work for the swim team. Laura responded that swim teams have to follow different guidelines than the park district. We have to follow Illinois Dept. of Public Health and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Lap Swim Procedures

Reservations will be required for each 45-minute lap swim time block at Deerspring. Reservations can be made online on our website or in person at the community center. Each reservation costs \$5.00. Reservations can be made 5 days in advance beginning at 9 a.m. Each time block will accommodate 6 swimmers.

Sylvia asked if it was correct that vaccinated persons would not have to wear a face covering on the pool deck. Laura responded that that is correct, and signage will be posted at the pools stating such.

Lifeguards will be masked expect when they are up in the guard chair.

In the event that we won't be moving into Phase 5 on June 11, lap swim reservations will be available for Mitchell starting on June 7 for June 12.

Public Swim Procedures

Public swim will be offered in 2-hour time blocks. Each time block can accommodate 100 swimmers. Fees are as follows: resident child 3-12 years of age \$5, resident 13+ years of age \$7, nonresidents \$10. Residents can make a reservation 5 days in advance and nonresidents 2 days in advance.

Sari asked how many people you can sign up at one time. Laura responded that you could register those people in your household.

Andy asked if Phase 5 has mask requirements. Laura responded that if you are vaccinated you do not need to wear a face covering. Andy commented that with children 12 and under not able to be

vaccinated, is it a practical guideline with so many people coming in and out. Laura responded that children 12 and under do not need a face covering when in the water but should wear one when they are walking around the deck.

Swim Lessons

Public swim lessons are scheduled to begin on June 14. Weekday morning lessons are being offered at Sachs and weekend lessons will be held at Deerspring. We are offering classes from Parent & Tot up through our Starfish Swim School and Stroke School.

Monday through Friday we will have camp swim lessons at Deerspring. We will also be offering private swim lessons by request.

We are getting a lot of request for swim lessons as children were not able to swim last summer.

Coho Swim Team

Coho will be holding practices in the early morning and evening hours at Deerspring. Coho will be hosting their annual Coho Classic July 9-11 at Deerspring Pool.

Concessions

We will be selling prepackaged ice cream at Mitchell Pool as well as prepackaged snacks at both pools.

Prior to 2019 we had a regular concession operation. The organization that was operating our concessions pulled out at the last minute and we weren't able to find someone to run them. We decided to offer prepackaged items for sale. This went well so we decided to continue it this summer.

We are optimistic and excited to hear the Governor announce that we will move into Phase 5 on June 11. We will be ready to sell pool passes and remove all of the reservations and time blocks.

Sylvia asked if the permanent lap lane will go in at Mitchell if we go to Phase 5. Laura responded that the lane will be put in at that point.

Andy asked if the Triathlon would be held this year. Laura responded that we will not be holding the Triathlon this year, but it should return next year.

Update on Deerspring Sprayground Project

We will be renovating the Sprayground at Deerspring beginning at the end of this pool season. This project was initially scheduled to begin at the end of the 2020 pool season, but due to COVID the project was deferred to this year. About half of the total cost of the budget is included in the 2021 capital projects budget and the remaining half will be in the 2022 budget.

The Pool Advisory Committee met in March to review and provide feedback on the sprayground design options. After the meeting, their feedback was taken to the board, who also provided feedback and chose

the equipment design. The chosen design was the favorite of the advisory committee as well as the park board.

The new equipment has 29 play features which is an upgrade over what we have. Features include sprinklers that spray water up from the ground, buckets that drop water from above, water slides and many more fun, interactive designs. The equipment is designed for 2 to 8 years of age. The equipment manufacturer, Vortex, is the same manufacturer of the kiddie pool equipment at Mitchell.

Construction is scheduled to begin when Deerspring closes in August until the weather prohibits work then will resume in the spring. The splashpad is scheduled to be complete for the 2022 swim season.

Lauren thanked the park district for doing such a great job.

The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is July 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further discussion, the Pool Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.