

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:38 p.m. The Secretary called the roll and the following were:

PRESENT: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin, Serota (5)

ABSENT: None (0)

and there was a quorum in attendance. Also present was Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Laura McCarty, Jay Zahn, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members; Tod Stanton, Public research Group; Ryan Twose, DYBSA; Gale Gand, Floral Park Advisory Committee; Kristy Becco, Meaghan Kleinfeldt, Kristen Fox, Jonathan Silver, Michelle Bernstein, Beth Lebovitz, residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2021, Regular Meeting. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Brown, Cohen, Serota, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

FINANCE REPORT

Approval of Disbursements

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Serota, to approve the Voucher Listing dated, July 15, 2021 in the amount of \$1,220,333.75 which includes \$367.79 of travel and training expenses. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Serota, Brown, Caron, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Patinkin welcomed visitors and guests to the meeting.

Gale Gand was present to ask the board to change the date of the Floral Park dedication to a date that more community members will be able to attend as many people travel that time of year. President Patinkin commented that the board has already agreed to change the date and it is an agenda item later in the meeting and will be discussed at that point.

Kristy Becco, Meaghan Kleinfeldt, Kristen Fox, Jonathan Silver, were present to address the board regarding the district's COVID-19 and mask protocols for summer camps especially when campers are outdoors and for the upcoming preschool year. After each read a statement, President Patinkin responded that staff is working with other local officials and organizations and will report their findings to the board. The board and district will act accordingly after the necessary information is received.

Michelle Bernstein and Beth Lebovitz were present to address the board regarding teaching tennis lessons on park district courts as private instructors. President Patinkin commented that the park district has a policy that private instructors are not allowed to teach on district courts for their own profit. The district has had a tennis contractor that taught at Sachs Recreation Center and the outdoor courts for many years. Staff is working to secure a new contractor to offer a tennis program. Vice-President Caron stated anyone wanting to teach on our courts should find out how to teach under district requirements. There are signs posted at the courts stating that they can't be used to teach private lessons. We don't allow any private lessons for basketball, swimming, yoga or anything else. When we find out that this is happening we do something about it. As a taxpayer you can play tennis, but taxpayers should not be subsidizing private profit. President Patinkin stated that the park district is encouraging partnerships with the contractors and affiliates to teach programs. Treasurer Cohen reiterated that we don't allow people to teach professionally on our property. President Patinkin encouraged them to work with the district and thanked them for their time.

Golf Advisory Committee

A verbal report was given on the July 8, 2021 Golf Advisory Committee meeting. Discussion topics included operational updates, brainstorming for course and facilities improvements and upcoming important dates and events.

Deerfield Park Foundation

A verbal report was given on the July 12, 2021 Deerfield Park Foundation meeting. Discussion topics including board recruitment, fundraising and Moonlight Golf. The two Linda Gryziecki Scholarships were also awarded at this meeting.

Affiliate Advisory Committee

A verbal report was given on the July 15, 2021 Affiliate Advisory Committee meeting. Discussion topics included spring season review, field maintenance update, fall registration numbers and field needs, DHS turf use and park district and school field needs for fall.

PTC Members' Council

A verbal report was given on the July 8, 2021 PTC Members' Council. There are currently over 530 active members as of July 1. The Center had 7 new members join in June, bring the 2021 new member total to 20. A new member reception is being planned for September or October. The Members' Council will meet live beginning in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Delphi Focus Group Presentation

As part of our community needs assessment, a focus group of community stakeholders was recruited and meetings were held to solicit feedback, ideas and suggestions from the group. Representatives from D109, West Deerfield Township, Deerfield Library, Patty Turner Center Members' Council, Coho Swim Club, Pegasus Soccer Club, AYSO Soccer, DYBSA, Young Warriors Football, Deerfield Youth Lacrosse, Deerfield Family Theater and the Men's Adult Soccer Team met once in late May and again in late June. Tod Stanton from the Public Research Group facilitated the meetings. One desired outcome of the meetings was for the group to prepare a summary of their discussion. Another was for representative(s) of the group to present their findings to the Park Board.

Tod Stanton, Public Research Group, and Ryan Twose, Delphi Group representative, were present to share the summary of the group's meetings.

Recreation Programs

Deerfield is a community blessed with a park district that has high quality facilities and a variety of programs both in athletics as well as the arts and general programming. The athletic affiliates offer high quality house and travel-based teams. Community facilities such as the Sachs Recreation Center and Jewett Park Community Center offer programming and day care as well as after school programs. In the summer the park district works in conjunction with School District 109 to offer summer camps. The Patty Turner Center offers seniors quality programming throughout the year.

The groups' main focus in this area was offering enhanced year-round programming to families and adults who have become empty nesters. The committee also recognizes that many citizens have shifted, (maybe temporarily), to a more home-based lifestyle where they spend more time working from home and staying in the community as opposed to commuting downtown or to remote offices.

First the committee suggested offering an affiliate night and open house at Brickyards Park to take place in late August of every year. This would allow the community to meet members of our affiliates firsthand to discuss programming. It could also offer a contest like a drone/fire ladder golf ball drop.

The committee made several suggestions for adult programming such as art classes, pickleball and the return of the Maplewood Park campout night. Additionally, several small group-learning opportunities were suggested. These included build a drone, brew beer, grill master, photography, learning card games poker/euchre, ballroom dance, coral/choir singing, pet programming, drive-in movie nights and severe weather prep. Also, Community Theater, bands, tech courses and robotics as well as a chili cook-off and gardening courses. The committee also stressed the need for special needs programs for community members that needed them. Maybe in partnership with an outside organization. Also, connecting trails and pathways to Deerfield parks to provide a connected 5k, 10k, 20k jogging path and cross country skiing trail as well the addition of dedicated bicycle lanes to the community.

Parks and Facilities

Overall, the park district has some great facilities. In order to further facilitate some of the above suggestions committee members called for a bocce court, full-sized chess, pickleball and connected trail system to be developed between Deerfield parks and facilities. Designating bike lanes throughout the village could help cyclists who ride the north shore and north suburban road biking routes. A community garden plot was also discussed.

The development of a historical museum was discussed as well as the need to make sure that any future facilities development was done with environmental sustainability such as rain barrel and composting, (community garden), or the addition of solar cells at both new and existing facilities.

Several of the athletic affiliates suggested the need for indoor and/or outdoor turf space to practice and play games on. This included baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football affiliates for both house and travel leagues. Additionally, Coho Swim Club expressed a need for a new indoor pool of 50-75 meters in length.

Also, the baseball affiliates made several suggestions about irrigation on some of its fields as well as the desire to negotiate a Service Level Agreement with the district to insure ongoing maintenance and improvement of outdoor baseball facilities.

The committee discussed several ideas about the size and location of a new indoor athletic turf facility and indoor pool. Several members thought that an indoor facility could be considered in the back soccer/baseball fields of Caruso Middle School. It was also suggested that a temporary inflatable dome could be placed at the Brickyards Park facility, which could be deflated in spring to offer outdoor turf as well. Utilizing the backfields of District 113 behind Deerfield High School was also discussed as a possibility. Putting the facility on the Deerfield golf course driving range in winter was also discussed as well as purchasing land from the Walgreens campus.

However, the location that garnered the most consensus was the purchase and development of part of the Deerbrook Mall property located adjacent to the Sachs Recreation Center. The committee concluded that a study should be carried out to look at the feasibility of constructing an indoor turf field surface plus a full-sized pool facility. In addition, maybe an indoor waterpark could be added to enhance the appeal of the facility for people outside the community to visit on a per person fee basis. The committee feels that this location offers the most access (there is even a highway exit south of the area) with minimal disruption to homeowners in Deerfield.

Financials

Several financial alternatives were discussed to fund the proposed athletic/pool space. Soliciting private or corporate partners, affiliate funding or fundraising and the issuance of a bond by the park district in order to build the facility. After discussing the current financial status of the park district and considering its high credit rating as well as the historically low interest rate environment, it was the consensus of the committee that the issuance of bonds to build the proposed facility was the best option.

Community Survey Draft Review

Staff has been working with the Public Research Group on updating the draft of the community survey anticipated to be administered this summer. A number of changes in sequence, scales and subject matter have been made to best measure the community's satisfaction levels with programs, services and amenities. Additional questions are intended to reflect the recent Delphi Committee's focus group's contributions to the needs assessment process as well as address areas that staff believes it is important to measure or identify.

The board will notice that questions 23, 24, 30 and 31 include some of the Delphi Committee's topics of discussion to include a measurement of potential additional tax support for large scale projects.

Commissioner input will be incorporated into the survey prior to distribution.

Floral Park Dedication Date

Upon sending an email update on the planned dedication date of August 7 to the Floral Park Advisory Committee, some members have requested the district consider moving the date to September to possibly encourage more attendance. As you recall, the August 7 date was selected in part to work around state and federal legislators' calendars and when they're not in session. So far, only State Representative Bob Morgan can attend on August 7. After discussion, August 21 was selected as the new date for the Floral Park Dedication date.

Personnel Policy Manual Update – Section 3.27 – Whistleblower Reporting and Anti-Retaliation Policy and Procedures

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to add the Whistleblower Reporting and Anti-Retaliation Policy and Procedures to the Deerfield Park District Personnel Policy Manual as Section 3.27. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Caron, Brown, Serota, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Harvest Fest Class II Alcohol Permit Request from the Village of Deerfield

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Serota, to approve the Village of Deerfield’s Class II Alcohol Permit Request for September 18, 2021 at Shepard Park in accordance with Park District Ordinance No. 0628 Section 4. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Serota, Brown, Caron, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Request for Use of Jaycee Park for the Walk for Parker Fundraiser

Motion made by Commissioner Serota, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve the use of Jaycee Park as a start and finish for the annual “The Walk for Parker” 3K walk and 5K run on Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Serota, Caron, Brown, Cohen, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Other Items

Operational Updates

Rain Barrels

Staff reported that as part of our Going Green initiative in our Strategic Plan, the district has purchased rain barrels to be placed at Patty Turner Center.

Deerspring Splashpad

The Deerspring Spray Ground Project Construction Bid Documents are being finalized and we plan to have them available for prospective bidders in early August. As soon as the plans and drawings are finalized, they will be sent along with our permit application to IDPH for their approval. We plan to have the bids available for approval at the September Board meeting.

Golf

Staff reported that outings are starting and other banquet events are returning to the course. The course continues to be very busy.

Patty Turner Center

Patty Turner Center is transitioning to reopening and indoor programs are returning. A Frank Sinatra Tribute event will be held at the center on August 4. This is the first in-person large special event held since the beginning of COVID. In September, center members will attend the Cubs vs. Brewers game.

Coho Classic Swim Meet

The Coho Classic Swim meet was held at Deerspring July 9-11. Nine teams with over 600 swimmers participated in this very successful event.

Sachs Recreation Center

Open gyms have returned and are very busy. This has been a highly requested activity.

RUSH Physical Therapy

RUSH Physical Therapy has continued to take on new clients. The clinic manager has shared that they will be expanding their clinic hours heading into the fall to accommodate increased demand for services. They are looking to be part of our Walk, Ride and Roll event, Hoopla and the Health Expo this fall.

Group X Survey

In July we will be sending out an online survey to everyone with a Group Exercise membership or a Full Access membership. We are interested in feedback on our current platforms and class schedules as well as feedback on Group Exercise class interests for this Fall/Winter. We specifically want to know what the comfort level is for returning to inside classes at SRC. The survey results will be even more important as we put together our Fall/Winter schedules.

Commissioner Brown asked how we are doing bringing a new tennis program to the community. Staff responded that we should have an agreement finalized in the next couple of weeks to offer tennis lessons indoors at Sachs this fall.

Demographic Study

Executive Director Nehila reported that he spoke with SD109 and the village regarding cost sharing for a demographic study. Staff will continue this dialog and work out the details.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adjourn into Closed Session at 10:20 p.m. pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Caron, Brown, Serota, Patinkin (5)

NAYS None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:24 p.m.

ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Brown, after review of Closed Session Minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21), the following will be made available for public inspection: December 10, 2020.

Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Brown, Cohen, Serota, Patinkin (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:25 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Cohen, Caron, Brown, Serota, 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, August 19, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary