

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS November 4, 2021

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:31 p.m. at the Jewett Park Community Center. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin, Serota (5)
Absent: None (0)

And there was a quorum in attendance. Also present were Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Laura McCarty, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, Sherry Prause, staff members; Greg Petry, American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; Tod Stanton, Public Research Group; Gil Antokal, Joab Silverglade, residents.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Patinkin welcomed visitors and guests to the meeting.

Joab Silverglade, 843 Hazel Avenue, was present to discuss trees in Jewett Park. A couple of months ago several pine trees were removed from the berm along the west side of the Jewett Park North parking lot. He wanted to find out why the healthy pine trees were removed.

President Patinkin responded that there is no one on the board that would approve of cutting down a healthy tree. He also stated that the park district spends thousands of dollars a year on new trees. Director Nehila responded that the trees were in decline and also noted that maybe the landscaper got a little overzealous in their tree removal with the one tree and it could have remained. He reported that new spruce trees will be planted to replace the trees that were removed.

Joab also asked that the lights for the Optimist Christmas Tree Sales lot not be directed towards his house.

Gold Medal Finalist Award Presentation

Greg Petry, a representative from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, was in attendance to present the district with its Gold Medal Finalist Award. The district was fortunate enough to be named a finalist in its category of serving communities under 30,000 residents this year. The award process honors public park and recreation agencies and state park systems throughout the US and armed forces programs worldwide that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

Community Survey Presentation

Tod Stanton from Public Research Group was in attendance to present the Community Survey project to the board. Tod also provided information on the Opt-In component of the project which was previously submitted to the board. Tod performed some drill down investigations in relation to the preference of first-come, first-serve registration desires by the community, time-of-day preferred program times, the use of the district's app and pool use related information.

The survey was a good project as it presented many confirmations of the services provided as well as future desires of the district's residents. The data collected also help steer some of the bond-related projects anticipated for 2022 and will also be valuable input in development of the next Strategic Plan.

Tod reported that there is a 95% confidence rating in the responses. Highlights include: the district had an 86% satisfaction rating. NPS score of 34.9 is a high, strong mark. Other findings include the majority of the community prefers first-come, first-serve registration; the pools are a very important part of the community; SRC is the facility used most often; the parks are well liked and utilized; the community would like to use the app for a calendar of events; encouraging responses for an Indoor Sports Facility could represent an opportunity to explore; and support for pickleball courts.

There are a lot of things within the survey results that have already been incorporated into the FY2022 budget.

Staff recommends that we take time in the near future to do some visioning for Sachs. With the decline in fitness center usage due to COVID, staff needs to determine what is best use of all the spaces in the facility.

Commissioner Caron suggested the park district offer an exercise program at Sachs focused on people with early dementia. This could be offered during the day when the facility is typically not busy.

Other Matters

Deerfield Family Theater

Deerfield Family Theater's production of *School House Rock!* tickets are on sale for shows on November 12-14 and November 19-21.

Service Anniversary Awards

Treasurer Cohen and Vice-President Caron will receive their 20-year and 30-year service anniversary awards, respectively, at the November 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

Pickleball

Commissioners reviewed plans for the proposed pickleball courts at Shepard Park. Staff is waiting for the sound study results. We do not have to move one of the ballfields to Woodland, we can just flip the position of the two ballfields at Shepard. There has been no indication from the village that a traffic study needs to be done.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 8:56 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary