

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS October 6, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Caron at 7:00 p.m. in the Jewett Park Community Center. The Secretary called the roll, and the following were:

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

ABSENT: None (0)

Staff: Executive Director Jeff Nehila, Director of Finance Jeff Harvey, Director of Recreation Laura McCarty, Deputy Director of Recreation and SRC General Manager Tony Korzyniewski, JPCC Program Manager Mark Woolums, Aquatics Manager Jeff Napolski, Director of Golf Operations Jason Mannina and Director of Parks Jay Zahn.

2. Matters from the Public

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

3. Summer Camp FY 2023

Program Discussion and Approval of Fees

Recreation Director McCarty initiated the discussion by providing a brief recap of the 2022 camp season. Camp enrollments for 2022 (1,130) were significantly higher compared to 2021 actual enrollment figures (826). With the continued easing of COVID related restrictions across the state, staff were able to build upon last year's programming gains and provide weekly field trips to all full day camps. Over 86% of camp participants were Deerfield residents. Camp cancellations increased 3.2% as compared to total enrollment. These numbers are still down 6.09% from 2019 cancellations compared to total enrollment. Registration opened in November in 2021 and many people registered early to secure a spot, so these cancellations are primarily due to change of plans. Overall, 2022 was a successful, fun and safe camp season.

Recreation Director McCarty covered the 2022 Budget vs Actuals and reported the net revenue generated by summer camp was \$464,681, which was better than budgeted. Although revenue was slightly lower due to actual participation numbers, staff managed to keep expenses low which resulted in the positive net revenue result.

Recreation Director McCarty provided an analysis of neighboring Park Districts with respect to their summer camp offerings and a brief walkthrough of the District's plans for summer camp in 2023. Camps are expected to run without capacity or pod restrictions. There was a discussion regarding other changes made in 2023 such as the shift to non-gender specific camp names and co-ed offerings.

Staff prepared the FY2023 budget price for camps based on the actual costs from the 2022 camp season. Staff predicts that expenses will increase in 2023 due to minimum wage increases and inflation. As such, staff recommends a moderate 5% increase in all camp fees. Even with this increase, the District's daily and hourly fee for camps remains affordable and consistent with other park districts in the area. This 5% fee increase also applies to Extended Care. Additionally, staff recommends keeping the \$5.00 registration surcharge and that the wages be increased to recruit and retain employees.

Vice President Cohen moved and Commissioner Brown seconded a motion to approve the 2023 proposed summer camp fees, as recommended by staff.

Prior to a vote, President Caron initiated a brief discussion with respect to camp cancellation times. Staff indicated the two-week cancellation timeframe is fair. Furthermore, camp registration will begin in January as opposed to November.

The motion **carried** in a unanimous roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

4. Golf Club and Learning Center FY 2023

Competitive Market Analysis and Approval of Fees

Golf Director Mannina reported that staff conducted an annual Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) on neighboring area courses to benchmark where the DGC is at competitively within the Northshore. While some DGC rates may be higher than other area courses, dynamic pricing offers staff the opportunity to adjust these rates when necessary. Cart fees and season passes are consistent among the competition.

Rising inflation and minimum wage increases have had a substantial impact on DGC operations. Landscape materials have gone up 33% in the past three years and chemicals have gone up 20%. As a result, the District is approaching an expenditure of roughly \$120,000 a year on chemicals alone to keep the course in pristine playing condition. Replacement parts, fertilizer, seed, fuel and costs associated with capital projects are also up exponentially. Staff has cut expenditures where possible, however, revenue must also be addressed in order to remain profitable. While staff is comfortable with the existing green fees and dynamic pricing, staff is recommending that resident passes be increased by 10% and nonresident passes be increased by 20% with a cap on rounds for nonresidents.

Additionally, staff is recommending price increases on range balls as there have been ball theft issues, the price of balls is steadily increasing and there are significant labor costs associated with staffing the range.

Lastly, staff is recommending permanent tee time price increases and a no-show fee on pass holders to curtail this negative behavior. Through the end of July, the District was down \$10,000 on no-show fees for permanent tee times only.

Golf Director Mannina provided a brief recap of the discussion held at the prior Golf Advisory Committee meeting. He provided what current season passes equates to per round and explained why they will still be a great value, despite the moderate price increases requested.

The Board discussed staff recommendations at length and ultimately, Vice President Cohen moved and Treasurer Patinkin seconded a motion to approve the 2023 Deerfield Golf Club fees as presented, with the following amendments:

- Place a pass cap at 80 18-hole rounds and charge a fee of \$20 per round after 80 rounds for nonresidents.
- Raise the single rider add-on cart fee from \$6 to \$10 per person.
- Limit weekday/weekend pass holder rounds to one round per day with a surcharge fee of \$20 per round for additional rounds the same day.

The motion **carried** in a unanimous roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Serota and Patinkin (5)
NAYS: None (0)

5. Pool Fees FY 2023

Pool Operations Recap FY 2022 and Approval of 2023 Fees

Recreation Director McCarty reported that the Pool Advisory Committee met last Thursday to receive a report on the end of the 2022 pool season and provide input on the 2023 proposed fees. This season staff was able to offer normal admission types such as the season pass, daily fee and the coupon book. Additionally, staff was able to bring back birthday parties, rentals and swim lessons. These services were popular prior to the pandemic and continue to be popular. The Deerspring Sprayground was able to open on August 25th for eight days and will be fully operational next season. Within the eight days Deerspring was open, there were 570 visitors. Overall, 2022 was a safe and fun season and Recreation Director McCarty commended Aquatics Manager Napolski on a job well done.

Looking ahead to the next season, Recreation Director McCarty reviewed the pool fee history and proposed 2023 fees. Staff is recommending that all daily fee rates remain the same as the fees are comparable to surrounding area pools. Staff is proposing a 5% increase in regular season passes primarily due to minimum wage increases and expenses associated with operating the pools. To emphasize the value in purchasing a season pass, Director McCarty provided a pool pass per visit cost. The early bird 20% discount for season passes is very popular as the District sells approximately 83% of season passes during this time

Furthermore, staff is recommending swim lesson rates be increased \$6-\$8 based on the fact that the District was initially underpriced as compared to competitors. Staff is recommending that private rentals and birthday party rates be increased for the same reasons stated earlier. Staff has eliminated the 1½ rental option in 2023 as it complicated the offerings and most rentals last a full two hours. There was a brief discussion about the profitability of pool rentals at the SRC.

Moving on, Recreation Director McCarty provided the Board the proposed 2023 pool operating hours and gave them an opportunity to provide input and recommendations. President Caron noted an oversight with respect to the kiddie pool schedule at both pools and requested this be adjusted prior to publishing.

Recreation Director McCarty then provided the Board data as it relates to current pool staff and proposed 2023 hourly wages. Minimum wage will be increasing to \$13 per hour effective January 1. This past season, staff were paid \$14 an hour. Since the state has implemented an annual dollar increase in minimum wage, the District has paid \$2 more than the minimum wage to remain competitive, attract, recruit and retain employees. As a result, staff is proposing a \$15 minimum starting wage in 2023. Staff is also proposing that staff working through Labor Day receive an additional \$2 dollars per hour to encourage them to stay through the season. Staff who commit to working year-round at the SRC will receive an additional \$3 an hour not to exceed \$22 per hour.

Treasurer Patinkin moved and Commissioner Serota seconded a motion to approve the full-year 2023 proposed pool fees, as recommended by staff.

The motion **carried** in a roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

6. Presentation and Discussion of Estimated/Proposed 2022 Tax Levy

Finance Director Harvey advised that normally this discussion would happen at the budget meeting in November. However, staff has requested this conversation be held earlier this year to gauge what percentage the Board would like to use for the 2022 tax levy given the high inflationary environment. Finance Director Harvey reviewed historical tax levy data, inflation rates and provided levy calculations based on hypothetical scenarios. There was general Board consensus that the levy be set at the maximum 5% as CPI is up as high as 8% currently. Finance Director Harvey agreed and acknowledged that at 5%, this will still pan out to a 2% 10-year average. The Board commended Finance Director Harvey on his thorough analysis. There was a brief Board discussion regarding the portion of Cook County property taxes the District is poised to receive. Deerfield Park District is unique in that it falls within both Lake and Cook County boundaries. Finance Director Harvey advised staff anticipates receiving those funds by the end of the first quarter of 2023. Cook County was experiencing problems issuing property tax bills which caused the delay.

President Caron initiated a brief discussion as to what the Village intends to levy. Director Nehila advised that the Park District receives a low amount of funds via property taxes as compared to other local units of government. President Caron further advised that there is a use it or lose it aspect of the tax cap and if the money is not levied, the Park District loses that potential revenue source. The Park District has limited sources of income; therefore, it is in the Park District's best interest to maximize permissible tax levies.

7. Other Matters...

2023 IAPD/IPRA Conference

Director Nehila advised that the Illinois Association of Park Districts in collaboration with the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association will be hosting its annual state conference on January 26-28 in Chicago.

Joint Board Picnic

Director Nehila advised of the return of the Joint Board Picnic in which local agencies throughout Deerfield including D109, D113, Fire, Township and the Park District meet once a year in person to provide a status update with respect to their agency. President Caron encouraged other Board members to attend as it is a good opportunity to meet other local elected officials and share information.

Staff Holiday Party

There will be a staff holiday party on December 2nd at the Patty Turner Center.

Land Acquisition

There is a strip of land on the north side of Jewett Park where the power lines are that the Village has officially vacated. As a result, the Park District will acquire this property.

Grant Application(s)

The OSLAD grant has been formally submitted and staff will receive notification in four to six months as to the recipient. Staff is also working on a forestry grant which will be used towards a comprehensive tree inventory for the District.

8. Motion made by Treasurer Patinkin, seconded by Vice President Cohen, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:09 p.m. Voice vote carried as follows:

AYES: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin and Serota (5)
NAYS: None (0)

The next Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary