

**Minutes of the Workshop Meeting Board of Park Commissioners**      **April 13, 2023**

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Caron at 7:02 p.m. in the Administrative Offices of the Deerfield Park District located in the Jewett Park Community Center. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present:        Brown, Caron, Patinkin, Serota (4)  
Absent:         Cohen (1)

Staff: Executive Director Jeff Nehila

**III. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors**

No members of the public were present.

**IV. Jewett Park Planning**

Consultants from Upland Design were in attendance to review progress on the master plan and seek guidance from the Board with respect to the playground and water feature. Upland is confident the plan will move swiftly through the Village approval process and intends to bid the project in July, receive potential bid approval in August and achieve a target start construction date of September. The Consultants then briefly reviewed existing site plan elements. Key takeaways include the main concrete pedestrian walkway offset by smaller crushed stone walkways throughout the native gardens to clearly define spaces within the park. The picnic shelter is a wood structure design, consistent with other shelters throughout the District. The active space challenge course will include artificial turf surfacing to minimize ongoing maintenance. This space will transition into the multigenerational game plaza. The Consultants then presented the Board with three playground options. Each option was ADA accessible and included sensory pieces for inclusive play. The Board analyzed each option in depth and asked relevant questions. Consensus was formed around the third option provided by Burke with the color scheme to be discussed further at a later date. Moving on, Upland Design turned the Board's attention to the passive aspects of the park with the center focal point being the water feature. It was agreed Upland pursue the sphere option. There was also discussion regarding the design choice for the amphitheater, pavement materials, the challenge course components, trees within the park, interpretive signage, and the budget in relation to these elements. Overall, the Board was pleased with Upland's design work and expressed excitement to move forward with the plan.

**V. Other Matters**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**

Executive Director Nehila advised the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade will proceed this year despite anticipated low participation levels. There was a brief discussion regarding safety concerns associated with last year's tragedy at the Highland Park parade.

**IAPD Legislative Breakfast**

Director Nehila reported that IAPD is hosting their annual Legislative Conference May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Springfield for Board members who are interested in attending.

**Volunteer Recognition Event**

Director Nehila reminded the Board that the Volunteer Recognition event will take place next Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. for those who are able to attend.

**D109 Focus Group**

Director Nehila advised School District 109 is seeking one elected official from each local agency to participate in their focus group. Commissioner Brown will serve as the Park District representation with Commissioner Serota acting as the alternate.

**VI. Adjournment to Closed Session**

Commissioner Serota moved and Commissioner Brown seconded a motion to enter Closed Session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel of the District and purchase or lease of real estate in accordance with Section 2(c)1 and Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act at 8:23 p.m.

Roll call vote **carried** as follows:

AYES: Brown, Caron, Patinkin and Serota (4)  
NAYS: Cohen (1)

**VII. Reconvene to Open Session**

The Board reconvened to the Open Session of the April 13, 2023 Board Meeting at 8:48 p.m. The Secretary called the roll, and the following were:

PRESENT: Brown, Caron, Patinkin and Serota (4)  
ABSENT: Cohen (1)

**VII. Possible Action from Closed Session**

Treasurer Patinkin moved and Commissioner Serota seconded a motion to appoint Jeff Harvey as Executive Director of the Deerfield Park District effective May 18, 2023.

By a unanimous voice vote; **Motion Carried.**

**VIII. Motion made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Treasurer Patinkin, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 8:50 p.m.**

By a unanimous voice vote; **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jeff Nehila  
Executive Director