

Deerfield Park District
Pool Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of May 18, 2023

(1) Call to Order

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

Present: Director of Recreation Laura McCarty, Deputy Director of Recreation Tony Korzyniewski, Aquatics Manager Jeff Napolski, Park Board Commissioner Rick Patinkin, and Committee Members Sari Winick, Lauren Patinkin, Michael Fleming and Andy Kettlewell

Absent: Gerard Boner

(2) Matters from the Public

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

(3) Review of Committee Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2022

A review of the September 29, 2022, minutes revealed no changes.

(4) 2023 Pool Operations Updates

(a). Operating Dates and Hours

Recreation Director McCarty advised the Deerspring Sprayground will open Memorial Day weekend from 10AM-5PM. Deerspring pool will officially reopen for the season that following weekend on Saturday, June 3rd. It will remain open through August 13th. Mitchell pool will open on Saturday, June 10th and will remain open through Labor Day weekend. In 2023, staff had hoped to reduce the kiddie pool hours at Mitchell in an effort to encourage patrons to visit the new sprayground at Deerspring and accommodate additional learn-to-swim lessons. However, after receiving negative feedback from the public, staff has reverted to the original kiddie pool schedule. A Committee member asked why both pools are closed each day from 12PM to 12:30PM. Aquatics Manager Napolski advised staff needs time to clean and convert the area from private swim to open swim. Additionally, this is mandatory per Illinois Statute. Employees need a punch out break by the fifth hour that lasts at least twenty minutes. As of January 2023, the Statute has been refined to include violations in the amount of \$1,000.

(b). Staffing

Due to the majority of seasonal staff returning to college mid-August, only one pool can operate the entire season. Mitchell pool is the more popular pool among the community due to its amenities, which is why it will remain open through Labor Day weekend. The last three weeks of the season, pool hours are reduced as staff continue to fall off. There are currently 93 lifeguards on staff with seven interviews pending. If the District can retain 100 lifeguards, there will be 17 more lifeguards than last season with 51 seasonal staff returning. Referral bonuses and new hiring initiatives were incredibly successful. Due to statewide minimum wage increases, lifeguards will start at \$15.00 hourly.

(c). Season Pool Pass Sales

To date, the District has sold roughly 1000 pool passes at the early bird discounted rate which will end May 26th. The District sells approximately 80-85% of pool passes during this time. Staff is also offering the Sachs Recreation Center “add on” to the pool pass which will provide a lower rate for pool passes to

those who have a fitness membership. The District has sold 5 SRC “add on” passes to date. Anyone who purchases a pool pass must take a photo ID for their pass. Returning users can utilize their existing pass.

(d). Rentals & Birthday Parties

New in 2023, staff has increased the price of private rentals and birthday party rates as the District was underpriced in comparison to competitors. Staff also eliminated the 1½ rental option in 2023 as it complicated the offerings and added a 10AM-12PM rental option at Deerspring on Saturdays and Sundays which are by far the most popular rental currently. There is also a 7PM-9PM rental option at Mitchell pool on Saturdays and a 5PM-7PM rental option at both Mitchell and Deerspring. Manager Napolski advised there are 36 pool parties booked to date.

(e). Swim Lessons

New in 2023, staff has added an extra weekday class at 8:40AM. There are two ½ hour weekday lessons currently offered. There are group class lessons Saturday mornings between 9AM and Noon and private lessons on Sunday morning between 9:30AM and Noon. Private lessons remain ongoing at the SRC indoor pool. Summer camp children will receive lessons Monday through Thursday and there are also two outside groups receiving swim lessons, Christian Beginnings and Deerfield Montessori School. Staff may offer additional swim lessons depending on enrollment numbers.

(f). Concessions

Staff intends to continue to sell prepackaged snacks at both pools as well as ice cream at Mitchell. New in 2023, the District has secured a contract with Tony’s Subs to sell prepackaged sandwiches. Commissioner Patinkin asked why ice cream is only sold at Mitchell pool. Recreation Director McCarty advised Deerspring does not receive enough customers to support sales. A Committee member asked for clarification regarding prepackaged snacks. Aquatics Manager Napolski advised that these snacks include prepackaged chips, candy and granola bars. There was a brief discussion regarding vegetarian options. Recreation Director McCarty advised that in 2022, the District made \$8,000 in net profit between both pools.

(g). COHO Swim Club

Deputy Director Korzyniewski advised the COHO Classic will begin June 3rd. It will be hosted between Deerspring Pool and Deerfield High School. He also provided the Committee with a brief overview of their training schedule over the summer.

(5) Other Items for Discussion

July 4th Free Swim

Recreation Director McCarty advised the Foundation will continue to sponsor the 4th of July free swim at both District pools.

Tin Man Triathlon

The Tin Man Triathlon is scheduled for June 10th at Floral Park and Mitchell Pool. There are currently 13 individuals registered. Interest levels remain low among the community. The Committee expressed concern over how the event is marketed. Recreation Director McCarty advised there will need to be at least 50 participants for the event to run.

(6). The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

(7). There being no further discussion, the Pool Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.