

**Deerfield Park District**  
**Pool Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of July 27, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

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

Present: Superintendent of Recreation Tony Korzyniewski, Aquatics Manager Jeff Napolski, Park Board Liaison Rick Patinkin and Committee Members Sari Winick, Lauren Patinkin, Gerard Boner

Absent: Deputy Executive Director and Director of Recreation Laura McCarty and Committee Members Michael Fleming and Andrew Kettlewell

**II. Matters from the Public**

Pool Manager Stephen Nagy was an observer to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

**III. Review of Committee Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2023**

A review of the May 18, 2023, minutes revealed no changes. The minutes were approved as circulated.

**IV. 2023 Pool Operations Updates**

**IV(a). Staffing**

As of July 25<sup>th</sup>, there are currently 110 pool staffers. For comparison, last year there were 83 pool staff at this time. There are more new hires than returning staff this pool season. Aquatics Manager Napolski has begun recruiting for the 2023 school year with four interviews and two new hires who are ready to begin work in September. There are 37 current pool staffers who will continue to work throughout the school year in some capacity. Referral bonuses and new hiring initiatives were incredibly successful.

**IV(b). Season Pool Pass Sales**

Superintendent Korzyniewski advised the District has sold 2,296 passes to date. For comparison, the District sold 2,433 passes in 2022. The District is down roughly 135 passes from last year. Staff is unsure what attributed to this slight loss, however, remains pleased with this year's pool pass sales. Commissioner Patinkin noted inclement weather at the beginning of the season may have contributed to this loss.

**IV(c). Rentals/Birthday Parties**

Aquatics Manager Napolski advised there have been 39 birthday parties to date. The vast majority of the parties are from 10AM-12PM on weekends at Deerspring pool. The remainder of the birthday parties are during the evening at Mitchell pool. Staff have been considering the discontinuation of a public pool party option due to the fact outside food is now allowed in the concession area. Few people utilize the public pool party option and one of its major selling points was that it allowed the patron the opportunity to bring in outside food. The Committee discussed the possible implications of removing the public pool party option and contemplated whether a new policy would need to be created so that the concession area and deck chairs are not dominated by a large scale gathering.

#### **IV(d). Swim Lessons**

New in 2023, staff 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. 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. Overall, there have been 352 campers including the outside groups. Evaluations have been sent out to all swimmers which advise parents of their child's progress. Weekday swim lessons are not as popular as weekend swim lessons.

#### **IV(e). Concessions**

Aquatics Manager Napolski provided a report of the types of concessions offered and their total quantity sold. Overall, the District netted \$15,877 in gross sales for concessions. Notable additions include flavored water and Tony's Subs. Ice cream is only sold at Mitchell pool as Deerspring does not have a fridge or a freezer. The District sustained a nominal loss this year with the addition of the subs and intends to order less next season to prevent waste. For comparison purposes, the District made \$8,000 in net profit between both pools last season.

#### **IV(f). COHO Swim Club**

Superintendent Korzyniewski reported the COHO Swim Club hosted the COHO Classic on June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup> at Deerspring pool. Sixteen (16) teams attended with over 657 swimmers. COHO received positive feedback and overall, the event was a success. He also provided the Committee with a brief overview of their training schedule for the remainder of the summer and upcoming try out dates.

#### **IV(g). End of Season Hours**

Aquatics Manager Napolski briefly reviewed the tentative end of season hours that can also be found on the District's website.

### **V. Other Items for Discussion**

#### **VI(a). Deerspring Pool Grates Update**

Superintendent Korzyniewski advised that the first week of the season, staff received complaints from patrons regarding small abrasions related to the Deerspring pool gutter gates. The coating on the grates had eroded over time to the point where the fiberglass underbelly of the plate was exposed. Staff contracted with an outside company to refinish the grates by sanding the plates down to their aluminum bottom, applying sand for a nonslip surface and a UV coating for durability. The new non-slip and non-abrasive finish should last for many more swim seasons.

#### **V(b). Pool Age Requirements**

For safety reasons, children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. Superintendent Korzyniewski advised staff received feedback from the community in regard to these pool age requirements for unaccompanied minors. Staff investigated the age requirements for similar north shore and northwest suburban pools and found the majority of Districts have the same age requirement. No changes will be made to the rule at this time and staff will make an effort to increase awareness of this rule and better enforce the rule for the remainder of the season and onward.

#### **V(c). Allowance of Outside Food**

Historically, the District has not allowed outside food at the pools. Over time this rule has not been enforced due to a lack of a full-service concession stand. Due to resident feedback, staff has since reevaluated the policy to allow the consumption of outside food only to be consumed in the designated concessions areas for sanitary purposes as per the Illinois Municipal Pool Code.

#### **V(d). StarGuard Elite Audit**

Aquatics Manager Napolski reported StarGuard Elite, the District's aquatic risk prevention agency, performed its second audit at the pool last week and the Mitchell Pool guards received a five-star rating, which is the highest score possible. The District received a three-star rating during its first audit.

The auditor arrives unannounced to the facility and watches the guards to ensure they are focused, keeping the 30-second scan standard and following other StarGuard rules. They also watch to make sure there is a strong management presence on the pool deck, ensuring the guards are following proper procedures and protocols taught during their lifeguard training and also watch to ensure guards are answering patron questions in a timely and courteous fashion.

During the second part of the audit, the auditor announced herself to staff. She then had the guards run realistic scenarios to ensure their skills are top-notch. Guards were tested on first aid, solo CPR, a spinal removal from the pool and a full-on unconscious water scenario.

Commissioner Patinkin advised PDRMA will reimburse the District on costs associated with these audits in exchange for a five-star rating. Additionally, PDRMA conducts its own aquatics audit and overall, the District performed exceptionally well.

With respect to safety, a Committee member initiated a brief conversation regarding general rough housing in the pool and swim requirements in the deep end.

#### **V(e). IPRA Lifeguard Games**

Thirty (30) competing Park Districts came to Mitchell Pool for a "Guard Olympics" event on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The event was a success and staff appreciated the ability to compete against other lifeguards within the State.

#### **VI. The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **VIII. There being no further discussion, the Pool Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Catherine Serbin*

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Executive Administrative Assistant