

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS     March 21, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Cohen at 7:00 p.m. in the Patty Turner Center. Executive Director Harvey called the roll, and the following were:

PRESENT: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin and Serota (5)  
ABSENT: None (0)

Staff: Executive Director Jeff Harvey, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Recreation Laura McCarty, Superintendent of Recreation Tony Korzyniewski, Director of Golf Operations Jason Mannina, Director of Parks Jay Zahn, Superintendent of Marketing Deanna Musurlian, Evening and Weekend Program Manager Kathleen Muellner

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024, Decennial Committee Meeting, February 1, 2024, Workshop Meeting, February 15, 2024, Finance Meeting, and February 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Caron seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

### **III. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

Commissioner Caron moved to approve the Voucher Listing presented on March 21, 2024, in the amount of **\$1,668,416.55** including **\$8,496.11** of travel and training expenses. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

### **IV. MATTERS OF THE PUBLIC, VISITORS AND GUESTS**

#### **A. Comments from the Public, Visitors and Guests**

Mark Kettleon is a Board member of the Deerfield Community Concert Band, which he considers the municipal band. The band has been sponsored by the Deerfield Park District for approximately 15 years and consists of about 45 active members who regularly perform at the Patty Turner Center and other venues. The band is self-funded through member dues and concert revenue. They offer a number of community activities, including their Music for Life program, which involves intergenerational concerts. Unfortunately, these activities were paused due to COVID-19. Last Spring, they started rehearsing on a weekly cadence and wanted to resume the previous sponsorship arrangement with the Park District including an annual stipend and paying the monthly compensation for the Music Director of \$100 per session or \$3500 per year, which was reimbursed at the end of the year. The band was told they are no longer considered a sponsored activity; instead, were presented with an agreement to become contractors. Mr. Kettleon asked for input on why this change occurred.

The commissioners questioned how many members are residents of Deerfield. Mr. Kettleon believes about one-third. There are two bands, the Deerfield Community Concert Band and a Big Band Jazz Band. Both bands have received the contractor agreement. Mr. Kettleon explained the Park District also provides rehearsal space and liability insurance. Mr. Harvey will look into it and get back to Mr. Kettleon. Ms. McCarty noted as an independent contractor, the band is covered at Deerfield Park District locations as part of the agreement. It was determined when the band practices at the High School or other non-Park District locations, they are not covered on the Park District's liability insurance.

Resident Alex Antonob expressed concern about changes to the enrichment program at the elementary schools starting in the Fall. Instead of holding the enrichment program at the elementary schools, they will now take place at Park District facilities. Parents will now be responsible for transporting their children to these classes, which poses a challenge for many working parents who will struggle with arranging transportation due to their work schedules. Mr. Antonob believes there is a lot of disappointment and frustration among the parents because there is no explanation and little communication from the Park District about the change. He asked for answers and solutions to ensure that all the families in the community, including the working parents, can continue to participate in the enrichment programs. The Commissioners were just made aware of the change. Mr. Antonob explained that although the after-care program will still stay at the schools, the enrichment classes are the value-add because they help develop the kids. Commissioner Caron explained this has been an ongoing problem and there is not enough space in any of the schools to offer everything to everyone. The Board has not had the opportunity to discuss the issue but the two agencies understand that after school care is critical for working parents. President Cohen suggested one solution would be for the schools to provide busses to the Jewett Community Center.

Ms. Musurlian introduced George Tillis, the new full-time Digital Designer and Marketing Specialist for the Park District. Mr. Tillis started last April as a part-time marketing person. He has a fresh set of eyes and is able to assess different things and procedures. George has been a huge asset and will also be involved in the site redesign.

### **B. Communications and Correspondence**

Mr. Harvey responded to all of the pool correspondence and has received feedback thanking the Board for the changes that were made. They will keep track of attendance to the new hours to see if it makes a difference.

## **V. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

### **A. Recreation Center Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Brown reported there were four open slots on the Committee with six applicants. They performed a cost analysis for the Rec Center and increased fees by \$3 for membership and a small increase in daily rates. Personal trainers were bumped up from \$64 to \$68.

Capital projects include 22 spin bikes, a machine to clean the track, resealing the gym floor, a tennis court roof, awning and refresh, pool grates, and a bathroom touch up. They hope to extend some contracts for rhythmic gymnastics and the indoor triathlon.

The triathlon took place earlier this year and good feedback was received. There were 30 participants. There is a Stairmaster challenge in March.

Membership is going well with about 1230 people, which is back on pace where we were pre-pandemic. There are 200 people participating in the United Health Care program and Advocate has also been added.

The January open house went well. After-Prom is coming on May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a new surveillance in May. They have been very busy taking care of lights, tiles in the pool, the locker room and new staff training.

### **B. Affiliate Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Serota reported the affiliates met on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Everybody's practices and games start the first or second week of April except youth football that starts in August. The registration numbers are consistent except travel softball increased 75 percent and travel baseball decreased slightly. The affiliates were informed about the DHS turf being returned and closed for the month of July as well as the renovations at Jewett Park. The fields will not be impacted by the construction. They discussed reminders regarding code usage and turning off

lights to ensure seamless transitions between affiliates. There was mention of implementing a better system to avoid leaving lights on unnecessarily. The weather policy allowing closure of fields in case of concerns about damage or injury was reiterated. An important point raised was about anchoring movable soccer goals for safety reasons. Additionally, a new age group called "Stallion" for second graders was introduced by DYBA. Affiliates expressed concerns about safety regarding AEDs and urged for their presence in fields. Currently, the best option is inside schools. There was discussion about whether the Park District could invest in AEDs, with some willingness to allocate funds towards it or the possibility of the coaches having portable AEDs. Mr. Zahn noted every police vehicle has an AED.

### **C. PTC Members' Council**

Ms. McCarty reported the PTC Members' Council met on March 7<sup>th</sup> and welcomed eight new members during the month of February. PTC member Sid Moore, who heads up the golf league, was honored at this year's North Shore Senior Center award ceremony for his volunteer service.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a hot dog lunch and bingo that was attended by 40 people. March 13<sup>th</sup> saw the "Women of the Windy City" lecture with Clarence Goodman, drawing 26 participants. A St. Patrick's Day sing-along with the "Hummers and Strummers" was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The March Chicago Showcase featuring Simply Elton, with 53 registrations, will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Kathleen Muellner, the new evening and weekend manager, is adapting well to her role and gathered feedback from a group of individuals in their 50s for program suggestions. Some of these suggestions will be incorporated into upcoming bulletins. Ms. Muellner and David collaborated with the marketing department on a postcard promoting the PTC as a rental venue in the evenings and weekends, with an open house scheduled for April 17. Additionally, WGN Channel Nine News featured the Forever Fit dance program led by Judy Samuelson, showcasing the group's fitness routines on their morning newscast.

### **D. Golf Advisory Committee**

President Cohen reported the Golf Advisory Committee met on March 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. They discussed golf operations and how things have progressed this Spring. The golf course is open for walkers and the range is open with mats until later in the Spring. Mr. Mannina was optimistic about future revenues for the golf course but remained cautious due to the unpredictable nature of the business. He highlighted a decrease in golf passes but emphasized the profitability of daily cash play. Additionally, he discussed the new Tap House Grill, distributing menus and indicating that they are in the process of preparing for its opening. He suggested the idea of having dinner there before the April Board meeting as a positive experience for the Board members.

President Cohen spoke with the Superintendent for Golf Course Maintenance about the favorable golf condition. He hopes there will be more rain this Spring. The traps have been redone and we will need to keep them fresh. The cart paths are very expensive as they are widened and made ADA compliant. They hope to complete three holes this year.

The golf summer camps and driving range have seen a lot of activity. Derek, the instructor, would like to increase the offerings, including simulators. Upcoming capital improvements include a sidewinder mower, the cart paths and new furniture for the restaurant. The everyday issues with the siding are still awaiting resolution.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Consideration of Semper Fi Payment Request #1 for Jewett Park Renovation**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve payment request number one for a progress payment for the work completed in the Jewett Park Phase II renovation project in the amount of \$97,197.07 as submitted by Semper Fi

Landscaping, Inc. Commissioner Serota seconded the motion. Mr. Zahn explained a lot of the work will be completed by July 4<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

### **B. Consideration of Camosy Construction Payment Request #3 for JPCC Interior Renovation**

Commissioner Serota moved to approve payment request #3 for Jewett Park Community Center interior renovations in the amount of \$147,289.56 which includes work completed on the lower level through mid-March. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

### **C. Consideration of Woodland Park Usage Request for Charity Fundraiser**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the use of Woodland Park as the start and finish of the 5K run on Sunday May 12, 2024 from 7:30 am until noon for the Laurie Bauer Foundation. Commissioner Patinkin seconded the motion. Commissioner Serota questioned the preliminary advertising she saw and on the Laurie Bauer Foundation but President Cohen clarified it is a local chapter of a larger organization. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

### **D. Consideration of Audit Firm Engagement with Lauterbach & Amen for Professional Audit Services**

Commissioner Serota moved to approve the engagement letter with Lauterbach & Amen for professional audit services for fiscal years 2023 through 2025 as presented. Commissioner Caron seconded the motion. The Park District went out to bid for audit services in 2017 and they were quite a bit less than the other firms. The Park District works with the same audit manager and they know how things work. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

### **E. Pool Advisory Committee Appointments**

Mr. Korzyniewski reported announcements about the appointments were posted on social media and building tv screens to direct people to its website for applications. Applications were accepted for more than two months. After submissions closed, we reviewed each application, considering factors like experience, family involvement, and activity level. The Pool Advisory Committee was increased from five to seven members to improve attendance, representation and ensure more diverse perspectives in future meetings.

Commissioner Serota noted only two of the seven members have young kids, which represent a big demographic of pool users. She suggested adding more voices from underrepresented demographic groups so the Board does not have to backtrack on issues such as pool hours in the future. Commissioner Brown believes the recommendation includes other demographics as well. Commissioner Serota would rather see one fewer older adult and one additional person with young children. President Cohen suggested adding more people with young children when the next term expires. Mr. Harvey believes the committee of five were overweighted on competitive swimming. The decision to increase to seven members was to try to add some voices for non-competitive swimming. Mr. Korzyniewski explained they spent significant time going through the applications

and tried to find a way to make sense with all the different voices. Commissioner Patinkin suggested encouraging those not appointed to apply next year. Commissioner Caron noted the complaints received have been from a specific demographic and they should try to get input from them.

Commissioner Patinkin moved to appoint the staff recommendations of Patricia Smith, David Safier, Sara Sortal, Nan Stein and Jan Kirby to serve on the Deerfield Park District Advisory Committee for three-year terms effective March 21, 2024. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin (4)

NAYS: Serota (1)

#### **F. Recreation Center Advisory Committee Appointments**

Mr. Korzyniewski reported staff went through the same process with applications open for two months. The committee has seven members with three seats coming up and six applicants. Staff reviewed the applications and recommended appointing Kirby Kemp, Mitty Adler and Terry Sienicki to serve three-year terms on the Recreation Center Advisory Committee. He believes they will be a good fit and mix for the committee.

Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Kirby Kemp, Mitty Adler and Terry Sienicki to serve on the Recreation Center Advisory Committee for three-year terms effective March 21, 2024. Commissioner Serota seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

### **VII. OTHER MATTERS**

#### **A. Biannual Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Harvey noted the strategic planning is going well. Mr. Zahn noted they are trying to get as many incentives as possible from ComEd.

#### **B. Capital Project Update**

Mr. Harvey noted the Jewett Park will get started next week.

#### **C. Other Comments and Discussion**

The Park District will be purchasing two single-pole sun shades for pickleball that will cover 30 feet each at a cost of about \$32,000.

Commissioner Caron asked about the parking lot at the Patty Turner Center. Mr. Zahn is scheduled to work with the engineers this week. The Village has a per-unit price on the parking lot for the St. Gregory's parking lot. Mr. Harvey explained the church and District 109 have been leaning on the Village about paying for it as everyone but the church uses it.

Commissioner Patinkin believes the Board is remiss for not honoring Nancy's retirement. She trained thousands of kids in her 27 years of service. Commissioner Patinkin suggested a bench at the pool or a bronze statue.

Commissioner Serota asked if there is any land available for a park in the new development on the Walgreens property. Mr. Harvey explained they are early in the process, but may get a tot lot or a very small piece of land.

They may just have to pay impact fees to the Village, which the Park District would get a portion. The development will be a lot smaller than originally thought, and will have approximately 42 homes.

Mr. Korzyniewski provided an update on Deerspring Pool including an additional click and float, splashpad games, a family cookout and Wacky Wednesdays at both Deerspring and Mitchell to gain additional interest. Commissioner Caron expressed concern about the time, as younger kids nap between 1 and 3 and the older kids will be in camp. Mr. Korzyniewski noted it would be for anyone at the pool at that time. President Cohen suggested having something at Deerspring on Sundays. Mr. Korzyniewski believes a lot of people will come into the new splash pad. He believes promoting the new hours will help increase the patronage. Ms. Musurlian suggested having a magnet with the schedule would be a great at-a-glance addition.

The commissioners discussed the afterschool issue. Mr. Harvey explained they met with District 109 and pitched the idea of running the programs at the JPCC. They agreed it was best for the Park District to run these programs and realized the timing to get this out needed to happen before registration for before and after school care. Ms. McCarty explained that will start at the end of April. An email was then sent informing all of the current enrichment participants as well as the before and after school care participants who would regularly register that enrichment would no longer be offered at the schools.

Mr. Harvey has been discussing program management with District 109 for a while. They all agreed that the current system of running the programs at the schools was problematic. The Park District offered various solutions such as bussing and involving the PTO, but they were not accepted. Last Monday, they realized quick action was needed and proposed running the programs at Park District facilities. District 109 agreed that this was the best solution.

President Cohen expressed concern that the Board was not notified before patrons. The topic was discussed fairly extensively and the Park District did not want to host the programs unless they provided bussing. He suggested either leaving it in place for a year, as imperfect as it may be, or offering bus service and charging for bussing to the special enrichment programs. Commissioner Serota believes bussing would be the best solution, but it is not an option. Ms. McCarty noted they bussed enrichment students previously but it became very expensive and drivers could not be found. Having the parents pay for bussing would make the programs cost prohibitive.

The commissioners received letters from people in the afterschool program that want enrichment added. It was not clear in the letter sent out by the schools that more activities may be added to the afterschool program. Commissioner Caron noted if a child is signed up for five days a week of care, some of those days will have activities that would be considered enrichment. She does not believe there is enough room at the schools to provide everything.

Ms. McCarty noted the enrichment classes have a 40 percent cancellation rate because of low enrollment. There is demand for popular classes, such as art and enrichment, which can be offered at Jewett. The Park District can provide more programming opportunities at Jewett.

Commissioner Serota believes one of the biggest concerns is that non-Park District residents are not able to sign up for enrichment because they do not have priority registration. This issue was not addressed in the communication or the solution. Mr. Harvey believes more non-residents will be accommodated because of the space. The issue that is not resolved remains transportation. President Cohen believes one bus would accommodate 30 or 40 kids and questioned what the cost would be. The school district, however, told them they could not do that and it has to be done by the Park District. Park District staff has had a lot of difficulties as it is not a Park District program. Commissioner Serota noted there are a lot of children that need one or two days a week, but only offers three- or five-day options are offered. She thinks the Park District is rushing into this.

Ms. McCarty believes the Park District is competing with themselves by offering the programs both at the schools and at Sachs Center. Commissioner Serota does not believe moving all of the enrichment off campus will work because the programs taken out of the school are not running regularly. President Cohen suggested

backing off this for at least a year and coming up with better solutions. Commissioner Serota believes the Park District's hands were tied at the meeting and there they could not make another decision. President Cohen believes the PTOs would like to take it over but the schools are not letting them. He suggested going back to the school stating the Board does not support it. Commissioner Serota believes there needs to be communication between the School Board, the schools, the district staff, the PTO and the Park District.

Commissioner Serota explained the non-resident issue was resolved with the aftercare program as no one was turned away. If the communication goes out that states the details of the enrichment program are being worked out, people would still have the opportunity to register for aftercare. Communication needs to be sent out stating the feedback has been received and the enrichment program is being discussed. Participants may have to register for before and after care before a decision is finalized.

Commissioner Caron noted there is a risk of students being turned away, if the enrichment program was moved back to the schools because of space. Ms. McCarty suggested that offering programming at Jewett and Sachs opens up the programming to the entire community versus just the kids that are enrolled in District 109 schools. The Park District cannot offer programs at the schools, Jewett and Sachs as they would be competing with themselves. Commissioner Brown asked if transportation were not an issue, would the Park District want to run enrichment programs out of our facilities. Ms. McCarty believes the Park District could offer better programs that can be offered after school.

Mr. Harvey summarized that the Park District wants to either run the programs at our facilities with transportation or have the PTO offer programs at the schools. Commissioner Brown explained the Park District does not want to compete with the PTO for similar programs. If the school district is willing to work on the transportation side of it, the Park District would run the programs at Park District facilities. Ms. McCarty questioned whether the PTO has the resources. She explained at the end of the school day, it is often difficult to get into classrooms on time because the teachers are wrapping things up. Mr. Harvey added the school programs are run by independent contractors that do not always show. This causes Park District staff to scramble to fix the situation.

President Cohen noted the PTO is paid 20 percent. That 20 percent could be used to help fund transportation, if transportation was available. He suggested if the schools cannot provide transportation, the Park District cannot run the program.

Commissioner Serota hopes the information will be communicated to the parents and the information discussed tonight will be shared. It was unfortunate the Board was not informed about the communication going out prior to the distribution. Commissioner Caron believes both Boards should discuss and agree before anything is finalized or communicated.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business or discussion, Commissioner Patinkin moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

The next Board meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Harvey, Secretary  
Transcribed by: Jeri Cotton