

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING - BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

June 6, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Cohen at 7:06 p.m. at 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 and Superintendent of Recreation Tony Korzyniewski.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Caron moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 regular meeting and the April 4, 2024 closed session meeting. Commissioner Serota seconded the motion. Commissioner Patinkin reviewed the historical minutes and found the Village paid between \$15,000 and \$22,000 per year starting in 1988 instead of the \$10,000 as stated in the April 4, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners regular meeting minutes. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Commissioner Caron moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2024 finance, regular, and closed session meeting minutes. Commissioner Serota seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Brown (1)

II. MATTERS OF THE PUBLIC, VISITORS AND GUESTS

A. Communication and Correspondence

President Cohen noted the commissioners received a number of emails about rhythmic gymnastics which have been read and understood.

B. Comments from the Public, Visitors and Guests

Michael D'Angelo stated he is grateful for NSR being part of the community and providing excellent programming and coaching.

World-class professional athlete Evita Griskenas is not a Deerfield resident but trained at the Sachs Center and witnessed the generational impact of providing the opportunity for youth to build a legacy.

President Cohen informed those in attendance that the lease for rhythmic gymnastics is expiring in a couple months and the organization was informed more than one year ago.

Dani Takova of Arlington Heights has worked with a real estate agency and USA Gymnastics for the past year but has not found an appropriate location because they need high ceilings. She asked for an extension of their lease.

Val Gorelik is a Vernon Hills resident and has two daughters that attend the NSR program and wants to stay in the Sachs building.

Melanie D'Angelo wants the program to stay in Deerfield as long as possible.

Natalie Stacker is a resident of Lincolnshire. Her daughter retired from the program and questioned what the Park District would lose by keeping this program. The facility is very unique because of the ceiling, permanent floor and safety.

Evgeng Bryukhov is a resident of Lake Zurich and has two daughters in the NSR program. His younger daughter feels this is the best part of her life and he is grateful for the opportunity this has given his family.

Jennifer and Jordan Katz and their family have lived in Deerfield since the 1970s and are very connected in the community. Their 12-year-old is fortunate to be in rhythmic gymnastics and to work with Olympic coaches and be around real Olympians. He thinks pickleball is hot right now, but it is oversaturated. Ms. Katz believes it would be a shame to get rid of something that is used by kids from Deerfield and surrounding areas as it brings people to Deerfield.

Stan Robbin is a Deerfield resident. Last weekend, there was a two-day pickleball event that raised more than \$21,000. He believes about 20 Deerfield residents participate in rhythmic gymnastics, but the vast majority of the 160 players and volunteers for the recent pickleball event are Deerfield residents. President Cohen questioned why pickleball and gymnastics can't coexist. Mr. Robbin explained pickleball and tennis frequently exceed the existing capacity.

Lintauras Balsys explained NSR provides the village and the park district with a lot of free advertising.

Angelina Yovchevais is a national and Olympic coach and a Northfield resident. She has seen three generations of Olympians go through the program. The required space is special and it is very difficult to find the ceiling height and the required permanent floor.

Annabella Hantov is a two-time national champion. Many of her teammates traveled one to two hours a day just to train in this facility.

Edita Paviloniene explained that rhythmic gymnastics has provided personal growth and has shaped her daughter's life.

Margarita Mamzina is a Deerfield resident. Sachs Center provides a world class facility and families relocate to Deerfield to train there. She believes this is the best training facility in the United States.

Demitriy Melegno, a Deerfield resident and real estate agent, believes the building is unique and it is difficult to find something similar in the area.

Peter D'Angelo asked about the saturation point as there are a lot of pickleball courts. There is only one facility for the elite rhythmic gymnastics team. He questioned the potential availability of the building near the spur and asked for a little more time.

Ms. Takova discussed the levels in competitive rhythmic gymnastics and the high ceiling needed for athletes aged 13 and beyond.

Commissioner Brown asked how often the space is used. Ms. Takova explained it is busy seven days a week from 7-8 am until 9 pm. There are 200 kids in the program with the breakdown based on the skill level rather than age. Commissioner Caron noted they are not trying to end the program; rather, they are going to try to do something.

Commissioner Serota asked if the US Olympic Committee would do something for the Olympic team. Ms. Takova explained they are fully independent and the facility only gets the Olympic label when they compete.

President Cohen thanked everyone for their comments. He indicated that staff will provide a financial analysis of the space and the commissioners will discuss the matter.

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Caron moved to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session regarding personnel matters involving specific employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and the purchase or lease of real estate pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

The special meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 8:07 pm.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The special meeting was reconvened at 9:40 pm. by roll call. The following were:

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

ABSENT: None (0)

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeff Harvey

Transcribed by:

Jeri Cotton