

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS** **October 1, 2024**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Cohen at 7:02 p.m. in the Jewett Park Community Center. Finance Director Harvey called the roll, and the following were:

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

ABSENT: None (0)

Staff: Executive Director Annemarie Flaherty, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Recreation Laura McCarty, Finance Director Jeff Harvey, Superintendent of Recreation Tony Korzyniewski, Director of Golf Operations Jason Mannina, Director of Parks Jay Zahn and Superintendent of Marketing Deanna Musurlian

**II. MATTERS OF THE PUBLIC, VISITORS AND GUESTS**

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

There were no comments from the public, visitors or guests.

**B. Communications and Correspondence**

Ms. Flaherty informed that some commissioners had received emails about playgrounds and parks and that she has responded to them and will follow up with them this week.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Summer Camps FY 2025**

Ms. McCarty congratulated staff on a successful camp season and provided a summary of the 2024 camp season. Camp enrollments for 2024 (1,820) were higher than 2023 enrollment figures (1,715). 1,005 of the campers were unique and 83% are Deerfield residents. Camp cancellations decreased 3% from 2023 to 2024.

Ms. McCarty reviewed changes to the 2024 season. Sports camps remained co-ed, as they were last year, but were split into four camps instead of three to allow for smaller age stands. Number One camp was only offered as a 5-day option. Sarah Hall Theater was contracted to run a 4-week theater camp this summer as the previous theater camp director did not return. Staff were given tank tops to allow for higher visibility during water activities. A new transportation waiver was added into ePACT this year per PDRMA's recommendation as liability changes when campers are riding buses.

Summer camps netted \$627,844 which is \$113,699 more than 2023. Overall, camps did better than their projected budgets. Camp fees are competitive with surrounding districts except for the CIT Program which is less expensive than neighboring CIT programs.

The 2025 proposed camp fee increase for next year is 5% for all camps apart from the CIT program which a 10% increase recommendation. The increase averages \$6/day per camper and will cover increased bus and field trips expenses, allowing for a 30% profit margin.

Ms. McCarty introduced proposed changes for the 2025 camp season. MVP Sports Camp which serves 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade, would be reduced to 3 days per week. So Big Camp for 3yr olds will have two options – a 3-

and 5-day option (instead of 4- and 5-day options). 2025 Camps will run from June 16 for six weeks and Extra Added will be from August 4-8. Ms. McCarty explained that the proposed wage scale for camp staff will not increase as starting rate is \$16/hr, which is \$1 above the minimum wage requirement.

Commissioner Serota moved to approve the proposed program changes as presented in the 2024 summer day camp report for the 2025 summer day camp season including a 5% increase to summer day camp fees and a 10% increase to the CIT program fee, include a \$5.00 registration surcharge on all camp fees and assess non-resident fees at an additional 20% of the base resident rates and then include the \$5.00 registration surcharge. Commissioner Ms. Caron seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

## **B. Pool Fees and Hours of Operation FY 2025**

Mr. Korzyniewski presented an overview of the aquatics program. A public survey went out at the end of the season to inform decisions for 2025. He congratulated Mr. Napolski for recruiting and retaining staff in addition to creating a positive work culture.

Mr. Napolski explained that 2024 early bird pool pass rates were comparable to surrounding districts, while our regular rate is slightly higher. Mr. Korzyniewski noted that we sell 90+% of our pool passes during early bird sales. Mr. Napolski noted that daily resident rates, lap swim, coupon books and private rentals are all in line with other pools.

For 2025, Mr. Napolski recommends a 3% increase in pool pass fees with the early bird rate being 20% less than the regular rate and the nonresident rate being 20% more. The daily fees will increase by \$1 each with coupon books increasing by \$10 (\$1 per visit). Private rentals will increase to \$630 and public pool parties will be \$150 plus a \$6/person fee that will be offered at 30, 50 and 100 people flat rate options.

Mr. Napolski presented 2025 operating hours based on the survey results with increased morning public swim hours and removal of the 12-12:30 safety break. At Deerspring, the proposed schedule adds 21 hours of public swim and a few more hours of lap swim. Additional hours will be made possible by increasing total number of summer staff to allow for required work breaks. At Mitchell, the proposed schedule extends lap swim hours and expands public swim hours, particularly on weekends.

Mr. Napolski explained that wages will increase with the minimum wage increase. Cashiers will start at \$15 and lifeguards/swim instructors will start at \$17 with an additional \$0.75/year for longevity.

Commissioner Serota moved to approve the FY 2025 pool fees and hours of operation as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

## **C. Golf Club and Learning Center FY 2025**

Mr. Mannina presented the competitive market analysis for the golf club rates and explained that we're in line with surrounding communities. Most clubs are following a dynamic pricing model with competitive

rates on weekends. Junior rates are low but will increase accordingly. Seniors are increasing by \$2, which is in line with other clubs. Monday through Thursday there is a 3-hour block of senior play with 70% residents. Mr. Mannina pointed out that the rates are a great value considering course conditions, cart paths, new carts and other amenities. Cart fees will increase with the addition of our new carts with GPS. Season passes are seeing a flat increase of \$135 which brings the average price to \$33 per round. Senior passes grandfathered in are a great value at \$25 per round. Nonresident 7-day passes are also grandfathered in. Senior resident passes will go from \$20 to \$23 per round with the \$135 increase. The 20 Round PrePaid passes will remain the same and are a really competitive as they are shareable. The range ball buckets are increasing slightly. Permanent tee time fees will increase by \$20, and to add a second permanent tee time pass, fees will increase to \$200. Mr. Mannina explained that all of the fee increases will be put towards the increase in labor, materials, chemicals, services, supplies and equipment.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the recommended fees as presented. Commissioner Serota seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

#### **IV. OTHER MATTERS**

##### **A. Presentation and Discussion of Estimated/Proposed 2024 Tax Levy**

Mr. Harvey explained that the tax levy ordinance will be approved in November but the presentation on the levy is for the purpose of preparing the budget. Mr. Harvey recommends the maximum levy for the operating funds is capped at 3.4%, the special recreation fund is 0.04% of the EAV, and the bond levy is fixed when issuing the bonds. The total tax levy for the park district will be approximately \$9,600,000. The park district taxes collected from a hypothetical \$500,000 home will stay at approximately \$1,000.

##### **B. Presentation and Discussion of FY 2025 Full Time Staff Merit Increases**

Mr. Harvey presented the proposed 2025 merit increases for the purposes of building the budget. He recommends a 4% increase which is comparable to neighboring districts.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annemarie Flaherty  
Secretary