

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
June 22, 2023
Hopkins Community Center, DeKalb, IL

Public Meeting
6:00 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order:

President Patrick Fagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board members present: President Patrick Fagan, Vice President Dag Grada, Secretary Gail A. Kremenec, Treasurer David Castro and Commissioner Brian Tobin.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director John Shea, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance Wes Levy, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson, Dave Kesson, Cindy Slinkard, Austin Sands, Mike Siefken, and Chrissy Tluczek.

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Kremenec, Castro, Tobin, Grada and Fagan. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

III. Consent Agenda

All items appearing below are considered routine by the Board and shall be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately.

- a. Minutes of the Public Meeting of May 25, 2023

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Tobin. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Kremenec, Fagan, Castro, Tobin and Grada. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

IV. Public Comments

Mary Gawrys spoke on behalf of pickleball players. She asked that the District consider forming a citizen's advisory group for what is helpful for pickleball courts. She mentioned she recently shared with Mat Emken that on a 2-tennis court platform, it should be easy to put 4 pickleball courts. It would be forward-thinking to install 4 courts vs. 3, which would be helpful. There are regularly 24 players that play round robin indoors at the District, with people coming from Rochelle, Elburn, Dixon, Mount Morris, and all over to play because of the evening hours. DeKalb has a good reputation with

their indoor courts. A lot of people have the impression that pickleball is for old people, but the fastest growing population is 20-40. She asked that the District consider using the pickleball group as a resource.

V. Old Business

a. Hopkins Park Playground and Tennis Court Replacement Update

Playground-Staff plan to release the construction bid in November and have a recommendation for board approval in December. Commissioner Krmenek asked Mr. Emken, with construction scheduled for spring, how that is being coordinated with the pool construction, assuming that project goes forward. Mr. Emken said they would discuss it with Tom at IHC. The brown shed would be used for playground storage and staging. Commissioner Krmenek said her concern is that nothing is damaged on one of the other projects. Director Shea said when they conducted the firm interviews for the pool, they mentioned the playground and tennis court projects would be running simultaneously. Commissioner Castro asked for clarification on the decision timeline, which indicates December 7, at the regular meeting. Superintendent Emken confirmed the regular meeting is moved forward in December, due to holidays. Commissioner Tobin asked how long construction would take and whether the current playground would be taken down long before. Mr. Emken said our staff would remove the current playground equipment at the end of the year, so the site is ready as soon as ground conditions permit installation in the spring.

Tennis/Pickleball Courts- President Fagan inquired whether the June 28 and July 12 meetings would be open to public. Superintendent Emken said they are review meetings between the engineers and park district staff. He added that they are willing to adjust the schedule and could also push the bid release date further. President Fagan stated his concern is, although he thinks we're on the same wavelength as the pickleball players, he does not want to get in a situation where a committee is set up and not be able to start anything until next year. Director Shea said the goal is to get all the pickleball courts open by next summer. He encourages feedback from the public. President Fagan asked if this would go out to bid after the July meeting. Director Shea said yes, there will be one more board meeting July 27, where we ask for the green light go out to bid. The goal is still to open by summer 2024. Commissioner Krmenek said her concern, too, is that she does not want to see us delay simply due to the cost of materials. The longer we wait on a project, the more expensive it becomes. We don't want to rush but also not wait too long where it becomes too expensive to replace. Commissioner Tobin asked how the community can share their input. Director Shea said they can reach out via email to Mat Emken or him or can visit in person. President Fagan asked if the next meeting would include a full draw

up of the proposed courts, emphasizing that the district needs to stay within budget. Commissioner Grada said we have the same space, the same surface, regardless of the sport, it's a matter of how the area is laid out. Commissioner Castro asked if it is realistic to say we can take in and incorporate feedback, given all the variables, to which Director Shea indicated yes.

b. Hopkins Park Pool Update Discussion

Commissioner Kremenec asked for clarification when the pool bond would be paid off, to which Director Shea replied in 2043.

VI. New Business

a. **Action to Approve IHC's AIA Contract for Construction Manager at Risk to Oversee the Renovation and Reconstruction of Hopkins Park Pool**

Commissioner Kremenec made a motion to approve IHC's AIA Contract for Construction Manager at Risk to oversee the renovation and reconstruction of Hopkins Park Pool, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Kremenec, Fagan, Grada, Castro, Tobin.
Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

b. **Items Over \$10,000**

i. **Action on the Purchase of (28) Yamaha Golf Carts Through Harris Golf Cars**

Commissioner Kremenec made a motion to approve the replacement of twenty-eight golf carts totaling \$126,892.00 including trades, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

President Fagan asked whether there was a guarantee on price, no matter what, with no fiduciary responsibility to go through with the contract. Director Shea said for the trade in price, yes, but the price of the new carts may increase or decrease. President Fagan asked if the carts were gas or electric, to which Mike Siefken indicated they are gas.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Kremenec, Fagan, Grada, Castro, Tobin. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

ii. **Action of the Purchase of 20HP Well Pump from Prairie State Water Systems**

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the replacement of the well pump as submitted by Prairie State Water Systems, Inc. (Maple Park, IL), in the amount of \$40,760, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Tobin asked about the new pump's life expectancy, to which Mike Siefken replied about 20 years. Commissioner Krmeneč asked if the company would install it. Mike Siefken said they do. He added that he has had the electrical panels and other components checked, and they can be re-used. The starter alone is about \$4,000, so we're not adding additional cost.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneč, Fagan, Grada, Castro, Tobin. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

VII. Financial Reports

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports presented in June 2023, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmeneč, Fagan, Castro, Tobin. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

- a. **Monthly Paid Bills Listing**
- b. **Monthly Financial Summary**
- c. **IT Summary**
- d. **Board & Staff Travel Expense Summary**
- e. **FOIA Report**

VIII. Open Comments from Commissioners and Director

Commissioner Tobin stated he shared a few things with Director Shea. He received an email regarding the proposed pickleball courts and looks forward to receiving feedback from the public to incorporate in the renovation.

Commissioner Grada stated he has been attending his son's baseball games at the Hopkins Park baseball fields. He did not realize how many people attend those games and inquired if the Park District has ever thought about expanding the parking lot. Director Shea stated this is a project the District can research for the future.

Commissioner Krmeneč shared that she has heard positive comments about the new park signs. She said he attended last night's Music at the Mansion and was impressed by how many people were there. She thanked the staff for all they did for the performance and liked the addition of the food option. She ended by saying it was a wonderful kick-off for the summer.

Commissioner Castro began by saying we have to believe the future of the park district is bright with all the projects taking place. Although he's not a golfer, he appreciates the golf courses are being used and more people are using them. He is looking forward to the new pool, as he is an avid user of the pool during the summer and enjoys swimming outdoors.

Director Shea thanked the staff for all they have done to have a successful summer season. There has been the kick-off for Music at the Mansion, installing the new park signs, getting the baseball fields ready, the staff keeping the pool running, increased golf rounds, and increased camp participation. He thanked the board members for their continued dedication and support. He wished all staff and board members a Happy Fourth of July.

President Fagan stated this is the time the Park District shines. The summer season is when all programs, events, and facilities are operating and the staff has done a great job. He is proud of our park district. He asked Director Shea to share the renderings of the pickleball designs with the public prior to two days before the July meeting. Perhaps post the information on Facebook or our website.

IX. Closed Session

The Board will enter a Closed Session to discuss:

a. Real Estate Acquisition- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)

Commissioner Krmenech made a motion to go into closed session under Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meeting Act, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmenech, Fagan, Castro, Tobin.

Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

X. Adjourn Public Meeting

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.