

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
January 8, 2022
Ellwood Visitors Center, DeKalb, IL

Public Meeting
10:00 a.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order:

President Patrick Fagan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board members present: President Patrick Fagan, Vice President Dag Grada, Secretary Gail A. Krmenech, Treasurer Joel French, and Commissioner Phil Young.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director John Shea, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance Mike Rock, Superintendent of Recreation Andrea Juricic, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson, Cindy Slinkard, Mike Siefken.

II. Action on the Agenda

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

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Old Business

a. Discussion on Golf Advisory Committee

President Fagan stated he would like the group to get together, with Commissioner Krmenech as the Chair and Commissioner French as the Vice-Chair. Commissioner Grada said this is a board appointed committee, created for a specific task and duration of time. It was created to provide a counter point to the Billy Casper Report. The intention from that point with the task being completed was to take the board committee and turn it into a citizens committee. But at the time, we had golf staffing issues. His suggestion would be to dissolve the committee and start a citizens committee underneath the golf staff. President Fagan said his understanding was that there was never any closure and a committee update meeting would provide that. Moving forward, we can decide at that time whether a committee is needed. He doesn't believe in having committees just to have a committee. Commissioner Grada stated he has not had a single contact from anyone on the committee. President Fagan asked if he had any contact when there was talk of dissolving the committee. Commissioner Krmenech

agreed that this doesn't need to go on forever, but she does think the group deserves an update. She said several people were not happy that the committee was going to be dissolved. Commissioner French mentioned he also got contacted by numerous people. Commissioner Young said historically in the past the board has had committees, but the committee would end once a report was done. President Fagan said there was a lot of fear. In the last year it's been turned around. Commissioner Grada said that it was argued when the report was produced to finalize the committee at that time. He said he argued for a continuation of the committee as an evolution into a citizen's committee rather than a board committee. However, we had golf staffing issues at the time. Commissioner Young said the Billy Casper report was very controversial. After getting outside reports, the system worked because we received input from the community. If you look at where the budget is today, two years later, we're in a great position. Overall, this worked.

V. New Business

a. FY 2023 Budget Workshop

Fund 10 General- President Fagan inquired why there was a \$0 shown for program revenue in the fund. Director Shea stated all program revenue is reflected in Fund 20, so it does not appear in the general fund.

10-12. President Fagan asked about the annual cost for the splash pad. Mat Emken said he is not certain, but can investigate. Director Shea stated the water bill has increased, and will get back to the board on the cost. Mat did get the sewer rates removed. Next year we will also implement a set schedule for splash pad operation. President Fagan also asked about the cost of the garbage cans. Mat Emken stated we normally get the green drums. You can get a permanent metal option, but there is a higher upfront cost. Commissioner Young asked with COVID and budgets, how have we been progressing with playground replacements. Mat Emken stated that will be discussed more in the next section, but typically they are done every 15 years. We haven't done any in the past 2 years, but are looking to do Hopkins and then get back on schedule. There are weekly inspections on high use playgrounds, and monthly on others. Director Shea added that Hopkins will still be an ADA playground, and we want to use the existing footprint.

10-62. In response to President Fagan's question about rental status compared to pre-COVID, Director Shea indicated that \$36,000 comes from the KSRA rental fee. We are anticipating about \$30,000 for other rentals, which is consistent with past years. Not right at 3-year average, but right under.

Fund 20 Recreation- President Fagan asked for the SRC, what percentage of revenue is received from outside of DeKalb. Andrea Juricic stated the majority for

indoor soccer is from outside users. For other programs, it is more local. President Fagan added if we have that much coming from out of town, he wants to make sure our rates are not too low and that's why they are coming here. Director Shea stated in regard to non-resident rates, all rates have been reviewed and they will continually be adjusted. Commissioner Grada asked if non-resident usage was impacting resident availability. President Fagan said some people have asked why they can't get a prime time or better rate. Director Shea said for rentals, there is a policy consideration for a hierarchy of who gets first use. Commissioner Young asked in terms of COVID returning, do we have a good contingency in place. Andrea Juricic said staff has brainstormed for a few more options to put things online and the possibility of e-learning. Commissioner Young asked if we have tried to engage more with the university. Andrea Juricic said we have started, and are utilizing them more through volunteers. It is challenging to compete with fitness offerings, but we are looking into more tournaments.

There was a short break in the meeting from 11:35 to 11:40 a.m., at which time the meeting resumed.

Fund 21 Insurance

Fund 22 Audit

Fund 23 FICA

Fund 24 IMRF-President Fagan stated insurance costs are going up, while they have been seeing workman's comp going down. He requested the staff provide an update on whether the District's was increasing. He also asked for clarification on the reserve amount. Mike Rock indicated that on restricted funds, money cannot just be transferred out. Balances can be adjusted through the tax levy.

Fund 25 Museum-President Fagan confirmed that it was 1940 wiring in Ellwood House. Mat Emken said yes, and it is significantly older in some areas.

Fund 26 Special Recreation-Director Shea indicated that there will be a line item added for \$20,000 to support companion aids before the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance comes before the Board.

Fund 40 Debt

Fund 50 Golf- Commissioner Krmenc stated it is really impressive what the district and golf staff has done this last year: efforts are definitely not unnoticed. Commissioner French asked whether a donor green would help in the future, which Mike Siefken indicated it is always helpful. President Fagan asked if the \$1.6M is for irrigation. Director Shea said it is \$800,000 for RH irrigation, 350,000 for BV, and the amount also includes equipment costs. President Fagan asked if the 800 included all 18 holes. Director Shea stated it is Phase 1, which is for half the costs at each course. President Fagan asked where the River Heights hall rental revenue is reflected. Cindy Slinkard indicated it is here, which also

includes cart rentals. In response to President Fagan's question of what service fees are, Director Shea indicated they are memberships. President Fagan also asked about the Jr. Golf program. Cindy Slinkard said we had a fall program that had 30-40 people and we also do younger kids. President Fagan asked about the bridge situation at River Heights. Director Shea stated \$125,000 is budgeted under capital to address the situation. Commissioner French said bike racks and lockers may be advantageous for kids. Director Shea stated we are looking at ways to maximize the area at Buena Vista by improving the driving range, promoting the chip and put, introducing golf to younger kids, and offering specialized birthday packages.

Fund 60 Aquatics- President Fagan asked if we still offer youth swim lessons. Andrea Juricic we still offer lessons for spring and summer and possibly fall, but we do not have access to Huntley. President Fagan asked if there was somewhere else we could go. Director Shea said we will do outdoor swim lessons. Commissioner Krmeneč asked about using the pool at NIU. Andrea Juricic stated we have reached out, but it is expensive to rent the space. President Fagan said he may be able to make inquiries.

Capitals- President Fagan asked about signs and logo rebranding. Director Shea said the new logo has been in place, but is inconsistent throughout the district. The District is investigating using plastic, recycled signs that are more colorful and inviting. Commissioner Young was concerned about the expense of changing signage at all buildings, business cards, and park signs.

President Fagan thanked everyone, realizing that this budget presentation was a lot work and he was impressed on how it was presented. Commissioner Krmeneč said she appreciated the highlights from FY22 as well as the plans for FY23 and the challenges. The presentation was very informative and very professional. Commissioner Young said this is the 13th budget he has seen and is by far the best. Commissioner Grada said this was the easiest to understand. Cindy Slinkard added that Director Shea did an amazing job.

There was short break from 12:57 to 1:03 p.m., at which time the meeting resumed.

b. Board Discussion on Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

President Fagan asked board members to share ideas of what they would like to see done. He started the discussion, saying he would like to get ahead of the pool project, including a questionnaire to citizens and formation of a pool committee. Commissioner Krmeneč stated she agreed wholeheartedly with a pool committee. She also stated she would like to see the board do a review and update of our board policy manual. She also stated that she's reviewed the administrative and personnel policy manuals and everything should be reviewed and updated. It's up to the board to do the board policy manual, and should include written policy that the documents should be reviewed on a routine basis. She stated she is interested

in planning, and from a policy-wise standpoint, how often plans are reviewed. Commissioner French asked when the last time the strategic plan was done. Director Shea stated 2 years ago, usually, it is done every 5 years. Commissioner French said he agreed with the pool, and updating the strategic plan. Commissioner Fagan stated he was worried about the pool failing and not being able to provide this amenity. Commissioner Young stated with a 48-year pool, you are gambling. There have been failed referenda and the public has stated they do not want their taxes raised for a pool. If we are going to do it, we need to financially support this. President Fagan added there was pushback on the SRC and look at how well that turned out. Commissioner Young agreed with the pool as a priority. He also wanted to see if there was anything to help utilize or promote the sled hill, including in the off season. Commissioner French said he would like to build a bar, offer food, and do a “Top Golf” type of setup which would generate a lot of revenue. Commissioner Grada said he was very much in favor of having input, but there should be a timeline to move forward so that we are not continually discussing a project. President Fagan stated he wanted the pool committee to conduct its business in a short time, but also wants to vet what the public wants. Commissioner Grada indicated that the Hopkins playground should to be done right since it’s our flagship playground. He wants to make it better with a broader appeal, possibly with creative play and water play.

c. Discussion on Date and Time for Future Board Meetings

In the proposed schedule, meetings would be moved to the second and fourth weeks of the month to allow staff more time to review financials and provide the board with up to date information. In response to President Fagan’s question whether this means 2 meetings a month, Director Shea indicated no, the earlier monthly meeting is only as needed. President Fagan indicated a preference for the 3rd week for the regular meeting, but was amenable to the 4th. Commissioner Young said he was fine with the 4th week, as long as we keep to one meeting per month, except for the dates specified. Commissioner Krmeneć and French both said they are fine with the 4th week.

VI. Open Comments from Commissioners and Director

President Fagan thanked everyone for coming on a Saturday. Commissioner Krmeneć said she wanted to reiterate the positive comments made earlier by everyone, stating the budget presentation was very refreshing. Commissioner French said everyone did a great job. Commissioner Young agreed. Director Shea thanked staff for coming out on a Saturday.

VII. Closed Session

a. Personnel- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1

Commissioner Krmeneć made a motion to go into closed session under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, seconded by Commissioner Young.

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

VIII. Reconvene Open Meeting

Commissioner Young made a motion to return to open session at 1:43 p.m.
Commissioner Krmeneč seconded the motion.

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

IX. Adjourn Public Meeting

Commissioner Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner French.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.