

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
November 16, 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 Recreation Chrissy Tluczek, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson, Mike Siefken, Cindy Slinkard, Austin Sands, Dave Kessen, and Sabrina Hunley.

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Tobin. 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 October 26, 2023

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

IV. Public Comments

DeKalb Township Supervisor Mary Hess thanked Superintendent Mat Emken and his crew for the recent cooperative work effort to clear overgrowth in the Ellwood House woods and adjacent township-owned cemetery. The work saved both entities time and money.

V. Old Business

- a. **Discussion on Hopkins Pool Project Update**

Director Shea provided an overview of very preliminary renderings of potential pool designs, with an emphasis on the entryways and locker rooms. Commissioner Castro requested confirmation, that different from the current setup, a pool patron could enter the pool and not have to see the bathrooms. Director Shea confirmed Mr. Castro's understanding of the design. This design alleviates concerns about children passing through the locker rooms to enter the pool or to use the bathroom. All locker rooms are ADA accessible, but there are also two ADA accessible family locker rooms. The design renderings presented will be made available digitally to the board. President Fagan asked whether these plans will be changing next month. Director Shea said they would be updated about every two weeks as the designs keep evolving

VI. New Business

a. Introduction of Sabrina Hunley

Superintendent of Recreation Chrissy Tluczek introduced newly hired Recreation Supervisor Sabrina Hunley and provided an overview of her responsibilities.

b. Discussion on Ordinance 23-05: Tax Levy Ordinance for 2023 Property Tax Levy

There were no questions nor discussion.

c. Discussion on Establishing a DeKalb Parks Foundation

President Fagan stated he is all for it, with Commissioners Krmenek and Grada agreeing. Director Shea indicated he will continue the process. Commissioner Krmenek mentioned that the preliminary paperwork shows the name as the DeKalb Park District Foundation; she likes the name DeKalb Parks Foundation.

d. Discussion of FY 2025 Pay Ranges for Non-Union Seasonal/Part-Time Staff

There were no questions nor discussion.

e. Discussion of 2024 Health Insurance Renewal

President Fagan recused himself from the discussion.

Commissioner Grada said insurance rates have gone up, so it seems to be good to share the burden somewhat. Commissioner Krmenek said she also realizes health insurance rates have increased. She thought the board should keep in mind that the union contract is coming up shortly, and that should be considered as a whole package, not just considering each component independently.

Commissioner Castro asked for clarification on the net cost increase. Director Shea said there is a decrease for the employees and an increase for the park district. Commissioner Castro further asked what the timeline was. Director Shea stated rate approval will be requested at the December meeting in order to make open enrollment.

f. Presentation of FY25 Fee Changes

Regarding the golf course fees, President Fagan asked about the fee to bring your own cart. Director Shea indicated the rate has not changed, since not many people use the trail passes. Commissioner Krmeneč inquired about the spring and fall greens fees, where a lower rate is proposed for defined periods in the spring and fall, for a total of 12 weeks, which seemed to her a substantial amount of time in the golf season. She asked about analysis of last year's data. A discussion ensued, with President Fagan pointing out that you can lose money when the weather is nice during those periods in the spring and fall and make more when the weather isn't as favorable. Director Shea stated the goal is to capitalize on the rounds, to get more people on the course. Perhaps the timeframe can be shortened. The goal is to bring more people to the course rather than closing it. Cindy Slinkard stated the District has always used these dates for reduced rates; sometimes the pins aren't in. Krmeneč stated that she thought the decisions should be based on data. Commissioner Grada asked for clarification that the District was already doing this, which Ms. Slinkard confirmed. Director Shea said the dates would be double checked, but they would like to have some type of discounted rate. President Fagan inquired when the carts were brought out, to which Ms. Slinkard replied as soon as possible. Commissioner Krmeneč asked then, based on the previous discussion, why the dates have to be set ahead of time? Can they be set based on the weather conditions? Director Shea said the District could use dynamic pricing, based on weather, when the pins are in, and when carts are up and running. Commissioner Krmeneč said that seemed more reasonable. President Fagan suggested calling the pricing "pin rates". Commissioner Castro asked whether there were comparison benchmarking numbers for season passes, inquiring if our numbers are lower. Director Shea said it is across the board. The numbers are based on daily fees, so we're a little lower. Castro asked what the seasonal pass percentage of residents vs. nonresidents is. Ms. Slinkard indicated that the District's non-resident passes are very low. She added that some courses don't offer season passes, so it is very hard to compare. Director Shea said, without looking at the data, he thinks on average about 87 percent are residents, with 13 percent nonresidents. Regarding the proposed recreation fee changes, Commissioner Tobin inquired about the difference between a resident team and a resident team session. Superintendent Chrissy Tluczek replied the resident team session is for Session 3, which is new. Because it is a shortened session, it is half the price of the others.

g. Action on Truth in Taxation Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2023 Levy Year

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution 23-04: Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2023 Levy Year, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

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

h. Action to Appoint Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to appoint John S. Shea, Jr. as the DeKalb Park District delegate and Mat Emken as alternate delegates to the Illinois Association of Park Districts Annual Meeting on January 27, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

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

i. Action to Approve Travel, Meals & Lodging Forms for Staff and Board

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the Travel, Meals & Lodging forms for Staff and Board, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

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

j. Action on Remainder of Fiscal Year 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the amended Board Meeting Schedule Fiscal Year 2024, seconded by Commissioner Tobin.

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

k. Action on the Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association Agreement

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the 5-year Joint Agreement with the Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Krmeneč asked whether we were the last ones to sign the agreement. Director Shea said we were scheduled to be the last one to sign, but we are not, we are the third. The others have formally approved the agreement, but they have not yet signed it.

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

I. Items Over \$10,000

i. Action to Approve Lightning Protection System at the Ellwood Mansion

Commissioner Krmeneć made a motion to approve the proposal from Hamilton Lightning Protection to install a lightning protection system on the Ellwood Mansion in the amount of \$22,700.00, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Grada asked whether the folly had lightning protection, meaning the water tower. Superintendent Emken stated there were lightning rods on top. Commissioner Castro asked whether the system would be very obvious when looking at the mansion. Mr. Emken indicated there will be thin rods on the chimney, but not something that will stand out.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneć, 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 November 2023, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmeneć, 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 had no comments this month. Commissioner Grada said he appreciated seeing Commissioner Krmeneć and others at Ellwood to clear underbrush. Commissioner Krmeneć thanked the Director for the quick action on the 501(c)3 investigation into what the District currently has and the possibility of setting up a foundation. Commissioner Castro thanked Director Shea for answering all kinds of his questions and that the Director should expect more. Director Shea thanked the staff and board and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He said we are moving along with a lot of projects; 2023 is almost done. President Fagan thanked the staff and indicated

they do a great job. He didn't realize how many volunteers there were until he stopped at the Smash and Bash. The holiday party is December 1st; board members can attend.

IX. Adjourn Public Meeting

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.