

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
November 17, 2022
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. Krmeneć, 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, Mike Siefken, Dave Kesson, Chrissy Tluczek.

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Krmeneć made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item 9, Closed Session, and approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Young. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneć, Young, Grada, French 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 Special Meeting of October 19, 2022
- b. Minutes of the Public Meeting of October 27, 2022
- c. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022

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

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Old Business

a. Discussion on Hopkins Pool Replacement Project Update

Commissioner Krmeneć asked if the deep end of the pool was at the bottom of the diagram. Director Shea indicated it was, and the depth of the pool was 4 ½ feet,

all the way across. Commissioner Young asked whether the plan is to use the existing shell and modify it or remove the shell and use the excavated area. Director Shea said he does not know the exact answer. He believes the plan is to put thin steel around what already exists and then on top of that a rubberized mat would be installed. It is called a Merma (?) shell. George (from Councilman-Hunsaker) said many places are doing that to save money. Commissioner Young asked the bathing capacity compared to the \$13.3M pool design. Director Shea said it would be about the same, around 1000 people. President Fagan asked for clarification if that meant 1000 people at any one time, which Director Shea confirmed. Commissioner Krmenek asked for clarification on reusing the existing shell. Are we taking out the old pool shell and digging out the piping? Director Shea said he did not exactly know about abandoning old pipes and putting in new pipes. George will provide more information for the next meeting. Commissioner Krmenek said she was a little concerned with leaving pipes already 50 years old under there, and the pool should last 20-30 years. Once the pipes are 80-100 years old, who's to say they won't collapse. She also asked whether, for the mechanical room right next to building, there are any safety concerns with leaks or chemicals getting into the main building. Director Shea said Mat felt there would be no issues, and Steve Nelson also thought there would be no issues. Commissioner Krmenek said she brought it up because in the past there have been issues in hotels where in attached buildings where people have died. She understands technology has changed, so maybe it's no longer an issue. Director Shea said he would talk with Steve prior to the next meeting and bring up these concerns. Commissioner Grada said there wouldn't be any direct connection between the two buildings, the way it is drawn. Ventilation would be directly out of that new room. He asked about the Merma liner. Director Shea said he does not have much other information on that. There will be more information at the December 8th meeting.

b. Discussion on Truth in Taxation Resolution 22-05: Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year

President Fagan asked if the estimate for the EAV is 5 %. Mike Rock said that is still the estimate what we are going with because we don't yet have updated information. Commissioner Krmenek said she looked at the various options with regard to the median home value of owner-occupied homes in DeKalb, which is \$165,500. For the various options, "A" saves homeowner about \$18.53 a year, "B" increases their taxes 4.4 cents, and "C" gives them a decrease of \$3.37. There is a big difference between Options A and B in that the District is giving up \$67,000 in tax revenue for an increase of only 4.4 cents per year for a homeowner. We've been discussing how we are going to pay for a pool, how we have other major capital improvement projects coming up, we couldn't pay for Buena Vista this year, Haish Gym is coming up, and a lot of capital projects that still need to be done. It seems illogical to me to forego that capital when we need

it for so many projects. A lot of these projects have had deferred maintenance, and for many, it's not just been years, but decades. I know there is a push by city leaders to reduce tax rates, but I don't think this is necessarily a one size fits all reduction, especially for the park district, when it will cost the average homeowner 4.4 cents. I see supporting plan B, leaving the tax rate exactly as it is, for our benefit and all these projects. I think it's worthwhile that the city leaders are proposing the reductions, but I think the tax rate can be considered again next year, especially when we start to see more of the EAV realized from the new development on the south side. For this year, we should leave the tax rate the same. Commissioner French agreed with Commissioner Krmenek. President Fagan said he wanted to pride the park district. Since 2014, we have dropped our rate by 13%. It started out at .797 and didn't go up at all, and last year it was at .696. When we talk about the pool, we don't know where we are at, and how much money we will be spending on it. Last year we were fortunate that we had money to pay for the River Heights irrigation. We couldn't pay for Buena Vista because the price went up. The development on Gurler has not hit the books yet. I've heard from board members saying we have to look out for the taxpayer. With all the development, I don't think we are cutting ourselves short going with option "A". I think that with option "A" we're showing that we care, that we are working at reducing tax. The school district has dropped 17% since 2014. The City of DeKalb is only at 4% from where they were. I think we should show our due diligence and go with Option "A".

VI. New Business

a. Discussion on Seasonal Staff Rates for FY 2024

b. Discussion on Health Insurance Renewal

President Fagan recused himself from the discussion. Commissioner Young requested confirmation there would be no increase in deductibles, to which Director Shea said there would be no increase.

c. Discussion of Tax Levy Ordinance

d. Action on Truth in Taxation Resolution 22-05: Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year (OPTION A)

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05: Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year in the amount of \$3,547,000, seconded by Commissioner Krmenek.

Motion not carried by roll call vote. Aye: Fagan, Young. Nay: French, Krmenek, Grada. Absent: None. (2-3-0)

e. Action on Truth in Taxation Resolution 22-05: Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year (OPTION B)

Commissioner French made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05: Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year in the amount of \$3,614,000, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneč.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneč, French, Grada. Nay: Fagan, Young. Absent: None. (3-2-0)

f. Action on Truth in Taxation Resolution 22-05: Resolution Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year (OPTION C)

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05: Establishing Estimate of Funds to be Raised by Taxation for the 2022 Levy Year in the amount of \$3,614,000, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Motion not carried by roll call vote. Aye: None. Nay: Krmeneč, Fagan, French, Grada, Young. Absent: None. (0-5-0)

g. Action on Approval of OptumHealth Care Solutions Service Agreement

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to approve the OptumHealth Care Solutions Service Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Young.

President Fagan asked whether this is mostly for Haish gym. Superintendent of Recreation Andrea Juricic said a majority of it is for our pickle ball users. Director Shea said it is also qualifies for walking membership at SRC. Ms. Juricic added we will still offer Silver Sneakers.

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

h. Action on Staff and Board Travel Forms

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

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

i. Action to appoint Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting in January 2023

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to appoint John S. Shea, Jr. as the DeKalb Park District delegate and Mat Emken as alternate delegate to the Illinois

Association of Park Districts Annual Meeting on January 30, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

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

j. Action on Remainder of FY 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the amended Board Meeting Schedule Fiscal Year 2023, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneč.

Commissioner Krmeneč said she really liked the budget meeting last year. It didn't feel rushed, it was a terrific idea.

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

k. Items over \$10,000

i. Stump Grinder

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the quote from Alexander Equipment in the amount of \$37,002.54 for the purchase of an a Rayco stump cutter through the Sourcewell joint purchasing program, seconded by Commissioner Young.

Commissioner Grada asked whether it is the same folks for this as for the new chipper, which Mat Emken indicated it was.

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

ii. Haish Fitness Equipment

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to approve the quote from Johnson Fitness equipment in the amount of \$19,290.73 for new fitness equipment, seconded by Commissioner French.

President Fagan said there are people that have been going there for years, and credited Recreation Supervisor Chrissy Tluczek for doing a good job on the equipment acquisition. Commissioner French said we got a great deal.

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

VII. Financial Reports

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports presented in November 2022, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmeneč, French, Fagan, Young. 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 Young commended staff for looking for ways to save the District money and appreciates the pool designs. He likes the addition of seats at top of sledding hill. Commissioner Grada said he appreciates the continuation of the conservation efforts and has some ideas about how to make the program more efficient. The new chipper is impressive. President Fagan said to keep up the good work and he appreciates everyone. Commissioner Krmeneč followed up on Commissioner Grada's comments regarding conservation efforts. We could work with the master naturalist program at the University of Illinois extension office for volunteers. They have requirements to do maybe 60 hours of volunteer work a year. Perhaps approach them. She also mentioned the pool design presented-it seems viable at this point. It doesn't look like we've cut everything out, but rather honed in on the necessary amenities. The result is still different. Commissioner French said he likes the Facebook advertising. The Sunday Soccer games are really fun to watch. Director Shea said Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for the continued support. We have a lot ahead of us and look forward to the budget presentation.

IX. Adjourn Public Meeting

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.