

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
November 4, 2019
Hopkins Terrace Room, DeKalb, IL

Public Meeting
5:30 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order

President Phil Young called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Board member present: President Phil Young, Secretary Gail Krmeneč, Treasurer Dag Grada, Commissioner Doug Eaton.

Board member absent: Vice President Dean Holliday

Staff member present: Executive Director Amy Doll, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Heather Collins, Superintendent of Park & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Bruggeman, Assistant Golf Maintenance Superintendent Adam Anderson, Assistant Golf Maintenance Superintendent In Training Steven Burski, Facilities Team Mike Mascali, Parks Maintenance and Special Project Team Leader Dave Kessen

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Eaton. Motion carried by voice vote.

III. Discussion of Golf Course Operations

a. Operating Revenue/Expense History and Capital Expense History

President Young summarized how the golf report fits into the District's strategic plan. He stated that the Park District will not be shutting down any golf courses next year. He encouraged those present to utilize the District's website as a resource for information about this process.

Commissioner Krmeneč indicated that this meeting is for the Board to have an open discussion with the community. The Board is not looking to be the oppositions and that they want the public to have use of have the golf courses.

Director Amy Doll went over the comments of the District's auditors. Commissioner Grada inquired whether golf includes depreciation numbers. Superintendent of Finance & Administration Collins confirmed that depreciation expense is not in the Golf Fund, but rather only on the Park District as a whole entity.

b. District Capital Needs

President Young asked staff to discuss how the District’s capital needs are assessed. Superintendent Collins stated that various factors, including the Comprehensive Master Plan, assessments of facility conditions, assessments of other infrastructure considerations, the strategic plan, and equipment replacement schedules all play a role in capital planning.

c. District Strategic Plan and Community Survey

Director Doll noted that one of the strategies from the District’s Strategic Plan was Determining the Financial Sustainability of the Golf Courses. This strategy includes the upcoming needs of golf capital. This recent report from Billy Casper Golf is an outcome of that strategic plan initiative.

d. Discussion of Short-Term Plans

President Young stated that there is no plan to close a golf course next year. The District will open both courses next season next year. The delay in the current evening’s meeting was due to trying to include one of commissioners who is an avid golfer and brings a lot of experience and expertise to the board; he became ill, which delayed this meeting.

President Young further stated that one of the primary issues is not a golf course being closed, but how to continue the operations at River Heights at a financially sustainable level. Staffing issues have arisen in the last two months. The District currently has three open golf positions. The previous Superintendent of Golf was also covering marketing, which means the District is down about four employees. Further, President Young said that the Billy Casper Golf Report is a report, but not a plan.

President Young said it would be good to set up a committee established by the park board, which includes board, staff, and citizens. The committee would likely have weekly meetings because the board only has a few weeks to determine the budget. The committee would need to look at staffing and consider the possibility of contracting operations.

With the board approval at our next meeting, the board will approve the formation of a committee. It is recommended that Commissioner Holliday will chair the committee. Commissioner Grada added that the District wants a conversation not an argument. Current operations are not sustainable. The District needs to find the best solution for taxpayer dollars and the users. Commissioner Krmenek said that the Board owes it to the community to do the research in order to be professionally staffed and expertly maintained. Commissioner Eaton agreed that a committee is the way to go and that the board is anxious for public input to work towards the answers.

IV. Public Comment

Eighteen people spoke about their concerns for the future of the golf courses and the desire to ensure that both courses remain open.

V. Next Steps

President Young indicated that the next step in the process will be to form a committee, which is authorized by the board. It will be a public meeting and subject to the Open Meetings Act. The committee will present a recommendation to the board, which the board will vote on. Those interested in participating on the committee should contact President Young or Executive Director Doll.

Commissioner Krmeneč thanked the group for participating and doing their homework on the issues.

Commissioner Grada said that the goal is to get a better awareness of actual numbers and figures for the golf courses

Commissioner Eaton appreciated everyone's passion and input; he felt that it is very valuable.

VI. Adjourn Public Meeting

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Eaton. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.