

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb Park District**  
**Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**  
**November 5, 2020**  
**Hopkins Community Center, DeKalb, IL**

**Public Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**I. Meeting Call to Order:**

President Phil Young called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Board members present:** President Phil Young, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Commissioner Gail A. Krmenech, Commissioner Doug Eaton, and Commissioner Dag Grada.

**Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Amy Doll, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Bruggeman, Interim Superintendent of Golf Dan Anderson, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson.

**II. Action on the Agenda**

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

**III. Public Comments**

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

**a. Presentation of Hopkins Pool Report**

George Deines from Counsilman-Hunsaker and Stephen Nelson from Larson & Darby Architects presented the results of their study of Hopkins Pool as well as the findings from the community input and survey. They also presented concepts for a remodel of Hopkins Pool and for a new facility.

Commissioner Krmenech asked what our capacity is now. Director Doll said it is 1400 currently. George stated that the capacity shown on their concepts is a comfort capacity and not the IDPH capacity that is the 1400 of the current pool. Commissioner Krmenech said it seemed low. She also asked what the cost would be for the 6-lane lap pool as future phase. George said it would be about \$2.5 million total for the future phase. Commissioner Krmenech also asked for additional details on the operations costs compared to what the District currently spends.

President Young asked about the pool being built in the current location vs a new location. He said he would like to utilize this building and save money by renovating this space. He was concerned with the activities that can only have three people at a time for the slide, wall, and diving area, but also understood that those help draw in residents as well. He asked if they could possibly put some slides together to bullet the summaries for the community to see.

Commissioner Grada asked if there would be any green space. George said that yes it can include some grass and not all hard deck.

**b. Discussion of Preliminary FY 2022 Capital Budget Items**

Commissioner Krmeneč asked what would be most helpful to staff at this point. There is about \$6m here needing to be reduced to \$1.3. In general, we should be doing priority-based budgeting and look at the areas that will provide some income for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Grada asked if staff could provide a color-coded chart with all projects listed to signify priority of projects, what can be deferred for another year, etc.

Commissioner Krmeneč also asked why there were so many projects suggested to be re-budgeted to next fiscal year. Director Doll stated if projects are re-budgeted the funds are still there. The money was allocated this fiscal year, but in order to spend it for next year, they have to be re-budgeted. Commissioner Krmeneč asked why we were not doing those items. Director Doll stated some are being re-budgeted because staff were not able to complete them because of the COVID-19 mitigation restrictions that have been in place.

Commissioner Grada mentioned the Greenwood Conservation Area. He could not see us spending money to maintain the fence which prohibits public to use the land. Commissioner Krmeneč and President Young agreed.

President Young asked about the budgeted numbers for Ellwood House and the projects listed there. Director Doll noted that the funding would come from fundraising done by the Ellwood Association. He asked if there were any other options for Hopkins Shelter to make it more user friendly throughout the colder months without spending \$1.1million. Mr. Emken said there was no insulation in that building, no furnace, no HVAC. Commissioner Krmeneč asked about using an industrial heater and wall mounted heaters in the bathrooms. Mr. Emken said one issue is that there is currently water service through the floor. If we are going to keep bathrooms open, we would have to keep it heated. Commissioner Grada mentioned using it as a heating facility with using torpedo heaters, but not opening the bathrooms.

President Young also asked about the golf course irrigation at \$2.1m. He thought we were going to do an external study first. He thought it would be best to budget to do an audit this next fiscal year so we can budget or stagger these expenses and get a better idea of where we are at. Commissioner Krmeneč said we absolutely

needed to do the audit and make sure we are operational for next year, seeing as how golf courses did 20% better this year nationwide.

President Young asked why our annual tree planting was so low. Mr. Emken stated that in a lot of spaces we have our air spaces filled out. Typically, this budget gets us 60 good size trees each year.

President Young asked why there are so many master site plans in addition to the comprehensive master plan. Commissioner Krmeneč said it is almost \$87,500 in plans. That is a very large amount of money.

Commissioner Krmeneč asked if the sports field lighting absolutely needed to be done next year as it cost almost \$1m. She asked if that project could be postponed one more year.

Commissioner Eaton said it would be helpful to know from staff what is mission critical.

Commissioner Grada mentioned it would be nice to see a porta potty at Prairie Park to make it more user friendly.

**c. Discussion of Tax Levy Estimate Resolution**

Commissioner Krmeneč asked if this amount would become our budget. Director Doll said it does.

**d. Discussion of Nature Trail Master Plan Update**

Mr. Emken received the numbers for hauling brush (\$81,257.50) the cost for hauling brush verses burning the brush (\$28,000) from the area during restoration. He also followed up with the fire chief and the burning would be permitted. President Young said he was glad to see a dollar comparison. He agrees with the maintenance of the trail from phase 1 and 2 but has concerns with this option being included as a part of phase 3. He did not see the point of doing this at this moment and would rather spend the money on extending other trails. Commissioner Krmeneč said regardless of whether this is the 28,000 vs 81,000, she does not think we should be expending the money on this for this next fiscal year. She stated she disagreed with the burning as well.

**e. Discussion of KSRA Agreement**

Commissioner Krmeneč asked how much we are contributing to KSRA every year. Director Doll stated 4 cents are levied for special rec purposes. Each agency contributes 2 cents to KSRA and the agency can keep 2 cents for their own agency for ADA projects. Commissioner Krmeneč also asked how many DeKalb residents were served and wanted to know why the contract was changing from 3 to 5 years. Director Doll said she can go back to KSRA and the other districts to see if they would consider shortening to a 3-year term. President Young and Commissioner Eaton concurred. Director Doll stated we budgeted \$107,000 to

KSRA for this fiscal year and said she will find out how many residents they serve.

**f. Discussion of Used Golf Cart Purchase**

President Young asked if the purchases usually get staggered. He asked why we have so many that are not working. Mr. Anderson said typically there would be some staggering, so you are not looking at replacing such a large amount. Commissioner Krmeneč was not sure why we were trading in 50 carts to get 25. She asked if the board could get more information. Director Doll stated we would bring this back with a more detailed list.

**g. Discussion of Health Insurance Renewal**

President Young asked if our plan covers mental health. Director Doll said she would have to look into that in particular, but we do have an EAP program as well. Commissioner Krmeneč asked about the opt out incentive. Director Doll said that amount was approved a few years ago and has been decreasing each year. Commissioner Krmeneč added that she would not support that in the future.

**h. Action on Superintendent of Finance & Administration Job Description**

Commissioner Eaton made a motion to accept the Superintendent of Finance and Administration Job Description, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

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

**i. Action on Filling Superintendent of Finance & Administration Position**

Commissioner Eaton made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to fill the Superintendent of Finance and Administration position at a starting salary not to exceed \$78,840, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

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

**VI. Adjourn Public Meeting**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.