

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee
November 12, 2020
Meeting Held Via ZOOM
Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order

Golf Committee Chair Dag Grada called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. After calling the meeting to order, Chair Grada stated that pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7 as amended by Public Act 101-640, this meeting will be conducted virtually through ZOOM, as it has been determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before roll call, Chair Grada noted that Austin Sands had resigned from the committee.

Committee Members Present: Chair Dag Grada, Vice-Chair Gail Krmeneč, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Vince McMahon, Randy Bourdages, Tom Teresinski, and Tom Anderson.

Absent: Larry Schultz.

Non-voting Members Present: Amy Doll, Doug Eaton, Phil Young.

Other District Staff Present: Cindy Slinkard, Dan Anderson, Dakota Johnson.

II. Action on the Agenda

Mr. McMahon made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Krmeneč. Motion carried by roll call vote (7-0-0).

III. Approval of Minutes from 6/10/2020 Meeting

Mr. Bourdages made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/10/2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Teresinski. Motion carried by a roll call vote (7-0-0)

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Old Business

Mr. Bourdages asked about the status of the irrigation and noted that it is critical that irrigation be addressed. He stated that he had heard that the board did not want to address the irrigation at the golf courses and that several costs had been discussed. He also heard a rumor that the course is going to close.

Ms. Krmeneč said that she wanted to address the rumor and noted that we are all, the board, the committee, and the community, working to keep the course operating. Mr. Grada agreed with Ms. Krmeneč about the rumor being false and noted that it would be foolish to invest so much in the course for such a short time of operating.

Ms. Krmeneč noted that the board has just started looking at capital budget and there is only so much money and nothing has been decided yet. Mr. Bourdages noted that the irrigation system is critical to be addressed.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion of 2020 Season

Ms. Doll presented data from the 2020 season showing that golf rounds at both the River Heights and Buena Vista courses increased over the 2019 season. She also presented financial data for the courses showing the 2020 season compared with 2019 and compared with the 2020 budget. Mr. McMahon pointed out that cost savings were likely due to the Superintendent of Golf being position being vacant for part of the year. He suggested that the District eliminate the Superintendent of Golf position to save money before any consideration to close the course. Mr. Bourdages suggested that staff deserved thanks for operating so well for the season given all of the challenges. Several committee members agreed. Mr. Teresinski hoped that the District could make a statement to the community about the successes of the courses this season.

b. Discussion of Ways to Build on the Successes of the 2020 Season for the 2021 Season

Mr. McMahon suggested offering a 3-day and a 5-day pass as well as a cart pass. Mr. Bourdages suggested that all staff from both courses sit down and find out what worked and what didn't among.

Mr. Teresinski asked whether or not this committee will go forward and wants to see something on capital spending for 2020 and what is planned for 2021. He would like for this committee to have some input on the capital discussion for 2021 which would entail having another meeting before the next budget meeting. He asked about the timeline for the District's budget development.

Mr. Teresinski asked about when that Superintendent would be hired. Ms. Doll noted first round interviews had been done. Mr. Teresinski asked if anyone on the committee would be included and suggested that should be done.

Mr. Teresinski asked would like to discuss how the expiring TIF would impact the budget and capital budget for the District. He also suggested that an end of season report to the board and a statement of commitment by the District on the websites would be beneficial. Mr. Bourdages suggested that it is important to tell the positive story of the District's golf courses.

Mr. McMahon asked for an update on the cart paths and work going on this year. Mr. D. Anderson gave an update about the progress of the cart paths and drainage work. He noted that the bridge on #16 would be getting removed because it has been condemned but nothing had been determined about whether or not a bridge would be moved or a new one constructed. Mr. Bourdages pointed out that you would be saving a lot of money to move a bridge instead of constructing a new one.

Mr. Grada noted that we need to have a discussion about where the committee is going and what the next steps are. He suggested that once we have a Superintendent of Golf we would get their input on where to go next. He suggested that he would like to get the new Superintendent in place before we have another meeting. He suggested another meeting in February or March or asked if it should be earlier than that.

Mr. McMahon asked about the budget schedule and Ms. Doll noted that the board is looking at the preliminary capital data now. Mr. Teresinski suggested that the committee should meet again in early January prior to the board review. Ms. Doll suggested that sometime during the week of December 7th would be best to get committee input on capital projects for 2021.

Mr. Teresinski noted that the suggestion for extra week at Buena Vista due to the great weather was a great idea and very well received.

VII. Adjourn Public Meeting

Mr. Bourdages made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McMahon. Motion carried by roll call vote (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.