

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
December 7, 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. Krmenech, 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, Dave Kessen, Mike Siefken.

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Grada made a motion to amend the agenda to exchange item VI, old business with VII, new business, and approve it, seconded by Commissioner Tobin. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmenech, 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 November 16, 2023

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

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Public Hearing

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to enter into the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

Annually, the District approves the tax levy ordinance in December before filing

with the DeKalb County Clerk. Before said approval, the Illinois Truth in Taxation law requires the District to hold a public hearing, if the levy on capped funds is increasing by 5% or more. The District's 2023 levy is increasing by 3.81% to \$3,790,000 and is under the threshold for a mandated Truth in Taxation hearing. Although the increase is under the threshold, the district believes in local government transparency and is holding a truth in taxation hearing to provide the public an opportunity to speak in regard to the 2023 Tax Levy before its approval.

With no questions or comments, Commissioner Krmeneč moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Tobin, Grada, Krmeneč, Castro and Fagan. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

Public hearing adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

VI. New Business

a. Action on Ordinance 23-05: Tax Levy Ordinance for 2023 Property Tax Levy

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-05: Tax Levy Ordinance for 2023 Property Tax Levy, seconded by Commissioner Tobin.

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

b. Action on FY2025 Pay Ranges for Non-Union Seasonal/Part-Time Staff

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve FY2025 Pay Ranges for Non-Union Seasonal/Part-Time Staff, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneč.

Commissioner Tobin asked whether we've had trouble hiring seasonal staff. Director Shea indicated not this past year, but in previous years, yes. This year there was a good candidate pool and the right amount of staff.

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

c. Action on 2024 Health Insurance Renewal

President Fagan recused himself from the vote.

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) medical insurance renewal for the 2024 calendar year, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneč.

Commissioner Castro noted that health insurance cost increases are a national problem. He inquired about the statement that the large premium increase is

due to high claim volume by employees and whether there were any data to support this claim. Director Shea said when asked the reason for the increase, the agency said it was due to inflation as well as more medical claims made this year. Commissioner Castro then asked if there was something about our employee population that was inciting more claims. Director Shea said he does not have that data nor could he speak on that due to HIPAA regulations. Commissioner Castro stated he wanted to make sure there was nothing in our setting that was resulting in medical claims. He also had questions on the total carrier cost and percent variance for the employee cost. Director Shea explained the tables in detail for the board, stating that he had referenced health insurance specifically, since that is what had increased, and not the other insurance coverages.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmenech, Grada, Castro, Tobin. Nay: None. Absent: None. Recused: Fagan (4-0-0)

d. Action on Playground Installation Contractor for Hopkins

Commissioner Grada made a motion for the Board of Commissioners to identify Irving Construction, of DeKalb, IL, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder with a base bid totaling \$745,030.74. Staff will seek final approval of the AIA contract during the January 18, 2024, Board of Commissioners Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Tobin.

Commissioner Grada said he was happy that the playground will have a poured surface, which is a plus for ADA at Hopkins Park.

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

e. Items Over \$10,000

i. Authorization to Purchase Two (2) 2024 Ford F150 and One (1) 2024 Ford F250

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) 2024 Ford F150's and one (1) Ford F250 from Morrow Brothers Ford through the State of Illinois procurement program in the amount of \$142,693, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

President Fagan asked whether we order the color we have, not a special order, to which Superintendent Emken replied they are stock colors. Commissioner Castro asked what the Illinois Procurement Program is. Mr. Emken stated the State of Illinois bids a lot of items and allows other government entities to

piggyback on their bids. Director Shea added that the State's savings benefit other agencies. We've found that this is financially beneficial when it comes to supplies and equipment, but not necessarily services.

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

VII. Old Business

a. Discussion on Hopkins Pool Project Update

Steve Nelson of Larson & Darby provided a pool project update. Director Shea started by saying at the most recent meeting of the pool contractors and staff reviewed potential pool layouts. Mr. Nelson just completed two draft designs based on discussion. Before presenting the designs, Mr. Nelson updated the board on what had transpired since the last board update. The survey, topo, and utility locates, which is beyond just the JULIE utility locate. The diving well, despite earlier indications it may, does not meet code. They considered various options for a maintaining the diving well. The preliminary cost estimate for the middle of the road diving well option is \$900,000 to \$1M, which the budget will not support. The plans presented tonight do not include a diving well, although there is an opportunity to add it in the future, but it is not recommended at this point in time. Commissioner Castro asked who regulates the code, to which Mr. Nelson indicated it is the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). Director Shea added that each year we pay IDPH for an operational license after they check pumps and other requirements.

Mr. Nelson presented the two designs. After considering six or seven options, the entry sequence hasn't changed. They have been discussing where the slide tower will go, how it will fit in, and the pros and cons of the different locations. There is a run-out slide in both designs. A second tower slide can be an alternate feature, depending on how bid prices come in. President Fagan asked, for the first presented design, how people are getting to concessions. Mr. Nelson responded you come in under the slides. Commissioner Krmeneč asked a question, more for the staff, if the lounge area right next to the proposed slides is used more by people for sun bathing and relaxing and how kids screaming on the tower would impact that location. Director Shea said the sundeck area is where the teenagers hang out, sunbathing is more toward the flagpole. She also asked what a particular area was on the design, to which Mr. Nelson indicated it is for camp or can be rented for a party. It is adjacent to both the kid pool and the main pool, depending on the age level. Director Shea indicated that if there is no camp or party, the area will be open to use as pool deck. Ms. Krmeneč further asked how this configuration affects the number of lifeguards required. Director Shea said it would be about the same as the current number. This

configuration also provides more pool surface area for swimming. Mr. Nelson added that in both design options, it is much safer overall because the lifeguards have a more unobstructed view of the pool deck and the water.

After Mr. Nelson presented the 2nd design, President Fagan noted that the runoff slide location in this design makes more sense. Commissioner Krmeneč commented that she liked this design, too. Mr. Nelson said that although the pool's footprint is basically the same, its character will feel a lot different due to the design. Commissioner Grada added that the concession's location makes more sense, especially with having access from the park, too. Commissioner Castro wanted to clarify that the season pass holders have 2 points of entry and that the concessions are available in the pool and outside of the pool, which was confirmed. He inquired whether the pool would have lane lines, to which Director Shea indicated it will be striped the same as the current layout. The board consensus was to proceed with the second design presented.

VIII. Financial Reports

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports presented in December 2023, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

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

- a. **Monthly Paid Bills Listing**
- b. **IT Summary**
- c. **Board & Staff Travel Expense Summary**
- d. **FOIA Report**

IX. Open Comments from Commissioners and Director

Commissioner Tobin said good job this year. Commissioner Grada said it feels good to have this pool. Commissioner Krmeneč stated she thinks the pickleball and tennis courts look fantastic. She thought the black fencing makes such a difference. She thanked the staff and Larson and Darby for the work on the pool, saying we are so close.

Commissioner Castro said it is the season to give thanks and then thanking everyone for a wonderful 2023 with the playground, the pool, and the tennis courts. There is demand for pickleball at the south Fourth Street facility. People are coming from out of town to use our resources, which is something to be proud of. Director Shea thanked the board, saying it was hard to believe 2023 is almost over. He said there has been a lot accomplished in 3 years and looking back at this year includes the golf course irrigation, the pool, the pickleball courts, and the playground. The Hopkins Park projects are a good feeling. Thanks to the Board and to the staff for their help and dedication. The staff care about the District and it goes a long way. President Fagan thanked the District

employees for how hard they work. River Heights and Buena Vista look so nice, and because we're doing a great job, we're getting people from out of town. He reminded everyone of 10 a.m. January 13th budget meeting and the board meeting on January 18th.

X. Adjourn Public Meeting

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.