



Board of Commissioners

Dag Grada
Brian Tobin
Gail A. Krmeneč
David Castro
Doug Eaton

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MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
July 25, 2024
Hopkins Community Center, DeKalb, IL

Public Meeting
6:00 p.m.

1.0 Meeting Call to Order:

President Dag Grada called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board members present: President Dag Grada, Vice-President Brian Tobin, Secretary Gail A. Krmeneč, Treasurer David Castro and Commissioner Doug Eaton.

Board members absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Paul Zepezauer, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson, Wes Levy and Mary Frost (Lauterbach and Amen), Cindy Slinkard, Mike Siefken, Katie Drum, Joe Fabricino, Jackie Schrader, and Dave Kesson.

2.0 Amendments/Approval of the Agenda

2.1 Amendments

None.

2.2 Approval of the Agenda

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

3.0 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.

3.1 Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 21, 2024

3.2 Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 27, 2024

3.3 Minutes of the Public Meeting of June 27, 2024

3.4 Executive Session Minutes of June 27, 2024

Commissioner Eaton made a motion to remove item 3.2 for approval, leaving items 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4, seconded by Commissioner Tobin. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneč, Castro, Tobin, Eaton, Grada. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

Commissioner Krmeneč stated that Item 3.2, Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 27, 2024, was corrected to reflect Vice-President Tobin presiding at the hearing, not Dag Grada as originally listed, who was absent.

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve amended item 3.2 Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 27, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

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

4.0 Public Comments

Several people, including speakers Georgia Harrelson, Ana Hall, Nicole Skrzypek, Michelle McGill, Audrey McGill, Emily McKee, Jouliana Baakar, Alexis Ball, Katy Lantis, Jennifer Moore, and Linh Nguyen, voiced various concerns with the pool renovation project, including a downsized pool capacity, safety with a zero-entrance pool, having younger and older children in one area, DeKalb County Swim Team use, and the longevity and amenities of the latest pool design. The Board was encouraged to reconsider community needs and take their time with design.

5.0 Closed Session

The Board will enter a Closed Session to discuss:

Collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employee or their representatives- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to go into closed session under Section 2(c)(2) of the Open Meeting Act, seconded by Commissioner Eaton.

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

6.0 Reconvene Open Meeting

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to return to open session at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Castro seconded the motion.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Union Contract

Commissioner Castro made a motion to approve the Union's version of the contract, seconded by Commissioner Tobin.

Keri-Lyn Krafthefer from the District's legal counsel Ancel Glink presented a status update pertaining to union contract negotiations, including discrepancies between the Union's version of the contract and the District's version.

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

7.2 Action on Merit Pool Increase for Non-Collective Bargaining Employees for Fiscal Year 2025 (3/1/24-2/28/25)

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve pay increases for non-union staff for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Tobin asked whether this item should be placed on hold for the union contract. Commissioners Castro and Krmeneč both agreed. Commissioner Grada said a motion to table the item was needed. Commissioner Tobin made a motion to table item 7.2 Action on Merit Pool Increase for Non-Collective Bargaining Employees for Fiscal Year 2025 (3/1/24-2/28/25), seconded by Commissioner Castro.

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

7.3 Hopkins Pool Replacement Project Update

Executive Director Zepezauer provided a brief pool project update. He showed the pool construction design shared at the last meeting, but with pool depth indicators from the zero-entry area to the lap lanes added to the diagram to show depth progression. He highlighted some areas discussed at the last meeting, including the overall site plan and the parking lots, including the north lot which will suffer damage from construction and the south lot which has issues that need to be addressed. The group is reviewing whether there is a need for a second building for the entry area or whether using the existing building for entry is possible. Mr. Zepezauer said that in the zero-depth entry area, about 44% of the pool would be 3 ½ feet or deeper. With a bather load of 750, about 350 people can be served in that pool area. In the 0 to 1-foot area, there are play structures: 1 large structure and 3 smaller ones. He pointed out the slide component. He said this is the current drawing that Larson and Darby is working on, in addition to the demolition, which was the next agenda item.

7.4 Approval of Submission of Hopkins Demolition Permit

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to approve the submission of Hopkins Park Pool Demolition Permit, seconded by Commissioner Eaton.

Jim Leppert of IHC said they wanted to bid out the demolition component of the project, including submission for permits. Planning work continues for demolishing the pool mechanical building and the existing infrastructure that serves water into the existing building. The final engineering for the overall scope of the project must be done now for incorporation into the demolition drawings. The new infrastructure can be started on the south side of the site and then the demolition of the pool equipment building can begin. They are coordinating the drawings to ensure correct engineering for future needs to support the pools, the building from a water service and sanitary sewer point, and the new electrical services coming into the building. Work could begin before the final drawings are completed. Steve Nelson of Larson & Darby said everything is phased so the building stays operational. There will be temporary water service to the building, which allows for the removal of the old service, and some sanitary sewer will remain. The City knows that the District plans to submit a demolition permit request. Demolition will include the interior of the locker rooms.

Commissioner Tobin asked once the permit is received, how long demolition would take. Mr. Leppert said 3-4 months. Commissioner Castro asked how long it would take to receive the permit. Mr. Nelson indicated the goal was to submit the application in the next 2 weeks. Jim Leppert indicated that he thought the permit would be issued within weeks, not months, but cautioned that the project includes the infrastructure: putting in the temporary water service and connecting the sanitary sewer, which is not as straightforward as simple demolition.

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

8.0 New Business

8.1 Introduction of Community Outreach Coordinator

Marketing Manager Katie Drum introduced new Community Outreach Coordinator Joe Fabricino.

8.2 League of Women Voters OSLAD Project Update

Upland Design presented the preliminary concept plans regarding the League of Women Voters Park upgrades. Commissioner Castro asked what was east of the native plant rain garden. Superintendent Emken stated it was private property with a grass field, maybe zoned industrial. Mr. Castro said because the District has already done nice work with natives and butterfly gardens, he would strongly encourage natives here as well. He really likes the collaboration with the League of Women Voters because of their history with the park district. Commissioner Grada said he liked the seating area inside the playground for inclusion. He loves turf reduction, which could be expanded to the south. Rather

than a homogenous seed blend, he would like to see the back lot line include beefier species with smaller species in front near the path. This would provide more of a break with the tree line. Commissioner Krmeneč commented that the idea would look nice and hoped we would work with Meghan (the District's Natural Areas Specialist) on whatever we do. Commissioner Grada said there was a concept he saw at another park with a fitness loop where they included with each fitness piece a small play piece, where potentially a parent and child could utilize the space at the same time. With this project we may have more latitude with funding, so it might be an option. As for color palette, the blue is more fun, but he liked the green he because he's older. Commissioner Krmeneč asked if the equipment is interchangeable to be used in other playgrounds, so as things get older, we can utilize the pieces, or perhaps it doesn't matter. We have been buying from the same companies. Mr. Emken said it doesn't much matter. This is the same company as the large play structure at Hopkins. Commissioner Eaton said he does like the different features and offerings for different ages.

9.0 Financial Reports

Commissioner Tobin made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports presented in July 2024, seconded by Commissioner Castro.

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

9.1 Monthly Paid Bills Listing

9.2 Monthly Financial Summary

9.3 IT Summary

9.4 Board & Staff Travel Expense Summary

9.5 FOIA Report

10.0 Open Comments from Commissioners and Director

10.1 Board

Commissioner Eaton was concerned about the slope in the pool and hearing a lifeguard speak about that issue. In last month's Illinois Parks and Rec issue there was an article that there were drownings in summer 2023. It states to be careful and mindful and have a process ready to keep people safe. He thanked the public for their input. Commissioner Tobin said he heard Music at Mansion has gone well. He was looking forward to having a strategic plan. In particular, looking at Kiwanis Park with the soccer fields and doing something there because of the lack of parks in the area. Commissioner Krmeneč said she had nothing to share this month. Commissioner Castro asked how July 4th went. Commissioner Grada thanked the Board for taking over for him last month, which he appreciated.

10.2 Director

Director Zepezauer thanked everyone for this opportunity, stating he was looking forward to working with the Board and staff. He said it was a great team, and he appreciated the conversations he's had so far. He was also looking forward to working through some of the challenges. There are many great things happening and he wants to build upon those and address the challenges.

11.0 Adjourn Public Meeting

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Dag Grada, President

Gail A. Krmeneč, Secretary