

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb Park District**  
**Public Meeting of the DeKalb Community Pool Advisory Committee**  
**May 5, 2022**  
**Hopkins Community Center, DeKalb, IL**

**Public Meeting**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Pool Advisory Committee Chair Pat Fagan began the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Patrick Fagan, Vice Chair Gail A. Krmenech, Dawn Baker, Rukisha Crawford, Peggy Dlabel, Steve Irving, Steve Lekkas, Michelle McGill, Carolyn Morris, Barb Parness, David Story, Julie Vander Bleek.

**Absent:** Janine Cochrane.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Joel French.

**District Staff Present:** Executive Director John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation Andrea Juricic.

**II. Action on the Agenda**

Committee Chair Fagan approved the agenda.

**III. Introductions**

Each committee member gave a short introduction of themselves.

**IV. Public Comment**

Park District Commissioner Joel French introduced himself and thanked everyone for coming.

**V. New Business**

**a. Meeting Schedule**

Committee Chair Fagan reviewed the meeting schedule, with meetings scheduled for June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1, 2022, the first Thursday of every month. Another meeting may be scheduled between those dates and perhaps another meeting in September in order for the committee to provide recommendations to the Park Board by the end of September. Selected topics must be addressed first because select information is needed by July.

**b. Committee Expectations**

- i. Location of Community Pool
- ii. Overall Design of the Community Pool
- iii. Site Amenities
- iv. Site Security
- v. Fundraising

Committee Chair Fagan presented the five topics listed on the agenda to be addressed by the committee. After providing pertinent information to the members, homework will be required. The committee will not initially address topics iv. and v. The focus must be on the first three items because the committee must present recommendations to the Board by the end of July. A pool design decision is anticipated in August. With respect to the pool location, based on the recent community survey results, almost everyone wants the pool to remain at Hopkins Park.

**c. Review of 2022 DeKalb Park District Aquatic Survey Results**

Director Shea summarized the results of the survey conducted March 1- April 1, 2022 regarding the Hopkins Pool rebuild. Of the 830 responses received, a common theme was the need for new, clean lockers rooms, a zero-entry pool, and water slides, with an overarching need for a safe and family-friendly environment.

**d. Review of Hybrid Option Design Resulting from the 2020 Hopkins Pool Study**

Executive Director Shea shared the Hopkins Pool assessment completed by Larson and Darby and Councilman Hunsaker for the Park Board in November, 2020, along with the other renovation options developed at that time. There was a discussion among committee members regarding relocating the pool site to the Hopkins Park tennis court area. A brief discussion ensued about partnering with other communities or agencies for the pool rebuild, including Sycamore, Cortland, and the YMCA, none of which seemed feasible. Other pool location sites were mentioned, including near the high school, across from the County Health Department and the soccer fields near the Sports and Recreation Center. One member stated that the charm of the Hopkins Park location is its central location, accessibility by bike trails, and the Sycamore Road underpass. Fourth of July festivities and baseball games are held at the Park, and it has the playground. The topic of pool expansion was raised, with a follow on question of why, when DeKalb's population is declining, and at what cost to the taxpayers. Members offered that the pool would draw from other communities, increasing attendance. Expansion could lead to growth. Director Shea indicated a survey will be sent to each committee member to solicit their comments on pool design

options, with response requested by either the Wednesday or Thursday of the week prior to Memorial Day. The issue of safety and security for pool attendees was mentioned as a concern.

**e. Tentative Project Timeline**

The timeline of key dates was presented. July 28, 2022 was highlighted as the date for the committee's recommendation on pool design, with emphasis on members doing their homework. An additional meeting may be needed to meet the date. For pool rebuild in the current location, the pool would be closed near the end of the 2023 season, with construction occurring in fall 2023 and spring 2024, with a planned opening on Memorial Day 2024.

**f. Project Funding**

During discussion, there was question of how much each pool design option would impact individual taxpayers. The District's goal is to use its own budget to fund the pool, without increasing its tax rate. The District currently does not have a debt obligation because the Sports and Recreation Center bond has been retired. There was a question of whether the committee was only to consider the hybrid option presented. All options are being considered, including other recommendations that may be made by the committee. New options may impact the established timeline. Steve Nelson of Larson and Darby stated that moving the pool location to the tennis court area was not part of the original budget. This may entail adding a parking lot, otherwise people would have to walk across the road to access to get to the pool. Utilities relocation must be factored in, and the vast majority of demolition must still be done. There is also the consideration of whether the District still wants to renovate the current building, or does that go away, because that was planned as a revenue generator. With all considered, the old budget number of around \$8.7 million may now be \$10 million (in previous budget numbers). The plans are driven by budget. The Director suggested that if the proposed project is too expensive, it can be perhaps be scaled back, with expansion later.

**VI. Open Comments from Committee Members**

**VII. Adjourn Public Meeting**

Committee Chair Fagan adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.