

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
June 30, 2022
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. Krmeneć, Treasurer Joel French and Commissioner Phil Young.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director John Shea, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance Mike Rock, Superintendent of Recreation Andrea Juricic, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Jennifer Anderson, Mike Siefken, Dave Kessen, Katie Drum, Sierra Price.

II. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneć. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneć, Young, French, 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 May 26, 2022

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

IV. Public Comments

None.

V. Old Business

a. Discussion on Ellwood Mansion Project 1879

Ellwood House Executive Director Brian Reis presented an update on Project 1879.

Commissioner Krmeneć said she thought we redid the roof a few years ago specifically to address water problems and asked whether the proposed area was

part of that previous repair. Superintendent Emken said the extent to which the damage was occurring wasn't realized at the time, so the gutters were not part of that repair. Brian Reis said the contractor put sheet metal over the built-in gutters. Commissioner Krmenech asked if the construction at the back of house would affect the lift. Brian Reis stated that it was suggested the lift be removed because of the work required in that area and then reinstalled after completion. Commissioner Young asked for the status of the big tree at the back of the house. Brian Reis said there are 2 trees: one on back corner is already dead and the other is half dead. Mat Emken added that we budgeted for the single stem tree to come down this year and would budget for the double-stemmed tree to be removed next year. Commissioner Young asked if that would affect our insurance since the tree is dead and we are leaving it. President Fagan said a homeowner's policy is different than a commercial policy. If you have the knowledge that there is an exposure, then you have a duty to correct that if it's an imminent exposure. Commissioner Krmenech asked if the trees have lightning rods. Brian Reis said the trees themselves would be. Krmenech noted that lightening protection was listed as an item for the next phase, and was concerned since the house is irreplaceable. Mr. Reis said once the trees come down the lightning protection could be implemented. President Fagan asked how Mr. Reis felt about the Elliott and Wood project. He stated that he's very happy with the project, and has received feedback that everyone loves the path.

b. Discussion on DeKalb Community Pool Advisory Committee Update

President Fagan stated that the committee met and discussed the 3 existing pool designs. The committee was not that excited about them and would like to see something different. They thought the entrance should not be near Sycamore Road. The majority thought the location of the pool should be moved to where the tennis courts are. Director Shea added that whatever design is chosen, we need to ensure sufficient capacity. The committee was also concerned about adequate locker rooms. Director Shea said he was alarmed that the kiddie pool design only went to 1 1/2 feet. He spoke with Steve Nelson of Larson & Darby about redesigning the pool to be 3 1/2 feet deep to make better use of the available space.

President Fagan stated the timeframe is to do it now or it will not be done by next year. The general sense was that even if we had to wait a year, we need to do it right. He said the contractor on the committee brought up the cost. The previous board guessed around 8 million however, the contractor said it could be well into 12-14 million. Director Shea said the proposed timeline, with the pool concept approved in the fall, project bid in the winter, have the pool open this last summer, and the new pool open for 2024, may not be realistic based on what the committee was saying regarding building challenges. Preliminary cost of the hybrid pool option was 7.8 million. Now, we are looking at 9 million dollars for

that same project. Commissioner Krmeneč pointed out that although the committee said they wanted to move pool to the tennis courts, the committee never discussed the pros and cons for that. There should be a discussion before a decision is made based on facts as well as budget. She put together a list. The list of advantages is rather short, so she is looking for additional ideas so it is fair and balanced. Commissioner Young added that during previous discussions regarding the pool, it would cost a lot more to move the pool there and the parking would need to be restructured, as well as additional parking added. Depending on the plan, a lot of the proposed plans utilized the Hopkins building to save money. President Fagan stated he wanted everyone to understand we have a committee of townspeople that use and are invested in the pool. We just have to take their ideas and work around that. If things don't work out or do, we're not just up here to make a decision. It's a way to start. Commissioner Young asked whether this is being pushed back a year based on funds and resources. President Fagan said the contractor in the group says it is unrealistic in our time frame. The District's project architect disagreed. President Fagan said should we rush into it, it will just be something similar to what we have. We have a lot of comments saying look at St. Charles. But there is a name on that pool. Director Shea said the timeline is going to be dictated by the plan. Right now there are pieces of the giant puzzle, but they don't match up yet.

VI. New Business

a. Introduction of Sierra Price, 2022 Summer Marketing Intern

b. Discussion on Hopkins Playground Replacement with Upland Design

Michelle Kelly from Upland Design presented 2 options for the Hopkins Park playground replacement.

Commissioner Young asked if the projected amount for ADA compliance could be covered by ADA funds. Director Shea said it would.

Concept A- Commissioner Krmeneč asked whether a parent with children of different ages would be able to see to them because of the separation of the play area for younger children. Ms. Kelly stated there would be shade trees, but the ground visual is open. Commissioner Grada also asked about the landscaping areas. Ms. Kelly stated the design is with a curb so the kids don't run straight through the landscaping. Commissioner Young asked about the alternate plan for \$230,000. Ms. Kelly said that would be for an entire rubber ground.

Concept B- President Fagan asked what happens to the stuff we have now. Mat Emken said we could see if Kids Around the World is interested in it. Otherwise, we can keep any parts common to our other playgrounds and scrap the rest. President Fagan asked about the cost for removal. Ms. Kelly said we are saving \$35,000 - \$40,000 by having District staff to do the work, which is already

included. Ms. Kelly added that for alternates, the poured-in-place rubber can be anywhere between what the design comes in with and 100% of what we see in the alternate cost. You could do half or full coverage. Director Shea asked where this project would have been a few years ago. Ms. Kelly said the play equipment has gone up 5 times in the last few years. The cost is about 20-22% from 2 years ago. Commissioner Young mentioned that if you take out the rubber surface alternate, the other alternates are not that much extra in total. Director Shea stated after talking with the Executive Director of KSRA, they wanted to entertain the rubber surface. That could be taken out of the ADA funds completely. Commissioner Grada noted there were a lot of manufactured items in the plans, and asked about using more repurposed items or contour or water play. Ms. Kelly stated they can bring in nature play where children can manipulate and change things. We are finding that while kids like nature elements, if they are located next to a structure, the kids will play on structures a lot more. Also, there is a balance making sure it's not creating a hazard. She said contour or water play could be added. Director Shea pointed out the project will be over two budget cycles, not just FY '23. Ms. Kelly asked if anyone had a favorite. President Fagan indicated both options are good. Commissioner Grada said he favored Concept B. Commissioner Krmeneč said she would defer to the staff. Commissioner French indicated there were pros and cons to both concepts. When President Fagan asked when public input would be solicited, Director Shea stated in July or August, with the feedback shared with the board.

c. Discussion Regarding FY2023 Paving and Seal Coating Projects

President Fagan asked, due to current prices, whether we are better off just doing the necessities this year and waiting until next year to do the remaining sites. Director Shea said that the two sites chosen are the bare minimum. The consensus of the board was that that was fine.

d. Action on Parks Maintenance Job Descriptions Updates

Commissioner French made a motion to approve and accept the changes made to the job descriptions, seconded by Commissioner Krmeneč.

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

e. Items over \$10,000

i. Purchase of Aerway Turf Aerator for River Heights Golf Course

Commissioner Krmeneč made a motion to approve the purchase of a Aerway Turf Aerator from Revels Turf and Tractor, of Elgin, IL, in the amount of \$16,766.19, seconded by Commissioner Grada.

President Fagan asked how the quote looked since there was a single quote. Mr. Siefken replied it was a fair price and within the budgeted amount. Fagan further asked that if the district didn't have the quote, what Plan B would be. Director Shea state this is Plan B, as other equipment would be at a much higher price.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmeneć, Fagan, French, Young. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

VII. Financial Reports

Commissioner Grada made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports presented in June 2022, seconded by Commissioner Young.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Krmeneć, Fagan, French, Young. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

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

VIII. Open Comments from Commissioners and Director

Commissioner French said both River Heights and Prather Park look beautiful. Marketing on Facebook has been outstanding. Commissioner Krmeneć said she is excited about the 4th of July with the additional activities planned besides the fireworks. Commissioner Grada said he got the biggest smile driving by Welsh Park in the evening, with people of all ages socializing and enjoying the space. Commissioner Young said he'd like to add on, stating he went to Greekfest, and was recently on the Nature Trail, noting the overall improvement in facilities. President Fagan said he's had nothing but positive feedback. Changing the age of the pool has been tremendous. Golf courses and overall appearances of the parks are great. He added that while the pool is open during the summer months, the board meetings would move to the Ellwood carriage house. Director Shea said he appreciates the staff's work, especially since the District has been short staffed. We are tackling projects. The Golf Fore Kids outing for scholarships was held, taking in more money this year than last.

IX. Closed Session

- a. Personnel- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1**

Commissioner Krmeneć made a motion to go into closed session under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, seconded by Commissioner French.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Krmeneć, Young, French, Grada, and Fagan. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

X. Reconvene Open Meeting

Commissioner French made a motion to return to open session at 7:57 p.m.
Commissioner Young seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

XI. Adjourn Public Meeting

Commissioner Krmenek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by
Commissioner Young.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.