



**LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Altpeter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Director Garvy Called Roll:

Commissioners Present In-Person: Altpeter
 Wessel
 Hummel
 Tapella

Staff Present Included: Director of Parks & Recreation Garvy
 Superintendent of Parks & Facilities Cerutti
 Superintendent of Finance, Golf Operations & IT Silver
 Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing Pratscher
 Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Dale

II. REMOTE ATTENDANCE AUTHORIZATION

Permit the attendance and participation of Commissioner Dombroski by remote means.

Commissioner Hummel moved to permit Commissioner Dombroski's attendance at the September 21, 2023, meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners by remote means in accordance with section 7 of the Open Meetings Act and the Lisle Park District Remote Attendance Policy. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Wessel, Tapella, Altpeter

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner Dombroski joined the meeting at 7:03 pm by remote means.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Altpeter led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Lynch, 2312 Bayside Court, Lisle, IL. Mr. Lynch stated he is a longtime fitness center member and has heard many members did not return post-Covid. He said he has witnessed additional patrons using the fitness center recently and it is a very nice amenity for the community as it provides outlets for not only physical fitness but is also a place where people congregate and spend time together. He said he would like to see the facility remain open.

President Altpeter asked if the others in attendance were also there for the fitness center and five

other audience members raised their hands. She asked if anyone had anything to add. Nobody stepped forward.

VI. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Hummel moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Wessel, Tapella, Dombroski, Altpeter

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hummel moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, including the voucher list in the amount of \$367,694.50. Commissioner Tapella seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Tapella, Wessel, Dombroski, Altpeter

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. DuPage Monarch Project

B. Abbeywood Park Pickleball Courts

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Community Park Fitness Center

Commissioner Tapella stated that discussion to cease Community Park Fitness operations was presented by staff as an opportunity and observation and stated it would be prudent to ask staff to research different options to reduce operating costs, so service can continue while maintaining fiscal responsibility and taking space availability into consideration.

Commissioner Wessel proposed reviewing existing spaces in the Community Center and stated that the option of maintaining some type of fitness operations, even in smaller capacity while utilizing the additional space within the Community Center for other District programming, may be worth consideration.

Director Garvy stated that he fully recognizes the importance that Community Park Fitness plays in people's lives and that the opportunities it provides are special. He said Community Park Fitness has been losing significant money over the last few years, and staff has not observed the increase in membership enrollment that was identified during public comment. He stated staff's goals have centered around improving efficiencies, increasing non-tax revenue, and limiting what is subsidized from other areas and that is what prompted this discussion. He said if the Park Board is willing to continue to provide fitness center operations knowing that it will require subsidy from other areas, staff will continue to do so.

Superintendent Pratscher agreed with Director Garvy that there has been a lot of consideration that went into these recommendations and reported at the end of August 2023, Community Park Fitness has been averaging 2-3 patrons per hour during operations. With those usage statistics being so low, Superintendent Pratscher stated these observations have been brought to the Park Board to discuss whether current fitness operations are in the best interest of community and usage of public tax dollars. He reported that the pandemic was an opportunity for many people to identify the importance of fitness, but current trends of self-guided and in-home fitness have played a role in decreasing patronage of Community Park Fitness. He continued by stating that staff is utilizing the strategic master plan recommendations, concentrating resources based on largest demographic groups, demonstrating fiscal responsibility, and looking toward the District's long-term sustainability. He said staff is also reviewing plans for the Community Center building itself because within the strategic master plan findings, the Community Center received the lowest rating of all District properties, with a score of a "poor" classification. He said staff are happy to follow any Park Board direction to identify other creative solutions.

Director Garvy reported he has had preliminary discussions with Woodridge and Downers Grove Park Districts to provide opportunities for Lisle Park District Fitness Center members to access their facilities at a discounted rate and will report back if and when anything is formalized.

President Altpeter stated that she is in favor of an alternative option for residents if the fitness center was to close. She stated that past conversations have already brought up the high expenses for maintenance and equipment leasing agreements, but those costly pieces are necessary for fitness operations.

Superintendent Cerutti Stated that the Community Center building continues to deteriorate, saying the air conditioners are 20 years old with only one of the units powering the fitness side of the building and plumbing is in poor condition as well. He stated that certain projects, including the roof replacement have been completed, but many other projects have not proceeded as the longevity of the facility is in question, as noted in the strategic master plan.

Commissioner Hummel stated that the space used for Community Park Fitness would not be eliminated but repurposed to provide other revenue generating programming to counteract the consistent loss in revenue from fitness operations. He stated that he agrees that collaborating with other districts could be beneficial. Commissioner Hummel also stated that it may be worth exploring the fitness center at Marq on Main as an option for residents and a way to bring more people to the downtown Lisle area.

Commissioner Dombroski stated that many of the comments already made on this topic were good points. He stated that many fitness trends are fads and attempting to provide and keep up with new trends requires immense costs. He said the fitness center is also in competition with other privatized gyms and specialized class fitness options, and there are other private gyms that offer low membership fees. He said with all these options, it becomes a difficult market to compete within. He asked for the current Community Park Fitness membership totals. Superintendent Pratscher stated that there were 198 members at the time of the September 2023 board report. Director Garvy stated that there were 500-600 members in the facilities strongest years and there has been a steady decline since.

President Altpeter asked staff for the projected lifespan on the existing fitness center equipment. Superintendent Pratscher stated that there is an annual evaluation completed for fitness equipment in addition to preventative maintenance and said the strength equipment is in decent shape. He said while the cardio machines receive the most usage and are outdated, they still function adequately. Commissioner Pratscher stated that equipment would need a larger

financial investment for replacement or repairs within the next two years should operations continue.

President Altpeter stated that through discussion at this meeting, staff will research options that could maintain some aspect of fitness operations as well as alternative opportunities for residents to gain access to neighboring facilities. Director Garvy said staff will provide the board with an update at the October 2023 Park Board meeting.

B. Department Updates

Director Garvy stated that staff discovered graffiti on the stone bridge in Community Park and on an equipment box at Tate Woods Park. He said staff has addressed the issues and police have been notified of the incidents.

Commissioner Dombroski stated that wireless cameras have become less expensive and suggested researching cameras to deter this sort of activity.

President Altpeter asked if there are any public signage requirements for the use of surveillance cameras in District parks and/or facilities, and Commissioner Tapella stated that there are some laws that the District needs to be aware of as well as other risks of installing wireless cameras and is willing to be involved in those discussions.

Director Garvy stated that he and Superintendent Cerutti have a meeting with Lisle Police sergeants next week to discuss what both entities are observing and how to best communicate and enforce future issues.

XII. LISLE PARTNERS FOR PARKS FOUNDATION REPORT

XIII. SEASPAR REPORT

XIV. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President, Commissioner Altpeter

B. Treasurer, Superintendent Silver

i. Financial Reports ending August 31, 2023.

Superintendent Silver confirmed that currently all assets are FDIC insured and/or collateralized. He stated there is currently a larger cash balance because the District received tax dollars in June and again in September, and much of that funding needs to last until the District receives more tax dollars in June 2024. He reported the Enterprise fund is \$75,000 better than this time last year and the golf course is in good condition overall.

Superintendent Silver reported that when he was reviewing the draft 2024 budget, he noticed the fund balance in the IMRF Fund could lead to a tax objection and that he will be recommending an additional payment made to IMRF before the end of the year. He said he understands some commissioners will have a concern with this, but it was a situation he only recently noticed and was the result of carrying a fund balance that could accommodate the larger annual payments the park district had made previously. He said he will provide a written report in October that will explain the situation more clearly and present options for the park board to consider.

Commissioner Hummel asked if the District could transfer money from the IMRF fund to the Capital Projects Fund, to which Superintendent Silver replied that funds cannot be transferred out of the IMRF fund.

C. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hummel stated he attended Depot Days and that was a good crowd, especially for rainy conditions during the event. He stated he is interested in revisiting the topic of recording and televising board meetings as there has been a change in Park Board makeup since the last time he brought up this topic. President Altpeter asked if there is any additional interest from other commissioners to add this topic to the next meeting's agenda. Commissioner Dombroski and Commissioner Tapella agreed it was worth discussing, as did Commissioner Wessel.

Commissioner Dombroski asked for some background on the defunct Eyes to the Skies festival and whether there could be consideration given to bringing it back in some capacity. Commissioner Dombroski asked if this was a District or Village event and how the festival performed financially. Director Garvy stated that this was operated through a separate 501(c)(3) organization and in its prime, it generated a lot of funds for the participating community organizations. He explained that while COVID was the ultimate cause of its demise, the committee had been struggling to recruit adequate volunteers not only for the festival operations, but for the festival planning committee itself. He said the park district and police department would have a very difficult time staffing a similarly sized event currently, as this had been discussed previously by the administrators of the other major taxing districts. Commissioner Hummel stated that the Summer Entertainment Series which has replaced the Eyes to the Skies in many ways, has benefits to the Partners for Parks Foundation and has received favorable feedback from the community. Director Garvy stated that the current July 3 event of two bands, food trucks, beverage sales, and fireworks filled the park with minimal capital outlay, logistical coordination, and impact on public services compared to Eyes to the Skies. Commissioner Dombroski thanked everyone for their feedback.

XV. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Hummel motioned to adjourn the regular board meeting. Commissioner Wessel seconded.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote at 7:46 p.m.