



**LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Wessel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Director Garvy Called Roll:

Commissioners Present In-Person:

Altpeter
Dombroski
Hummel
Tapella
Wessel

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present Included:

Director of Parks & Recreation Garvy
Superintendent of Finance Silver
Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing Pratscher
Superintendent of Parks Cerutti
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Mejicano

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. PRESENTATIONS

None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Ms. Wendy Nadeau addressed the Board on the topic of imposing term limits on Park Board Commissioners that was stated last month. She said that public elections are held for Board commissioner positions, and that this process ensures term limits based on public opinion. She said the community has benefited from commissioners who served multiple terms and cited the many parks, facilities, programs and events former board members' vision have secured for public enjoyment. She also said she wants to encourage anyone running for park board to make sure their hearts are in the right place and that they represent the community and not individual opinions or self interest and to support the vision and mission of the park district, including the master plan.

V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Vice President Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Hummel seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Dombroski, Tapella, Wessel

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Altpeter moved to approve Consent Agenda items A and C, including the voucher list in the amount of \$315,354.08. Commissioner Hummel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Dombroski, Tapella, Wessel

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Budget Draft – discussion

Director Garvy made note of the budget preview memo being included in the packet provided to the commissioners. President Wessel questioned if there was confidence in the ability of the Park District to meet the stated goal of a revenue increase in the amount of \$24,000.

Superintendent Pratscher spoke about fee increases across various service areas as a way to stay competitive with surrounding areas while still providing the expected high quality and demand for programming. President Wessel also questioned the listed amount for IMRF funding and whether the Park District is overfunding in those areas. Director Garvy affirmed that the Park District is meeting the employer obligation and is not overspending.

Commissioner Hummel questioned if there is a possibility to expedite the Community Park Shelter project as much as possible in 2025. Director Garvy noted that staff would be happy to expedite any areas where quicker completion would be possible. However, Director Garvy noted specific complications that may arise due to the majority of Community Park being within a flood plain. Director Garvy did say that staff are willing to move through the process as swiftly as the Board would want within the constraints provided by engineers and architects. A brief discussion followed on whether the project would be ready for camps in the summer and what the scope of the project would entail, whether that would be expansion of the existing structure or demolition and then having a new structure built. Vice President Altpeter expressed concerns regarding patrons being able to mount the roof of the existing structure and requested that any plans make it more difficult for the public to scale the shelter.

Commissioner Hummel then inquired if there would be a way to curtail deficits in the budget related to Sea Lion Aquatic Park. Director Garvy briefly spoke about the impact of the increase in minimum wage on the budget, as well as how reducing staffing to curtail the increase would lead to portions of the facility being closed due to the number of lifeguards on duty not meeting requirements. Superintendent Pratscher discussed different ways to reduce the deficit such as shortening operating hours, closure of amenities, or curtailing programming. However, he also mentioned that the budget is based on assuming that full operations are in effect every day of the season whereas, in actuality, outside forces such as daily attendance and weather will affect where the Park District may be able to trim the deficit by reducing staffing levels while maintaining safety at the facility. Vice President Altpeter and Superintendent Pratscher briefly discussed the impact of amenity closures on the public and the effect that has on attendance.

Superintendent Cerutti briefly explained the impact of fixed costs such as utility usage, the cost of chemicals, and the necessity of keeping the mechanical aspects of the pool running 24 hours a day regardless of daily attendance. Vice President Altpeter inquired about whether or not the pool met its staffing quota for 2024 to which Superintendent Pratscher responded with discourse centered around economic and societal factors that impact recruitment and hiring of pool staff. Discussion ensued about the importance of the pool to the community in terms of the facility itself and the programming offered there, the possibility of needing to subsidize the pool with other revenue in the future, and what that may look like.

Commissioner Hummel requested to see historical data on departmental staffing with the aim of potentially adjusting staffing needs, if the Board would be interested. Specifically, Commissioner Hummel spoke about part-time positions, golf management, and finance positions. Vice President Altpeter countered that the Board's involvement is intended for things such as budget review and approval based on the stated needs of the Park District staff who are aware of what positions are needed. Commissioner Dombroski commented that he would be interested in pursuing Commissioner Hummel's idea as he believes the Board is responsible for oversight of the Park District. Director Garvy noted that full-time staff numbers are below what they were during COVID-19 and that the Park District is rebuilding from the pandemic. Discussion turned to the need for a full-time manager at the Golf course in order to connect River Bend Golf Club more firmly with the Park District in terms of recreation and revenue. Director Garvy also mentioned that with the departure of the previous manager, there is room for improvement to bring River Bend more in line with traditional golf course management. Commissioner Dombroski agreed that if the Park District felt the position was tenable then the Park Board would not have issue with it. He reiterated that he would like to see the disbursement of where staff is in relation to the success of programming and/or facilities to be able to determine where cuts or changes can be made. Superintendent Silver explained that each program has its own unique code in the budget which would make it relatively easy for the finance department to share expenses and revenues with the Board at their request. Commissioner Dombroski inquired if it would be possible for Director Garvy and Superintendent Silver to share with the Board if there are any areas where cutbacks may be possible. Vice President Altpeter explained that there are currently processes in place that ensure the Recreation Department is constantly reviewing the success of programs in order to remove items that are not cost effective for the Park District. Superintendent Pratscher briefly explained the cost recovery standards and procedures utilized by the Park District to make informed decisions that affect the budget as well as programming and services. Commissioner Dombroski declared an interest in seeing the details of the process to better understand how and why decisions are being made for the sake of thorough oversight by the Board. Superintendent Silver offered to sit down with Commissioner Dombroski and go over the budget in-depth with additional historical context. President Wessel requested a comparison of 2019 versus 2024 in terms of staffing from Director Garvy for the Board to review. Commissioner Tapella requested that additional commentary and explanations be included in the report for the Board to better understand any restructuring that occurred between the two years.

Director Garvy confirmed that more discussion regarding the budget will be held in November but wanted to note that the allocation for the Community Park Shelter Project will be higher than currently noted due to feedback from the landscape architect and civil engineer.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Indoor Recreation Space Feasibility Study – discussion and direction

Director Garvy started the discussion with an explanation of his efforts to network with various consultants during the national conference he attended earlier in the month. Director Garvy expressed that he believes the project has garnered positive interest among contractors. Vice President Altpeter expressed the need for community feedback on this project as being an essential part of the process. Director Garvy asked the Board for further direction on proposed

modifications to the document. Commissioner Hummel reiterated a point made at the Park Board meeting in September regarding having a clear distinction made that duties towards the project will be clearly separated to prevent bias in the process. Director Garvy explained that any consulting firm that takes on the process would oversee the project as a whole and would hire the necessary contractors to reduce the risk of such concerns. Director Garvy also asserted that the oversight by the Board would prevent the needs and wants of the community being overlooked. President Wessel stated that he would like to be included in the selection committee and expressed his opinion that being on the committee would allow members to prevent bias on the part of other parties. Discussion turned to the process of committee recommendations to the Board and the composition of the committee. Commissioner Dombroski proposed a blind bidding process instead of scheduling meetings with individual contractors. He stated that he would prefer to have a minimum of three to five bids from different companies. Director Garvy proposed an open bid that would allow for commissioners to review proposals at their leisure and then have a discussion at a future Park Board meeting to narrow down candidates for an interview. Commissioner Hummel asked how the Park District receives the bids, to which Director Garvy indicated that all bids are received as hard copies via mail/courier or brought in person by the contractor to the bid opening. The commissioners agreed that all of them would like to be included in the selection committee and that timing for this process should begin as soon as possible. The Board agreed to have the bidding window open for 30 days to allow multiple contractors to submit offers.

B. Department Updates

Director Garvy stated that there has been a request by residents surrounding Abbeywood Park for the Park Board to make a definitive decision regarding the pickleball courts within the park. Director Garvy sought the Board's approval to send a definitive communication that any decisions will be made after the completion of the Tate Woods Park renovations and a thorough study of the effect on usage of the courts at Abbeywood has been conducted. The Board agreed to Director Garvy's proposal. Superintendent Cerutti provided an update on the progress at Tate Woods Park.

XI. SEASPAR REPORTS

None

XII. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President Wessel reported positively on the Scarecrow Scramble 5k event.

B. Treasurer Report – Financial Reports ending September 30, 2024.

Superintendent Silver said the reports are submitted and confirmed that all District funds are either FDIC or fully collateralized. Superintendent Silver reported that the enterprise fund is doing better this year than at the same point in 2023.

C. Commissioners' Reports

Vice President Altpeter discussed her attendance at the national conference. She expressed enthusiasm for the informational sessions and the networking possibilities.

Commissioner Dombroski mentioned also attending the Scarecrow Scramble and discussed certain aspects such as the variety of costumes that he feels make the event unique and fun.

- i. Ethics Policy – discussion

President Wessel suggested that all Board members review the entirety of the Board Policy Manual to update outdated policies. Commissioner Tapella suggested reviewing groupings of policies to avoid jumping around to different topics. Director Garvy mentioned that he can submit the policy manual to legal counsel for a review and suggested revisions. The commissioners agreed that they should review the manual concurrently to get an idea of what each commissioner would like to discuss. Commissioner Hummel mentioned specifically that he would like to review policies regarding naming rights and contractor political donations. A discussion followed about the legalities of the issues Commissioner Hummel expressed concerns about. Director Garvy confirmed that he would consult with the legal department and report back to the Board.

XIII. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Vice President Altpeter moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hummel seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Dombroski, Tapella, Wessel,

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.