

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JULY 21, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

President Michael Reid
Vice President Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Michael W. Alter – Remote Attendance
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present:

Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Facilities Jon Marquardt
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation Breanne Labus
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Marketing and Communications Manager Jim Bottorff
Claudia Polonsky
Andy Polonsky
Lisa Chavez

CALL TO ORDER

President Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Ms. Claudia Polonsky addressed the Board regarding wearing face masks in Fitness First. Ms. Polonsky has been discussing the issue with the Weber Center Manager and wanted to express her concerns to the Board. She understands people do not want to wear face masks while exercising but explained that masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 and she feels the District should mandate wearing face masks at all times. She does not feel comfortable in the fitness center with people not wearing face masks and does not feel it is fair that she cannot use the facility.

Superintendent Labus explained that staff have been trying to accommodate members who want to wear face masks and those that do not want to wear a mask. A survey was sent to active members of Fitness First asking their opinion on wearing face masks while in the fitness center. Ms. Labus said the survey received 164 responses. Sixty-eight people who participate in group exercise classes say they prefer wearing face masks. One hundred twelve people using the fitness center said they prefer face masks. Ms. Polonsky said she did not receive a survey and knew of others that did not receive it as well. Ms. Labus said another survey will be sent out to all fitness members. If memberships were on hold or not actively participating, they

were not sent a survey. Ms. Labus thanked Ms. Polonsky for coming to the Board and expressing her concerns.

Ms. Lisa Chavez is a spin instructor and expressed her concerns about wearing face masks and the use of fans in spin classes, which is prohibited. She feels it is important to wear face masks to stop the spread of the disease. She said it is not easy to do spin classes with face masks, but people would get used to it. If people do not want to wear face masks for in-person spin classes, they should do the virtual classes.

Executive Director Tuft thanked Ms. Polonsky and Ms. Chavez for their comments and told them that staff is considering adding face mask required classes and fitness center timeslots. Staff is also working on adding more live stream group exercise classes, including spin classes. Ms. Tuft asked Ms. Polonsky and Ms. Chavez to allow staff some time to come up with compromises. President Reid thanked Ms. Polonsky and Ms. Chavez for expressing their comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Aberman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Khoeun seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2020, bills payable for the month of June/July 2020, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS

Executive Director Tuft presented the 2020-2021 District and Division goals and went through each section with the Board to answer questions and to listen to any comments.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve the 2020-2021 Park District goals. Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE ALCOHOL POLICY

Approval of the alcohol policy was tabled until next month. Executive Director Tuft explained that the alcohol policy was presented to the Village of Skokie at their Board meeting last night. The Village of Skokie requires a two-step process for approval. If approved by the Village of Skokie the policy will be on the August Board agenda for Board approval. The Board did not have any questions or concerns with the policy as presented.

APPROVAL OF LARAMIE PARK CHANGE ORDER #1

Superintendent Guynn asked for Board approval for Change Order #1 for the Laramie Park renovation project. The change order is a credit of \$83,720 for value engineering and tasks that were performed by Park Services staff. Superintendent Guynn explained there will be concrete alterations in a future change order. The current contract price for the project is \$1,297,609.

Vice President Khoeun moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Laramie Park project for a credit of \$83,720.00. Commissioner Desai seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Treasurer Schmidt presented financial updates on Fund 20 and Fund 40. These two funds are where revenue is collected for planned programs, fitness, athletics, summer camps and the

pool. Treasurer Schmidt explained the updates and the projected financial status of the funds as of 8/31/2020. Treasurer Schmidt said Mr. Marquardt and Ms. Labus have been working with staff and have developed some creative programming. Treasurer Schmidt will continue to update the Board monthly. President Reid said he was glad to see the District is making some revenue.

Treasurer Schmidt reported that he received good news regarding unemployment compensation. Legislation was passed at the federal and state levels that will reimburse governmental agencies 100% of unemployment compensation due to COVID-19. Lynn Seebacher and Unemployment Consultants have been working diligently to reduce the number of people on unemployment by offering staff positions to return to work. If staff is offered a position and does not accept it is considered a refusal of work and their unemployment compensation is ended.

No motion required, for informational purposes only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman mentioned she was at Chippewa and Mulford Parks and noticed a lot of weeds. Superintendent Guynn responded that staff has scaled back the use of pesticides and is currently short staffed. High visibility parks are being prioritized. Commissioner Aberman said most people are happy to be back in the parks and are enjoying them.

Commissioner Desai asked if Dammrich Rowing Center could be used for fitness classes.

Commissioner Aberman asked if there are plans for programming if schools do not reopen in the fall. Ms. Labus said she is meeting with school superintendents on a regular basis and has been discussing programming and the use of schools if needed.

Vice President Khoeun asked about temperature checks. Ms. Tuft said PDRMA does not recommend temperature checks. However, staff are doing temperature checks at Tot Learning Center due to the requirement by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Devonshire Preschool is also licensed by DCFS and will need to complete temperature checks.

President Reid said he is happy to see camp participation has increased. President Reid also complemented the staff on the innovative ideas they have created such as the Father's Day project and Camp Art in a box. Ms. Tuft said she will pass this information on to staff.

President Reid said that the January IPRA/IAPD Conference is tentative.

President Reid said it may be the District's turn to host the Legislative Breakfast in March 2021 if conditions permit.

Ms. Tuft informed the Board that Election Day, November 3 has been declared a state holiday and therefore the Park District will be closed and classes and programming will not be offered. Devonshire Cultural Center, Emily Oaks Center and Oakton Community Center will be open as

polling locations. The day will be a paid holiday for full time staff. Commissioner Desai suggested including this information in a September SPD e-newsletter to alert parents about the holiday so they can make childcare plans.

Vice President Khoeun asked if the Weber Center had been designated as a cooling center. Ms. Tuft said Weber Center is available on the weekends as a cooling center but hasn't been used.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tuft asked the Board to consider a date for the ribbon cutting ceremony at Laramie Park. Superintendent Guynn suggested mid-September. It was decided that a date will be determined at the August Board meeting.

Ms. Tuft informed the Board that President Reid will be celebrating fifteen years as a commissioner. When commissioners have an anniversary, they are invited to the annual IPRA/IAPD Gala which will be held on October 16, 2020 at Chevy Chase Golf Course in Wheeling, IL. Ms. Tuft asked Commissioners if interested to mark their calendars but reminded them it may be cancelled due to COVID-19.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Desai asked about the drive-in movie ticket sales for Thursday, July 23. Ms. Labus said all the tickets sold out in 1 ½ hours. Mr. Guynn said there are 37 cars spots and 81 SUV spots. Commissioners Aberman, Desai and Vice President Khoeun will be attending. Another drive-in movie is being planned for August. Logistics needed to be worked out during the first movie and if all goes well more tickets will be sold for the August movie. Commissioner Desai said there is great community interest in the movies and hopes we can offer more in the fall. Mr. Guynn said weather will play a role. Driving on the grassy surface is not advisable when the ground is wet.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Desai moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary