

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
April 4, 2019
Ellwood House Visitor's Center
509 N. 1st Street, DeKalb, IL

Public Meeting
5:30 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order:

President Phil Young called the Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board members present: President Phil Young, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Commissioner Keith Nyquist, Commissioner Patti Perkins and Commissioner Dag Grada.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Amy Doll, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Heather Collins, Superintendent of Marketing & Golf Operations Scott deOliveira, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Bruggeman, Park Maintenance & Special Projects Team Leader Dave Kessen, and Accounting & Administrative Assistant Emily Bidstrup.

III. Action on the Agenda

Commissioner Nyquist made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Perkins. Motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

a. Introduction of Greg Bruggeman, Superintendent of Recreation

Amy Doll, Executive Director, introduced Greg Bruggeman the District's new Superintendent of Recreation. Ms. Doll explained he has over 18 years' experience in recreation programming at the City of Elgin. District staff are excited to have him join the team.

b. Discussion of Energy Contract

Heather Collins, Superintendent of Finance, advised that in September 2017 the concept of “floating” vs. “locking-in” terms was brought to the Board. The decision was made to “float”, which seemed to be a good choice. The concept was brought back to the board for discussion. Ms. Collins advised that by floating, you can get a lower rate month to month, but there might be a spike during the winter. By locking-in, the set rate would be easier to budget. Also, the District has the option to lock in rates for 12, 24 or 36 months. Since she had seen the current rates, Ms. Collins believed now would be a good time to lock-in but stated she would be fine with either option. Commissioner Holliday inquired about the rates. President Young stated that with either option, money could be saved, or money could be lost. Commissioner Grada wondered how much has been spent on natural gas in a year. Ms. Collins answered that \$28,000 was spent on therm costs specifically with an additional cost of about that same amount in delivery fees. About \$1,500 could have been saved if the District had locked-in. Commissioner Nyquist suggested locking-in. Commissioner Perkins believed it would be easier to budget if the rate was locked-in. Both Commissioner Nyquist & Commissioner Holliday supported locking-in at the longest term.

c. Discussion of Administrative Policy: Photo Policy

Scott deOliveira, Superintendent of Marketing & Golf, advised on the creation of a Photo Policy for the District’s Administrative Policy Manual. President Young asked how a participant who signs up for a program would know this type of policy exists. Commissioner Holliday asked if a participant in a sports league could refuse their picture being taken. Mr. deOliveira said yes. Commissioner Nyquist stated his concern with the tone of the policy and suggested changes to the wording. President Young believed the suggestions Commissioner Nyquist gave were good.

d. Discussion of Administrative Policy 200.17: Investments

Ms. Collins presented an updated Investment Policy and highlighted the changes since the last meeting. She also mentioned that she learned the Park District has the ability to buy their own bonds and explained the process. President Young asked what she saw as a negative to this option. Ms. Collins advised that she would be comfortable with the Park District investing in themselves, but staff would have to make sure the additional money to do so would not be needed. President Young wondered what would happen if there was a major emergency and the District could not pay off the bond. Ms. Collins advised that there would be insurance to cover emergencies like that. She believed this to be an exciting concept and has seen other Park District’s do it. Commissioner Nyquist pointed out that bonds are issued to raise capital for projects, which comes from an

outside source. If the revenue is coming from the Park District, he wondered what the advantage of issuing a bond would be. Ms. Collins advised that a bond must be issued in order to levy taxes. Commissioner Grada asked how much would be saved in interest. Ms. Collins stated 3% which is around \$34,000.

e. Discussion of Resolution 19-03: Authorizing the Transfer of Funds

Ms. Collins proposed a transfer of funds from the Recreation Fund to the Aquatics Fund and another transfer from the General Fund to the Golf Fund in order to make the Golf & Aquatics fund balance \$0. President Young asked if this is done every year and while he is concerned with zeroing out the balance, he likes the documentation that the Resolution provides. He also asked approximately how much golf operations have lost in the last 2-3 years. Commissioner Holliday asked if staff had any suggestions to increase revenue. Commissioner Grada noted it was easy to figure out per-participant cost for Golf & Aquatics but wondered if numbers could be pulled for other recreation programs. Commissioner Nyquist advised being careful on how the data is used and justified.

f. Discussion of Board Policy Manual

President Young advised that the attorneys have suggested to remove certain Board Policies and change them to Administrative Policies. Commissioner Grada suggested adding gender neutral pronouns. President Young thought it should stay how it is. Commissioner Nyquist noticed the mission statement is a proposed change and wondered why. President Young advised that the Strategic Planning Committee proposed changing the District's mission statement while working on the Strategic Plan document. Commissioner Nyquist mentioned the section on Commissioner recognition and wondered if it should be removed entirely. President Young believed if someone dedicated their time to serving on the Board, they should be recognized.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Nyquist made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Holliday. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.