



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT
GARY MORAVA RECREATION CENTER
110 W. CAMP MCDONALD ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL 60070
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Commissioner Jones called the Special Board Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District to order at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioners present:

Ellen Avery
Paul Fries
Tim Jones
Eric Kirste
Betty Cloud
Steve Messer

Also present:

Christina Ferraro – Executive Director
Ray Doerner - Superintendent of Recreation
Mark Grassi – Superintendent of Parks and Facilities
Shawn Hughes – Superintendent of Finance HR & IT
Jan Peterson Hincapie – facilitator

Commissioners absent:

Karl Jackson

A quorum was present.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Decennial Committee Meeting at Gary Morava Recreation Center – April 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting at Gary Morava Recreation Center – April 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Future Planning Discussion facilitated by Jan Peterson Hincapie

The conversation centered around the future of the Park District, including strategies for planning and financing. There was discussion regarding the need for long-term planning, the importance of considering the District's mission and vision, and the potential for generating revenue through selling land or leasing facilities. They also addressed maintenance and upgrades of the Park District, including the condition of the pool and slide, the need for a new roof and mechanicals at the recreation center, potentially new irrigation system at golf course and the potential for a referendum. Additionally, there was discussion regarding the financial and operational challenges facing the pool, including high maintenance costs, low attendance, and the need for a feasible funding plan. Finally, there was discussion regarding the challenges of managing and funding aging facilities, including maintenance and repair issues, declining pool pass sales and increased daily pool admission, and community engagement.

There was discussion surrounding the potential to sell property. Generally, park districts are discouraged from selling green space because it contradicts the core purpose. However, there might be cases where selling land is necessary due to financial constraints, changing community needs, etc. At this time there does not seem to be interest in selling the golf course, but the sale of Muir Park has potential. Staff will investigate the legal considerations and must engage the community in this decision.

There was discussion surrounding a referendum for the recreation center. In November 2022, the question on the ballot was for the Park District to spend \$30 million on the pool, recreation center, playground, courts and develop the site. If the project is scaled back to \$20 million the project would have less of a walking track, less rooms for dance and exercise, only one room for early childhood and there would still be the expense of the administration building.

There was discussion surrounding closing the pool, as it loses \$125,000 a year, and replacing it with a splash pad. There are concerns with finding alternatives for summer camp as some register since they can use the pool 5 days a week. Other concerns about busing campers to other pools and putting agreements in place with other park districts. Staff will investigate the cost to construct a splash pad, the cost to finance such a project and put together a timeline to illustrate when the pool closes for the season, the time to construct a splash pad and the timing to reopening of the amenity.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Avery to adjourn the Meeting at 7:42 p.m. The motion was approved by a voice vote with one absent (Commissioner Jackson). The motion carried.



Elizabeth "Betty" Cloud, Secretary