

Remote Special Board Meeting 6-17-2020

A Remote Special Board Meeting of the Mt. Prospect Park District, Cook County, Illinois, was held on Wednesday, June 17 2020, as a remote call-in special Park Board Meeting.

Call to Order

President Kurka called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Identification of Attendees online by meeting moderator, Jon Zgoda

Administrative Staff/Recreation Staff

Jim Jarog, Executive Director
Brett Barcel, Director of Golf Operations
Scott Elman, Director of Parks & Planning
George Giese, Superintendent of Business & IT Services
Nick Troy, Director of Recreation
Mary Kiaupa, Human Resource & Risk Manager
Ruth Yueill Director of Community Relations and Marketing
Teri Wirkus, Executive Compliance Officer
Jason Hickman, Athletic Manager
Kevin O'Donnell, Athletic Coordinator
Kristina Winans, Early Childhood Youth Coordinator
Mike Azzaretto, Aquatic & Fitness Manager
Barb Koch, Friendship Park Manager
Nancy Prosser, Facility Manager
Ann Zimmerman, Cultural Arts Manager
Brian Hecker, CCC Facility Coordinator
Linda Zalewski, Aquatics Coordinator
Jon Zgoda, IT Professional

Professionals

Tom Hoffman, District Attorney

Visitors

None

Commissioner Starr calls Roll Call for the Board:

On roll call, the following officers, commissioners were present by phone:

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Kurka	X	
Commissioner Tenuta	X	
Commissioner Starr	X	
Commissioner Klicka	X	
Commissioner Doherty	X	

Commissioner Massie	X
Commissioner Murphy	X

President Kurka reads the following statement:

"As President of the Park Board and due to the recent changes to the Open Meetings Act, it falls upon me to make a determination as to the reason tonight's Park Board meeting is being held remotely and not "in-person"". It is my determination that it is neither practical nor prudent to have tonight's Board meeting "in-person", my reasoning being the continuing pandemic and its attendant health risks as well as the current restrictions on gatherings imposed by the Gubernatorial Executive Orders and the existing health-related disaster declarations. For these reasons I have also concluded that it is also unfeasible to hold tonight's Board meeting on an in-person basis at the regular location for Board meetings (CCC). Therefore tonight's Board meeting is being held by remote virtual means, and specifically through the use of the audio capacities of the Zoom platform.

I wish to note for the record that I reasonably expect to make the same determination at the beginning of each subsequent remote-means meeting of the Park Board while the disaster declaration remains in effect. I invite any Commissioner who might instead wish to resume "in-person Park Board meetings sooner then I am suggesting to contact me between Board meetings to inform me of such.
Thank you.

DISCUSSION

A. Explanation of Recent Changes to the Open Meetings Act Pertaining to the Holding of Virtual Meeting

Thomas Hoffman, District Attorney, discussed several changes to existing laws prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and signed by the Governor (SB 2135) that amends the Open Meetings Act and sets new rules of how the meetings may be conducted. A few of the changes (but not all-see board packet): require all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, are verified and can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony; for members of the public present can also hear all discussions and testimony and all votes of the members of the body; all votes are conducted by roll call-board so votes on each issue can be identified and recorded.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Kurka asked for a motion to approve the agenda, motion from Commissioner Starr; seconded by Commissioner Murphy.

Commissioner Starr calls Roll Call

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	Ayes	Nays	Absent
Commissioner Kurka	X		
Commissioner Tenuta	X		
Commissioner Starr	X		
Commissioner Klicka	X		

Commissioner Doherty	X
Commissioner Massie	X
Commissioner Murphy	X

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resident Survey Results Review and Discussion

Director of Community Relations and Marketing, Ruth Yueill reviewed the results of the survey for discussion with the Board:

- The Communication team put together a Resident Survey with the feeling that this was the proper timing for a “livability” survey as opposed to reactionary responses rooted in emotion and fear.
- The survey was titled “What’s the next STEP and went to e-news letter subscribers and had 541 respondents.
- One of the questions asked the adults if they would be comfortable with program participation for themselves or their children. Adults were 70% comfortable and a little less than 56% for their children. We interpret they are comfortable with the park district and might participate.
- 55% stated that they were comfortable with outdoor programming which is what the Conservatory and the Studio has already started.
- There were very strong comments from parents stating they were tired of tablets and looking for safe ways to engage with others. We shouldn’t put too many resources toward online programs.
- Attending Special Events at Lions Bandshell in July and August (live music, program showcase ie: dance and between yes and not sure- 80% were comfortable. They also like the idea of the “circled sections” painted on the grass and the social distancing.
- The perception statement gave us a good picture of where the patrons are spending their time.
- This is the list of areas of concern since all were about the same concern: cleanliness of facilities, wearing of masks, maintaining social distance and moving safely in and out of the building.
- The biggest question under Rec Plex indoor pool was when would lap swimming (only exercise some do) and aquafit would be brought back. What was interesting was 66% were not interested in swim lessons at RecPlex pool this summer.

B. Restore Illinois Phase 4 Programming Review and Discussion

Director of Recreation, Nick Troy feels confident of the district’s ongoing plan into Phase 4. The information are as follows:

RecPlex

- Opens on Monday, July 6th from 8am to 6pm.
- June 22-Day Camps start but the facility will still be closed.
- Lap Swim begins June 29 and Aquafit begins July 6.
- Facility will be closed July 3, 4 and 5th.

- Fitness Center reopens on July 6.
- Basketball Court play currently unavailable.
- In-person registration possible with online encouraging registration.

Central Community Center

- Opens Monday, July 6 from 8am-6pm.
- Both facilities open Saturdays from 8am to noon.
- Both facilities closed on Sundays. District will promote Sundays as park days for the community.
- Both facilities are open to scheduled programs and rentals the week of June 22 when Day Camp begins through the official facility opening dates of June 29 and July 6.
- Fitness Center opens July 6.
- In-person registration possible with online registration encouraged.

Friendship Park Conservatory remains closed. Programs have and will take place at FPC as well as tours for rentals.

Lions Recreation Center will open for dance classes only in the ballet studio and multipurpose room with the dance instructors coordinating the entering and exiting of students.

The Art Studio is currently operational with programming for 10 or less in both indoor and outdoor formats.

We are offering over 200 plus program opportunities with on going registration.

Director Yueill explained she has a draft email ready for approval with a tagline of “ Know Before You Go” which will detail rules for entering/while you are in the facilities, rules when participating in programs. This will be a patron email and get out as soon as possible. This email will also add the opening dates of several programs. Summer book 2 of the brochure will be online June 29 that coincides with the opening of RecPlex.

Commissioner Massie commented with the hours of only 8am-6pm of the fitness center we will miss the entire working class people that like to work out. With the Y closing recently it would be a great opportunity to grab those people from the YMCA to bring them on board to the Park District. Early times and later times so they can work out /before/after work. Director Troy stated that is a great point and we could adapt to additional hours to accommodate these people. Commissioner Klicka remarked to consider the people that are laid off could come.

Commissioner Starr stated he was concerned with social distancing and wearing masks in the dance classes because of the size of the studio and wondering if there were any questions from the patrons. Director Troy stated that we have had questions and dance classes are not allowed in phase 3. The dance classes will have 10 dancers or less and they will have to wear masks.

Commissioner Tenuta asked when baseball would be starting. Jason Hickman, Manager of Athletics replied opening day for some of baseball will be June 22 (3rd grade through 8th grade) rationale behind this is after shifting through refunds and finding out who would be interested in returning and what

teams would participate. Equipment received last Friday and started practicing. House league Pony league has four teams and will start practicing. Minor softball and 3/4th baseball will be soon this weekend. T-ball - not going to push this program since they don't play as many games. Girls 11-22 Major/ Senior division is our biggest challenge down to about 26 kids and working with other communities to schedule some games. They could go out to do general workouts. Commissioner Tenuta asked if softball girls could be offered as a fitness program for the softball girls to get in shape for the season-is this a possibility and capture some of these people. Jason said it could be possible but they seemed more interested in games and don't know the interest level.

Commissioner Tenuta stated that she was excited about the Art Studio offering the indoor/outdoor program. She also knows that art staff worked hard with the art kits and was wondering how many were sold and if they are still selling them. Ann Zimmerman, Cultural Arts Manager stated they have sold 1,027 and they are still selling them. Good work to Ann & staff.

Ann Zimmerman, Cultural Arts Manager addressed programming for dance. There are three good size studios and staff is taking into account social distancing and watching the numbers for participation. Offering 10 classes virtually for those families that aren't comfortable about coming back to the dance studios.

Mike Azzaretto, Aquatic & Fitness Manager stated that the personal trainers are willing to work with small group clinics. The Sharks swim team has been conditioning outside and we have about 30 participants with Linda spearing heading that.

Commissioner Murphy asked about Tball and what is the decision date on starting the program. Jason Hickman stated that they will be starting next week with practicing. It is a Saturday only program and they are practicing with a little bit of games. Tball and rookie level with 8-10 game schedules.

Commissioner Doherty asked how membership is going to work with the opening of fitness centers. Director Troy stated that their plan to just open up membership and communicate about the plan and hours. The patrons still can keep their membership frozen and still want to retain them. As soon as you come back to us we can offer as much as possible. If the patron still feels uncomfortable and wants to try daily fees-that is offered too. Thank you for staying with us. With the Y and other clubs closing down-we can offer our fitness centers to them.

Commissioner Doherty had the same concern with the hours as Commissioner Massie and maybe the patrons might not stay due to the shortened hours and was happy that the staff will work through that if patrons might go to a 24 hour due to our hours. Director Troy stated that we will adapt to the patrons' concerns with the hours. Director Yueil explained there were discussions with staff on how the strong group works out; staggering hours and days. There are a lot of great points from the board but our marketing team would like to be as fluid as possible and when change is necessary change happens- it is far better to add hours than take away. Great suggestion and be in the forefront to move forward.

Commissioner Doherty hopes as staff will continue to talk to the people that decide to stay frozen or cancel membership and find out the reason -is it the hours, fitness center and if the majority would

come back if we increase the hours- get the revenue and the benefit of the facility if it makes financial sense. Director Yueill stated that staff already have been working together looking into the financials with memberships as well.

President Kurka appreciates the staff's information and hard work and the Board taking time out to stay informed as to how we are going to move forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Starr remarked that with the Y closing he would like to see a marketing plan that would attract the people who went to the Y with a possible free pass to check out the fitness facilities . Director Yueill stated the Y members are on the top of her notes. Directory Troy also stated that Y staff has also reached out looking for positions and communicating with staff. Mike Azzaretto, Aquatic & Fitness Manager also stated that they have been talking with that audience and liked the Commissioner Starr's idea.

Commissioner Klicka suggested putting the information in the paper to give people a chance to use the facilities and district has been here for a long time.

Director Yueill just wanted staff and the Board to know the score boards that Culver bought are up and look fantastic. Culver is invested and supports the Park District and the community and Charles Martin, the owner really believes in the park district.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Tenuta moved to adjourn at 7:01 pm of the Special Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Klicka.

Commissioner Starr calls Roll Call

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	Ayes	Nays	Absent
Commissioner Kurka	X		
Commissioner Tenuta	X		
Commissioner Starr	X		
Commissioner Klicka	X		
Commissioner Doherty	X		
Commissioner Massie	X		
Commissioner Murphy	X		

Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

William J. Starr, Secretary