

Approved Special Board Minutes
12-30-21

Approved
Special Board Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Mt. Prospect Park District, Cook County, Illinois, was held on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at Central Community Center Facility and Remote of said Park District. President Kurka called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Administrative Staff/Recreation Staff-Present or Remote

Jim Jarog, Executive Director
Teri Wirkus, Executive Compliance Officer
Mary Kiaupa, Human Resource & Risk Manager
Ruth Yueill, Director of Community Relations and Marketing
George Giese, Director of Administration
Nick Troy, Director of Recreation
Mike Azzaretto, Aquatic & Fitness Manager
Brian Hecker, CCC Facility Coordinator
Joe Hoffman, IT Services/Registration Manager
Jeff Langguth, PGA Head Professional
Nancy Prosser, Facility Manager
Ben Kutscheid, Park Planner
Matthew Dziubinski, Superintendent of Parks & Planning
Kristina Winans, Early Childhood Youth Coordinator
Brad Wessel, Youth Athletic Coordinator
Jon Zgoda, IT Professional/ Remote Meeting Moderator
Brett Barcel, Director of Golf Operations
Kandice Newton, Early Childhood and Youth Coordinator
Torja Davis, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Anita Zvejnieks, Front Desk
Debra Cromie, Pro Shop Office Manager

Professionals Present

Tom Hoffman, District Attorney
Christopher Johlje, Attorney

Visitors

Joanna Schramm
Grio Mazzocco
Mike Wilken
Beth Jordan
Adrienne Nudo

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Kendra Pollizze
Sinan Khamo
Phil Parrish
Matt Black
Tabitha Zamar
Joel Castillo
Anne Barrett
Megan Casey
Michelle Brenner
Natalie & Rich Nudo
Bryan Phillips
Brian Taylor
Gigi M
Stacy Pahlke

President Kurka read the following Determination statement: As President of the Park Board and due to the 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 in-person. It is my determination that it is neither practical nor prudent to have tonight's Board meeting solely 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 solely on an in-person basis at the regular location for Board meetings at Central Community Center. Therefore tonight's Board meeting is also being held by remote virtual means, and specifically through the use of the audio capacities of the Zoom platform. Thank you.

Commissioner Starr called Roll Call for the Board

On roll call, the following commissioners were present:

| Roll Call | Present | Absent | Remote |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Commissioner Kurka | X | | |
| Commissioner Tenuta | X | | |
| Commissioner Starr | X | | |
| Commissioner Klicka | | X | |
| Commissioner Doherty | | | X |
| Commissioner Massie | X | | |
| Commissioner Murphy | | | X |

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Starr led the Pledge of Allegiance

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Starr approved the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Massie.

Commissioner Starr called Roll Call for the Board

| Roll Call | Aye | Absent | Nay |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Commissioner Kurka | X | | |
| Commissioner Tenuta | X | | |
| Commissioner Starr | X | | |
| Commissioner Klicka | | X | |
| Commissioner Doherty | X | | |
| Commissioner Massie | X | | |
| Commissioner Murphy | X | | |

Executive Director Jarog made the following opening statement:

On Thursday, December 23, 2021, the Cook County Department of Public Health issued mitigation order 2021-11, mandating proof of vaccination requirements for certain businesses and facilities within Cook County, effective January 3rd, 2022. This order is in addition to the continuation of indoor masking requirements. The order brought forth includes Park Districts and recreational facilities.

It should be noted that this order was not brought forth by the Mt. Prospect Park District, but by the officials of Cook County. Residents who are opposed to this order are strongly encouraged to contact Cook County directly to provide their opinions.

The District understands that this order may not be well received by some and respects all opinions on this matter. The District is committed to working with everyone during this continued time of uncertainty. With that said, the District has a duty to comply with the mitigation order as brought forth.

Currently our District has limited resources and staffing due to the sustained financial impact that Covid-19 has had on our operations. This most recent mitigation order will only stress our operations further.

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Beginning on Monday, January 3, 2022, the District will post required Cook County mitigation signage at each facility. The signage identifies the need for participants to provide proof of vaccination status. Staff will begin asking for proof of vaccination from some participants as required by the order.

Over the coming weeks, this situation will continue to evolve. District staff will need time to implement this process and perform necessary system upgrades to help our staff comply with this mitigation order. During this time our masking policies will continue to be strictly enforced.

The Mt. Prospect Park District intends to comply with the mitigation order to the best of our ability based on the staffing levels and resources at our disposal. Patrons and Program Participants who object to this order are strongly encouraged to contact Cook County directly to voice their opinions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joanna Schramm, Joel Castillo, Anne Barrett, Matt Black, Mike Wilken, Beth Jordan, Stacy Pahlke Adrienne Nudo, Tabitha Zamar, spoke to the Board at the Special Meeting and expressed their concerns and opinions:

Some of the opinions and comments from the residents and volunteer coaches were as followed: Feels sad the park district is being put into this situation and feels the district isn't fighting for the patrons; it is the parents responsibility to decide if their children should be vaccinated; medical situation; are there going to be options-test weekly/medical or religious; natural immunity; children need activities for mental and physical health; EGPD isn't mandating vaccine cards for children; we don't want to go to another park district but we will; where is the mayor at-must be fought at all different levels; reviewed vaccination rate- 80% of kids are not vaccinated; CPS schools going back in person for school on Monday and is not required to be vaccinated; must be exemptions; feels the PD should base their decisions on what is right for the children; don't want to exclude the non-vaccinated children from activities; thanked the park district for all that staff does; this will have a negative impact on families; vaccine are not approved by the FDA at this time; and again should be the parents decision; how well will this be implemented-does the volunteer coaches have to do this; financial impact if families pull their children; doesn't support being forced to be vaccinated to participate in programs for children; reviewed on what the vaccine does and doesn't do and the highest risk; it is the parents responsibility if they want to vaccine and it is wrong to vaccinate children; value team sports, pools and parks and family participates in many programs; should not mandate vaccination for children and adults alike; consider the vaccine could do harm than good-let the parent decide; not your job to mandate a vaccine and not hesitate to pull my family from programs; will there be a full refunds and what will happen come Monday; possibly lose great coaches & athletics now and in the future; feels this is an act of discrimination; time as a community to state this is wrong; ; what happens if the district doesn't comply-if the district does comply what about a grace period for those who are already enrolled and started in programs; not a requirement when signing up for this session and let children finish this session; the District should do

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what is right for the children and families; they are more than willing to go somewhere else; don't shut out a portion of the population.

Executive Director Jarog stated the District's staff and resources have been pushed to the limit with the previous loss of staff and the economic downturn the District has had to face. Our resources available to enforce this mandate are extremely limited. We will do what we can to comply with the requirements per the Cook County mitigation order but full enforcement is not feasible.

President Kurka explained that this is a very fluid situation and not everything is resolved.

Commissioner Tenuta stated there were interesting points tonight and the District is getting a mandate from Cook County and not getting answers as well but our hands are tied as a Park District and this is not a Board action. We came together as a Board to hear your comments and appreciate everyone for coming.

Executive Director Jarog shared that he had previously reached out to State & County officials to share the concerns of residents and our District. Many of the same concerns which have been expressed here tonight by the public. We are a government body and are required to comply. We know our ability to comply will be challenging but we will do what we can.

Tom Hoffman, District Attorney explained the Order issued by the County and read Section 38/38 and explained (according to the County) that there could be possible arrest of our officials and/or possibly fines between \$100 - \$1,000 per offense. So, it is understandable that people are feeling bullied.

President Kurka explained that the Board definitely considered the potential loss of revenue. If this forces the District to shut down and could be detrimental to the District and very aware that families could go to other districts and are taking comments under consideration. Executive Director Jarog explained it very well in regards to this coming Monday and what to expect. Thank you all for coming and we have read the emails that came in and appreciate the input from the community.

Matt Black, a volunteer coach, asked if the District would have a communication plan given to the coach to try to avoid adverse situations.

Staff responded that further communications would go out to coaches via Team Sideline as soon as possible giving further clarification on this matter.

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Starr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Tenuta at 6:52pm .

Commissioner Starr called Roll Call for the Board

| Roll Call | Aye | Absent | Nay |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Commissioner Kurka | X | | |
| Commissioner Tenuta | X | | |
| Commissioner Starr | X | | |
| Commissioner Klicka | | X | |
| Commissioner Doherty | X | | |
| Commissioner Massie | X | | |
| Commissioner Murphy | X | | |

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Starr, Secretary