

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Highland Park was conducted remotely due to the Governor's Declaration of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Members of the public were able to view a live stream of the Regular Board Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by President Ruttenberg.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Kaplan, President Ruttenberg

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith; Director Voss; Director Peters; Director Gogola, Director Dunn; Director Carr; General Manager/Superintendent of Golf Operations Ochs, Assistant Director Maliszewski; Manager Johnson; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Executive Director Romes read the comments submitted by the public.

North Shore Yacht Club Board of Directors

Laura Knapp, Peter Moy, Shannon Bain, Nannette Flanagan, Ellie Syvan, Pat Charlebois, Wes Madra, Kathy Kaatz McRae, and Chris Schenkel

21 Park Avenue, Highland Park

Dear Park Board of Commissioners,

Please vote yes to allow small craft boating and powerboating at Park Avenue Beach during the 2020 season. As you know, the North Shore Yacht Club has been very busy since October of 2019 planning for all possible outcomes for the 2020 boating season. In March, the COVID-19 Pandemic issues lead us all in a new direction. The NSYC Committee have put thought, effort, and work into establishing guidelines to allow our members to boat during these unprecedented times. The NSYC has canceled adult sailing classes and all social programs for the year. In addition, kayak and paddle boarding classes have been canceled through July. The NSYC has put together guidelines based on the recommendations from the executive orders from national, state, and local jurisdictions, as well as water sport organizations and are in regular communication

with local boating groups to assess the best practices. The NSYC will be operating with far fewer members on site due to lower memberships and several families have chosen not to renew their memberships for the 2020 season. In addition, we have adjusted what we can of our expenses to minimize payments but unfortunately, we will most likely be operating at a loss due to our insurance policies that cover equipment. We want to assure you that the NSYC is ready and prepared to have a boating season during the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that you please support the NSYC by signing the license agreement and allowing boating at Park avenue beach this year.

Lisa Hersch

276 Walker Avenue, Highland Park

I respectfully request that the Park Board of Commissioners open Park Avenue Boating Facility for the summer. With all we have lost this summer the loss of the use of our lakefront would be devastating to the boating community. It is my understanding that all the neighboring launch facilities have opened, and it seems questionable as to why you will not follow suit. The boating community is not asking you to spend on the facilities but rather provide the bare minimum for boaters to use the launch. In terms of COVID and safety precautions, kayaks, sailboats, and powerboats do not encourage large crowds and all of us will abide by the guidelines set forth by the Park District. Our community is more than tennis, golf, and Rosewood Beach, we are a lakefront community and your constituents deserve the opportunity to enjoy the lakefront this summer.

Daniel Kahn,

819 Sheridan Road, Highland Park

Dear Park Board of Commissioners,

I am ready to express my sincere hope that you will again open the powerboat ramp this season now that the Governor has revised restrictions on occupants in a boat. I have been using the ramp now for more than 50years. Being on the lake in Highland Park is one of the best elements continuing the live here. I cannot imagine life without being able to get onto our wonderful lake. This year is special in so many ways with camps and many summer activities canceled including the waterpark, being able to do something recreational with water will be more important than ever before. It's something wonderful I can do for my grandchild while providing a break to their weary parents. One way or another I will be launching my little boat and I would really like to be able to launch in my hometown. Certainly, it is a matter of convenience to launch here, especially when I would like to take a short break and I can see the lake is calm. I would prefer to be in the water within 20minutes. Having to drive to Waukegan or another ramp is a much larger time commitment. More importantly if a storm comes quickly, I prefer to head back the launch in my hometown. I know the economic situation this year is creating enormous

challenges for the Park District, the state, and the country and I understand the ramp is a money-loser, but now is definitely not the time to leave the ramp closed. There are plenty of ways in which it could be open with minimal costs. From my perspective, I do not feel the ramp needs to be staffed, nor does the floating dock or ramp need to be installed, or does the dredging need to be complete. While all of these features would be great, all I really need is the gate to Park Avenue to be open and unlocked so I can put my boat into Lake Michigan.

Amy Haggerty
990 Judson Avenue, Highland Park

I am writing in to voice my strong support for the continued investment in Park Avenue Beach. I grew up in Highland Park and had no connection to this beach and boating. Coming back as an adult it has single-handedly become my favorite part of Highland Park as I have become a dedicated paddle boarder and spent many spare moments this summer. The yacht club and the boat launch are incredibly underutilized and underappreciated for the gems that they are. Why don't we encourage more people to use the lake access that we are so fortunate to have? It will be such a loss to the community if we are to let this go. I strongly encourage the community and the council to invest in the resource that we have at the beach now before it becomes even more expensive and difficult to maintain. Lake Michigan is one of our greatest assets and giving people more than swimming access should be prioritized.

Dr. Frances Peszek
146 Towers Keep, Highland Park

As beaches on the East and West coasts and the surrounding municipalities open there is no option but to be proactive and not reactive. Pools are closed. The kids are not going to sleepaway camp. Which will send them flocking to our unmonitored shoreline. The City sees us as an asset to the safety of the general public. Now that the City has given the Park District of Highland Park the green light, please allow us to launch from Park Avenue especially at this time since there are those who can and are willing to help monitor the shoreline. If you delay this issue any longer you will lose valuable membership of our society to the other boating municipalities, which is lost manpower and revenue. I have spoken to a dozen people who have not yet registered because of the indecision however, they have verbally committed to launch at Park Avenue and are awaiting a final decision to be made at Tuesday's board meeting. Inaction is no longer an option. Lake Forest opened this past weekend to beachgoers and boaters. Waukegan and North Point have been open, and the Walnut Harbor is opening this coming week. If the opening of Park Avenue is delayed any further those who have made full payments will be asking for refunds. I ask for Park Avenue Beach to open as its operations are a lifeline to this community.

Dr. Cheryl Perlis
937 Judson Avenue, Highland Park

I am voting "yes" to keep Park Avenue beach open for access to all residents and to keep the beach open for the health and happiness of the community.

Executive Director Romes reported in addition to the public comments mentioned above, he received 50 other emails from those who are in support of opening Park Avenue.

President Ruttenberg reported that he would like to change the order of the agenda, so the next items to be discussed would be unfinished business, which includes the Re-Opening of Park Avenue, the 2020 License Agreement with the North Shore Yacht Club, and the 2020 Park Avenue Dredging Agreement.

RE-OPENING OF PARK AVENUNE

Director Carr reported that consideration to open Park Avenue Boating Facility for the summer is contingent upon the approval of the 2020 North Shore Yacht Club license agreement for small craft sailing and programming, as well as the approval of the Dredging Bid for power boating. Staff have held several meetings with members of the boating community and NSYC, who have both provided their thoughts and input on how to effectively navigate this summer's boating season. Director Carr reported that all decisions on operations were based on safety, function, and fiscal responsibility.

Executive Director Romes reported that City Manager Neukirch supports the Park District and does not want to interfere with the District's decision regarding the opening or closing of Park Avenue.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know how the City's first responders fit into this equation.

Executive Director Romes reported that if there is an emergency on the lake, City staff will respond as they have historically.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know if they City is still providing CPA's to patrol the lakefront.

Executive Director Romes reported that the City will no longer supply CPA's. Instead the District is hiring and training Park Ambassadors to monitor the lakefront.

Director Carr continued to report on Park Avenue safety, function and financial responsibility for Summer 2020. Director Carr reported that all boating is contingent upon meeting essential safety criteria. The City of Highland Park has provided guidance that they will defer the operations of opening of Park Avenue Boating Facility to the Park District so long as a safe plan to manage operations can be implemented. The North Shore Yacht Club and the boating community support the decision to provide restricted vehicular access only to those who have a

Park District registered launch pass, parking pass, or are a member of the NSYC. Vehicular access will be controlled by Gate Closure, which two options are being discussed. The preferred option is a user-controlled gate closure and vehicular access. In this option the gate would always remain closed and registered users will receive a key or fob to access the facility. Director Carr reported that the rules will prohibit the use of shared keys or fobs, and the registered user is responsible for closing the gate after. In addition, the Park District would require a signed waiver of liability, signed key agreement, and a deposit from each registered user. Penalty for violating any rules will result in loss of privileges with no refund. The alternative option is a staff-controlled gate closure and vehicular access. In this option Park District Ambassadors would be responsible for opening and closing the gate and verifying all permits to ensure access is only to those who are registered. The gate may also be closed based on lake or weather conditions, in which Park Ambassadors would not be scheduled to monitor the lakefront. Staff are activity recruiting Park Ambassadors.

Director Carr reported that the fiscal responsibilities are deviated into two different approaches since there are small craft boating operations vs. the powerboating operations. Operations for small craft boating would be dependent upon the approval of the 2020 NSYC license agreement. If approved, payment must be received from the NSYC so the Park District can install the sand ramp, open the cable storage area, restrooms, and the NSYC facility. Once all operations are open revenue from storage rentals, parking passes, and launch permits will be able to support the expenses for a small craft sailing program. Director Carr reported the operations for powerboating would be dependent upon the approval of the dredging bid with fiscal contingencies, completion of the project, and installation of the dock. In order for dredging to commence, staff are recommending the contingency that boaters purchase by June 3, 2020 a minimum of 32 storage and launch passes (costing an individual \$1,010/yr.) and 22 launch only passes (costing an individual \$465/yr.). If those fiscal responsibilities are met, the dredging contract would be signed as of June 3. Staff are estimating the dredging to be completed in late June, at which time staff could install the floating dock, and are projecting the powerboating season to open as of July 3.

Director Carr reported as of today, boaters have purchased 23 storage and launch passes and 18 launch only passes. Many other boaters have provided a verbal commitment, dependent upon the approval of the above-mentioned items. If everything is approved this evening a letter will be shared first thing tomorrow with the boating community informing them that they will need to secure a spot through full purchase or at minimum a deposit of \$100 by June 2, 2020 and the remainder due before the opening of Park Avenue.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how many commitments are still needed.

Director Carr reported that the Park District still needs 9 storage and launch passes and 4 launch only passes, for a total of \$11,000.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know why dredging may take several weeks.

Director Smith reported that the work could potentially be completed earlier, so long as the required equipment is available. Since John Keno and Company has entered their busy season, there is a chance the equipment required for the dredging project could be reserved by another client.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how long it takes to install the floating dock.

Director Carr reported it takes Parks Staff 3-4 days to install the floating dock. If dredging is completed in mid-June the powerboating season could open earlier than July.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that he is willing to assume the financial risk and would like the Park District to move forward with the dredging bid, instead of waiting on the remaining \$11,000 commitment from boaters.

Commissioner Grossberg asked if the dredging at Park Avenue could be completed in 1 day.

Director Smith reported that is typically takes 2-3days.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know how high the lake levels are and the severity of the damages to the south storage area.

Director Carr reported that the lake level is 5 inches higher than last summer, so there could be days where the floating dock will not be open. Staff will have to monitor this daily, till the water levels recede. As for the south storage area, there are 12 spots available.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know if Park Ambassadors will be able to manually open or close the gate should there be a technical issue with a key or fob.

Director Carr reported that testing will begin next week. Staff are hopefully that the Park Ambassador will have the ability to manually operate the gate should emergencies arise.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like to know if there will be a designated Park Ambassador at Park avenue.

Director Carr reported that the Park Ambassadors will float between lakefront properties and parks.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like to know if the position is currently posted for Park Ambassadors.

Director Carr reported that he received guidance from the City of Highland Park to create the part-time opportunity. The opportunity is posted, and the City has contacted their former CPA's encouraging them to apply since they have experience dealing with the public in this type of capacity.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like to know what the responsibilities are of Parks Staff to assist with site preparations at Park Avenue.

Director Carr reported that Parks Staff conducts a summer cleanup of the facility and grounds in preparation for opening. The Parks staff will conduct on-going grounds clean-up throughout the season.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like to know how much the District spends on Parks Staff and the dredging.

Director Carr reported that labor expenses for Parks Staff are not allocated to the Park Avenue budget and those expenses remain under the Parks Department budget. The storage and launch passes will cover the costs of the dredging bid, which is currently set at \$32,000. The launch only passes will help support the costs for maintenance and labor, such as the time the Parks Staff spends to install the floating dock.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if Park Avenue can open for small craft boating operations once the gate is installed.

Director Carr reported that the goal is to open by June 13. If the site is prepped and tests run smoothly for access control of the gate, then the opening could be earlier.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the North Shore Yacht Club could access the site earlier if needed.

Director Carr reported that staff are working with the NSYC and providing access as needed until the gate is operational.

President Ruttenberg would like a 24 hour hotline available should there be gate malfunctions. He agrees with Commissioner Bernstein and is willing to assume the financial risk and would like the Park District to move forward with the dredging bid, instead of waiting on the remaining \$11,000 commitment from boaters.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that trust is a two-way street, and he is prepared to approve these items tonight having confidence that the boating community will buy passes.

Commissioner Grossberg is hesitant since the boating community has not yet met their fiscal commitment.

Vice President Kaplan feels the fiscal commitment from the boating community should be met.

Commissioner Bernstein feels this is a unique situation due to the pandemic, and since the Park District received no objection from the City of Highland Park to open, he advises making an exception due to the circumstances.

Both Commissioner Grossberg and Vice President Kaplan agreed with Commissioner Bernstein's recommendation.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know if approving these items tonight would allow for Park Avenue to open earlier than June 13.

Director Smith reported that the dredging cannot be scheduled until we enter into an agreement. He will submit the contract first thing tomorrow, which may shave off a couple days and allow opening to commence before June 13.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like the boating community to know that the letters and the rudeness at the meetings had nothing to do with tonight's decision. This Park District has shown time after time there is nothing corrupt. Staff are recommending items based on the fiscal responsibility of the taxpayers.

President Ruttenberg would like to know how many members of the boating community have made a verbal commitment to fill the gap should the items be approved this evening.

Director Carr reported that staff are confident the gap will be filled based on historic evidence but does not have a definite number of verbal commitments.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if both the City of Highland Park and the State of Illinois are allowing the Park District to permit boating at Park Avenue.

Executive Director Romes reported that both the City and the State are permitting boating.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve the 2020 License Agreement with the North Shore Yacht Club and seconded by Vice President Kaplan.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Kaplan, President Ruttenberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve the 2020 Park Avenue Dredging Bid without regard to the immediate collection of the \$11,000 gap from the boating community and seconded by Vice President Kaplan.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Kaplan, President Ruttenberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Commissioner Bernstein reported that the Park Board is trusting that the community will come and purchase licenses.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park District's focus continues to be on the three priorities of emergency and safety planning, strategic planning for programs and services, and financial planning. On Wednesday, May 20, Governor Pritzker announced updates to Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan, which now allows more businesses to resume operations with certain restrictions in place, beginning this Friday, May 29. On Sunday, May 26, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) released industry specific guidelines to support the safe re-opening of health and fitness centers, outdoor dining, and outdoor recreation, which includes day camps and youth sports. All of these apply to services provided by the Park District. The state of Illinois has developed very specific guidelines and appropriate tool kits which include standard signage, training checklists, and other resources that will ensure compliance with IDPH safety guidelines. He reported that this information is a positive change for the District and the community and starting this Friday, May 29, staff is recommending the opening of additional facilities while providing the safe delivery of essential services for the health and well-being of the community.

Executive Director Romes introduced Manager Ochs to provide an update on Golf Operations regarding the Phase 3 and DCEO guidelines.

Manager Ochs reported that Sunset Valley Golf Club is currently open. Foursomes will be permitted as of this Friday, May 29, with 10-minute tee-time intervals. In addition, single rider carts will be available, and the putting green will re-open. The Proshop and Clubhouse restrooms will re-open, and outdoor dining will be permitted at the restaurant. Gathering of 10 or less will be strictly enforced when entering the Clubhouse.

The Golf Learning Center will re-open as of this Friday, May 29. It will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Hitting spaces will be limited on the driving range, to adhere to the social distancing guidelines. Online or phone reservations must be made to play the mini golf course and half-day PGA summer camps will begin on June 15.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if social distancing will be enforced while dining on the patio.

Manager Ochs reported that the tables are spaced 8ft apart to adhere to the DCEO guidelines for outdoor dining.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if masks are required at the Golf Learning Center and while on the mini golf course.

Executive Director Romes reported that guidelines will be posted at facilities and guests are required to wear a mask when 6ft social distancing cannot be maintained. Equipment has been spaced to best prevent guests from intermingling, but it is always best to air on the side of caution.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if guests are required to wear a mask when entering a facility.

Manager Ochs reported guests are required to wear a mask when entering the clubhouse or proshop and signage will be posted notifying guests of the requirement.

Vice President Kaplan would like to know if push carts will be available.

Manager Ochs reported that push carts are still not permitted, however single rider carts are permitted.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know if staffing will increase as of Phase 3.

Manager Ochs reported that Sunset Valley Golf club is completely booked this weekend, and will be fully staffed with a starter, ranger, desk attendant, and cart attendant. Staff will ensure guests are adhering to the guidelines and cleaning carts after each use.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know if there are exceptions for the cart rules.

Manager Ochs reported exceptions will only be made if you live in the same household, otherwise its one rider per cart.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know how many carts are available

Manager Ochs reported that 65 carts are available. If players wish to use a cart it is an additional \$20.

President Ruttenberg would like to know the cleaning protocols for Sunset Valley Golf Club.

Manager Ochs reported that staff are propping doors open to eliminate contact when entering facilities.

President Ruttenberg would like clarification on the mask guidelines.

Director Carr reported that the facilities are re-opening with limited capacity, however guests are required to wear a mask when entering a facility and traveling through common areas. When guests are outdoors, they are only required to wear a mask when 6ft social distancing cannot be maintained. As mentioned earlier, staff are spacing equipment to prevent guests from intermingling, and reservations are required for recreational activities which allows gaps between play to best adhere to the DCEO guidelines.

Director Carr reported that the Recreation Center of Highland Park and Deer Creek Racquet Club will be open as of this Monday, June 1, for one-on-one personal training and private tennis lessons. As mentioned earlier, registered participants are required to wear a mask when entering a facility and traveling through common areas. When participants have entered their designated activity space, be that a fitness studio or tennis court, they can remove their mask. Park District Staff will be required to wear a mask during instruction, anytime the activity is held inside a facility during Phase 3.

Recreation Center of Highland Park - Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that the hours of operation will be open Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. He reported that there will be 4 open areas in the facility designated for personal training sessions, which allows for 312 hours of training to resume a week. In addition, group exercise classes will be permitted to resume and will be conducted outdoors. Staff have 40 classes scheduled which require pre-registration and class fees.

Commissioner Bernstein would like an update on the indoor pool.

Director Carr reported that when staff drained the indoor pool during routine maintenance they found significant cracks in the shell, to the point where staff felt uncomfortable refilling the pool in its' current condition. The shell is 15 years old and has met its useful life. Therefore, staff are actively searching for similar and alternative coating products to restore the shell. Director Carr reported that he had planned to restore the pool shell in 2022 and budgeted \$50,000 for the anticipated project. Staff have found an alternative coating product which offers a longer lifespan and warranty which is within the \$50,000 budget. The lead time to repair is around 4-5 weeks. This project could fall under an emergency repair or a sole source, so staff plan to provide a further update to the Park Board on June 9 with a resolution to support the restoration.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that he would like these repairs to be deemed a priority since the indoor pool is the only source of recreation for disabled members of the community and neighboring areas.

Deer Creek Racquet Club - Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that outdoor tennis courts re-opened for public and private play as of last week, and as of Monday, June 1, private and group lessons can resume in the facility. Deer Creek racquet Club will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if staff received feedback once the outdoor tennis court re-opened.

Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that he has received nothing but compliments and positive feedback from the tennis pros who have been monitoring the courts and providing lessons.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how long staff are anticipating the reservation system remain in place.

Assistant Director Maliszewski anticipates the reservation system will continue through Phase 3, so residents will know when and which courts are available for play. All the outdoor courts are currently open, and staff have yet to fill all reservations.

Commissioner Bernstein and President Ruttenberg would a short update at each meeting regarding programing operations as facilities re-open and if the community is abiding by the rules and guidelines.

Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that as the district transition into programming, the tennis courts will no longer be staffed, as the pros will be needed for instruction. This was only to be implemented on short term basis as an extra precautionary measure for Phase 2.

Programming - Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that the virtual program guide was released last week. As of June, staff are hosting a one-night virtual dance party, a virtual backyard camp out, and e-sports tournaments. Staff is also planning for on-site/in person programs, some of which include a travel baseball league at a reduced ratio, a wiffleball league and tournament, a frisbee golf league, private baseball and basketball lessons, nature programs, and gymnastics classes.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the community is using the pickleball courts.

Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that the numbers are limited since the Park District is only able to permit singles play. Once those restrictions are lifted and doubles play can resume, staff anticipates those numbers will increase.

Commissioner Bernstein would like staff to offer programs to children who participate in overnight camp.

Rosewood Beach - Director Carr reported that the Park District opened the lower parking lot at Rosewood Beach over Memorial Day weekend to provide access by vehicle for residents only. Staff used this weekend as a pilot to understand how well the guidelines would be followed with limited access. He estimated that there were 100 people at Rosewood Beach over the holiday weekend, and a large part of the community did a great and followed the established guidelines of no swimming and keeping gatherings to 10 people or less. While staff had to turn away several non-residents, the overall re-opening was a success. From this staff have formulated a final beach plan to transition into Phase 3. He reported that all of this is subject to further guidelines developed by IDPH.

Director Carr reported that pre-season is scheduled for May 30 through June 19. During this time, the beach will be open, and the lower parking lot will only be open to residents. The lower parking lot will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Two beach monitors will be scheduled to monitor the lot and the beach. In addition, staff plan to have Park Ambassadors scheduled as of June 13 which will allow for the upper parking lot to open. During this time patrons can expect to see lifeguards at the site training as they prepare for the swimming season. Swimming is prohibited during this time and gatherings must be kept to 10 people or less and face covering are strongly encouraged, since they are required when 6 ft social distancing cannot be maintained. Director Carr reported that the regular season is June 20 through August 16. At this time, the beach is planned to be open from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and normal operations will resume with a capacity of 225 people. Swimming will be permitted and both parking lots will be open. Park Ambassadors will manage the parking lots and enforce beach guidelines. Lifeguards will be responsible for managing water safety at the coves. Director Carr reported if the indoor pool at the RCHP is unable to open, staff are exploring options to offer early morning lap swim hours. In addition, staff are discussing possible options to allow non-residents to access the beach and leaning towards the idea of allowing non-residents to access the beach after 1:00

p.m. should the capacity not be met. This provides priority to residents since the beach opens at 10:00 a.m. the post season is planned for August 17 through September 7. During this time, the beach will be open for swimming on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. since the children will be in school. Swimming will no longer be permitted weekdays since lifeguards will no longer be scheduled.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if staff can offer designated times for high the high risk and vulnerable population to use the beach.

Director Carr reported that staff will explore options.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how staff are being trained to deal with confrontational people not willing to follow the rules.

Executive Director Romes reported that the District has a Behavior Management Policy, which all staff are trained on.

Director Carr reported that the Park Ambassadors will be very valuable and able to focus on these situations. The beach supervisors need to keep their attention on water safety. Most people who applied to this position were CPA's with the City of Highland Park or have previous experience dealing with the public.

Executive Director Romes reported that he is meeting with the Police Chief to help the Park District through the hiring and training of the Park Ambassadors.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the shuttle bus from Ravinia School will be offered.

Director Carr reported the shuttle will not be offered this season.

President Ruttenberg would like all guests visiting Rosewood Beach to wear a mask when walking along the boardwalk.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if there are any issues throughout the parks due to the record high rainfall during the month of May.

Director Voss reported that the pond at Danny Cuniff Park has become an issue. The drain is clogged, so the path has been flooded for the past week. The Park District is working with the City of Highland Park and the Lake County Storm Water Commission to better understand the issue. Currently, there are pumps at the site.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how the rain impacted the Sunset Valley Golf Club.

Manager Ochs reported that the course was able to open this past Sunday for all 18 holes, however the course received 10inches in of water during the month of May, which is typically accumulated over 3 months.

Homecoming Committee - Executive Director Romes reported that the Homecoming Committee has dedicated their time over the past month to prepare the re-opening of facilities based on IDPH standards for personal protection, signage, social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting schedules to allow for a safe return of employees and customers. The Park District is incorporating new workplace policies and procedures that include patron guidelines and expectations that are District-wide and facility specific as outlined in Phase 3 of Restore Illinois and examining how to transition into Phase 4. In addition, staff are updating a Return to Work document, which all employees will be required to read and comply with. As always, the District is keeping a close eye on finances and the Finance committee will be meeting twice a month to ensure the District has an adequate cash flow. Staff have minimized financial effects by closing facilities and canceling program. As facilities re-open full-time staff are transitioning back to full time hours and the District anticipates to have all full-time staff back to 40 hours plus a week by the end of June or mid-July. In addition, some furloughed part-time staff are being contacted and asked to return to work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the April 14, 2020, Workshop Meeting; Minutes from the April 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting; Approval of the OSLAD Grant Agreement from the Illinois Department of Natural Resource; Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$1,389,277.11

Motion was made by Vice President Kaplan to approve items on the Consent Agenda seconded by Commissioner Bernstein.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Kaplan, President Ruttenberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

TREASURER’S REPORT

Director Peters reported that Special Recreation, the General Recreation, and the Debt Service are all on track even with the significant amount of refunds being issued. She reported that as of the end of April, the District is within \$8,000 of the budgeted amount. There is a timing with health insurance, but that gap is closing every month. Capital projects are trending in a positive way since the District has spent less than originally budgeted. There are also timing difference due to a \$400,000 expense from Rosewood beach that has yet to hit the budget but is expected to close the gap in May. Regarding the General Corporate funds there is a large favorable variance from the budget due to reduction of expenses, reduced payroll and furloughing of staff, and the closing of facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Foundation Update

Commissioner Grossberg reported that the Parks Foundation recently had their Annual Meeting, where directors, treasurers, officers, and committee leads were elected, and resolutions were approved for bylaws. In addition, the Parks Foundation is exploring fund raising ideas.

B. Director’s Report

Executive Director Romes reported that the Director’s report now includes information on virtual programs and projections for both in-person and virtual programming for the upcoming summer months. This will be included moving forward. In addition, the scholarship process has been streamlined to support those in need of financial assistance.

C. Board Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Kaplan and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2020

Brian Romes, Secretary