

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
JULY 14, 2020**

The Workshop 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 Workshop Board Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 Dunn, Director Peters, Director Gogola, Director Carr; Assistant Director Maliszewski; General Manager/Superintendent of Golf Operations Ochs; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

*Sharone Marck
250 Lincolnwood Road, Highland Park*

Executive Director Romes read a complimentary email sent to North Shore School District personnel from a grateful parent whose child had a wonderful experience in ParkSchool.

My son, Elan, will be starting Kindergarten in the Fall. He spent last year splitting his time between Nature Preschool at the Chicago Botanic Garden and Park School through the PDHP. Park School did an **outstanding** for this age group with their zoom programming - they sent home materials to open for each session for special projects etc., which my son found particularly engaging. They were also able to get everyone to participate. I understand from Sarah Stanke (copied here) that Park School is running a summer session for this age group with high success and appeal. She explained to me the other day how they are handling distancing, hygiene, etc. and though we are not participating (due to having invested in a summer sitter), I would not hesitate to send Elan to a program such as the one the Park School is running. I know that 112 has been doing a lot of planning but I thought in the spirit of community cooperation if you weren't already consulting with the Park District on their successes to date in this time of crisis, I wanted to strongly encourage you to do so. Thank you for considering my suggestion and for all you do.

SUNSET VALLEY YOUTH GOLF DEVELOPMENT & SHORT GAME AREA PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Ochs reported that The Parks Foundation of Highland Park, with significant contribution from Illinois Golf Hall of Famer, Joel Hirsch has been raising funds for a new state-of-the-art Youth Golf Development and Short Game Area at the Sunset Valley Golf Club. This facility is designed to engage younger and newer golfers, as well as entice more seasoned golfers who wish to concentrate on their short game. This area will also be used by the Highland Park High School golf teams to warm up before they begin their matches. Golfers will be able to access the new “Youth Golf Development and Short Game Area” very easily, as it is planned to be adjacent to the south parking lot at Sunset Valley Golf Club. Staff has contracted Rick Jacobson to design and develop the short game area. He reported that the project officially kicked off on July 6 and shared images of the site prior to construction, and progress updates including the bunkers and greens.

Manager Ochs reported that this project is solely funded by donations received by the Parks Foundation of Highland Park, and a grant from the Wadsworth Foundation. The estimated overall budget for the project is \$200,000 and the Parks Foundation has received approximately \$178,583.64 in donations and grant funds for the Sunset Valley Youth Golf Development and Short Game Area and continues to accept donations for the necessary construction funding. He reported that current construction and architecture fees are \$141,578. Once complete, staff plan to release a bid for the Brick Paver Pathway over the next couple weeks and expect to have the youth development and short game area open to the public as of late Spring 2021.

President Ruttenberg would like to know why there is a \$33,000 contingency.

Executive Director Romes reported the contingency is a buffer for unexpected expenses, which staff does not anticipate the District having to cover any costs since the Parks Foundation is still accepting donations and trying to reach the goal of \$200,000.

President Ruttenberg would like to know what the Parks Foundation plans to do with funds from the donors.

Executive Director Romes reported that the Parks Foundation has yet to make any final decisions, however, all donors will be recognized whether it is through a brick, or a sign, or something similar.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know how the pandemic is impacting Sunset Valley Golf Club.

Manager Ochs reported that the course is doing very well, hitting 7,500 rounds in June.

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park Board of Commissioners approved the District’s 2020 capital plan and the 2020 budget appropriation, which combined was a little over \$8 million, in December of 2019. This includes significant projects such as the compressor replacement at Centennial Ice Arena, construction at the Preserve of Highland Park, and the protection projects at

Rosewood Beach. Additionally, the District planned to use the remaining funds to replace capital equipment and cover facility improvements.

On February 26, the Park Board of Commissioners approved the issuance of a general obligation bond, which provided the District \$7.3 million to be used towards capital projects. These funds would be used to cover the playground renovation at Sunset Woods Park, renovations at West Ridge Center, continued shoreline protection at Rosewood Beach, and any other facility repairs deemed necessary. The bond issuance requires that these funds could only be used on capital projects which need to be completed within 2 ½ years.

Unfortunately, on March 13, 2020, staff made the difficult decision to close all facilities and cancel programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 27, staff held a Finance Committee Meeting to review the District's operational losses, cash flow projections, and the District's approved capital plan in an effort to reduce spending and ensure the District maintains an adequate cash flow throughout the pandemic. Staff and Board Liaisons assessed the 2020 capital projects and decided to differ over \$2.5million from the 2020 capital budget. At the June 4 Finance Committee Meeting, staff presented year-end projections for the recreation and operational funds, examining a worst-case scenario resulting in a loss of \$1.5 million. Director Romes reported that these financials will be updated and discussed monthly at the Finance Committee Meetings.

On July 3, the Finance Committee met to address the District's 2020 capital plan with an emphasis on two objectives. The first objective is to understand how much funding is available to spend on capital projects also knowing that a certain amount must be spent as required by the bond issuance and the second is to discuss the prioritization system for capital projects. Director Smith provided an overview of the Tier Prioritization System for capital projects.

Tier Prioritization Report

Director Smith reported that staff has developed a prioritization plan for capital projects to determine which projects should commence in 2020 and which should be deferred to 2021. Director Smith presented the five tiers of the prioritization plan.

Tier 1 is the highest priority, which are projects falling under safety and legal compliance, such as grants, intergovernmental agreements, or laws.

Tier 2 are projects in need of critical repairs or items that need to be replaced as these projects could pose a safety hazard, impact operations, or lead to a larger expense if ignored.

Tier 3 are existing assets that are scheduled to be replaced as these assets have met their useful life. A large portion of the capital plan falls under Tier 3.

Tier 4 projects are improvements to existing items. If ignored it would not limit or impact operations.

Tier 5 are projects that would add capacity or improve programming. If ignored it would have no impact on the District's status quo.

Executive Director Romes presented two reports which provide an overview of the costs associated with critical projects identified in Tier 1 and 2, as well as the Tier 3-5 projects, and explained what funding is available to support those projects. The District has planned for a little over \$14 million in the 2020-2021 Capital Plan, and the District currently has \$15 million available in the Capital Fund for the next 2 years. Executive Director Romes reported that the District has enough funds available to complete all of our capital projects over the next 2 years. However, if all projects were implemented, that would leave the District with little to no funds available for the future. Additionally, Executive Director Romes reported that these reports assume the worst-case scenario, which means the District will not be able to transfer money from the Recreation Fund to the Capital fund and is projected to incur a \$1.5 million loss. Typically, the District transfers \$2.5 million each year from the Recreation Fund over to the Capital Fund to support those projects.

Executive Director Romes reported that the District budgeted a little over \$3 million for Tier 1 capital projects in 2020. However, staff determined that some of those projects could be deferred, reducing expenses to a little over \$2 million. As for 2021, staff budgeted \$1.9 million in Tier 1 expenses. If approved the District would spend a little over \$4 million in Tier 1 projects over the next year and a half. Executive Director Romes reported that the District has \$7.3 million as cash available from the bond issuance, so around \$3.6 million will be pulled from bond cash to support the 2020-2021 Tier 1 capital projects.

Director Romes reported that the District also has a Special Recreation Fund, which supports projects specific to special recreation such as ADA accessibility projects. The District plans to spend approximately \$400,000 in 2020-2021 out of that fund. As for the Capital Fund, Executive Director Romes reported that there is a little over \$7 million available in cash on hand for 2020-2021, but these funds should be spent cautiously since the District can transfer money from this fund to the Operational Fund to support operations, if necessary.

The District approved in December of 2019, spending \$3.2 million on Tier 2 capital projects, which are projects in need of critical repair as they are posing safety hazards. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, staff recommends spending \$3.1 million on tier 2 capital projects. As for 2021, staff budgeted \$1.8 million in Tier 2 expenses. If approved the District would spend \$4.9 million in Tier 2 capital projects from now until December of 2021. He reported that \$3.7 million would be funded by Bond Cash, \$112,500 would be funded by Special Recreation Cash and \$1.1 million from Capital Cash. Executive Director Romes reported that the total spending's between Tier 1 and 2 capital projects in 2020 is \$5.3 million and a little over \$9 million from now until December 2021. If approved, the District would have depleted the Bond Cash. There would be \$389,610 left in Special Recreation Cash and \$6.1 million in Capital Cash.

Executive Director Romes reported that if approved, the District would spend a little over \$1 million in Tier 3 capital projects from now until December 2021. These are existing assets that are scheduled to be replaced as these assets have met their useful life. These projects would be funded by Capital Cash, which leaves a little over \$5 million still available in this cash category.

As for tier 4 capital projects, which are improvements to existing assets that still have a useful life, if approved, the District would spend \$4.4 million from now until December 2021. \$384,815 would be funded by Special Recreation Cash and a little over \$4 million in Capital Cash.

As for tier 5 capital projects, which are new items that do not impact the status quo, staff recommends differing all projects beyond 2021.

Executive Director Romes reported that if Tier 1-4 capital projects are approved, the District will have a little over \$1 million left in Capital Cash as of December 2021. The District needs to be cautious when approving Tier 3 capital projects and very cautious when approving tier 4 capital projects since both are funded by Capital Cash.

Commissioner Bernstein appreciates staff for coming up with this formula since it allows the Finance Committee Liaisons to apply standards and prioritize projects.

List of 2020 Capital Projects

Director Smith presented a 2020 capital report, which only examines Tier 1 and 2 projects. These items are of the highest priority or need critical repair as they pose safety hazards.

District-Wide Annual projects

Director Smith reported that these items include District-wide planning, emerald ash borer tree removal, and ADA path improvements for Cloverdale, Devonshire, and Loral Parks. Director Smith noted that most of the funds set aside for master plans will fund the repairs for Rosewood Beach, which includes the boardwalk, parking lot, and revetments. SmithGroup should have further updates in the near future.

Moraine Park

Director Smith reported that at the March 27 Finance Committee Meeting, the project was budgeted at \$22,400. As of today, staff is estimating the project to cost a little over \$52,000 due to significant washout from heavy rains and lack of repairs during the closure. Staff would like to move forward with the detailed design and concept plan of construction documents. Director Smith reported that if construction documents were approved in 2020, construction could commence next year with the beach opening in Fall 2021.

Rosewood Beach

Director Smith reported that staff may be recommending the construction for a revetment this Fall in the amount of \$800,000. The \$384,132 from the beach nourishment was completed this past Spring, and the coves are doing well.

The Preserve of Highland Park

Director Smith reported that staff is waiting for the OSLAD agreement to bid out the Skokie River woods Project.

Sunset Woods Park

Director Smith reported that the park will undergo an ADA renovation, making the tennis courts ADA accessible.

Centennial Ice Arena and Deer Creek Racquet Club

Director Smith reported that the compressor replacement and the HVAC repairs were approved by the Park Board of Commissioners earlier this year and are currently being conducted.

Deer Creek Racquet Club

Director Smith reported that this facility will undergo a roof and HVAC replacement.

Golf Learning Center

Director Smith reported that this facility will undergo an ADA restroom renovation, making the restrooms ADA accessible.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the parking lot resurfacing project at the Golf Learning Center will be completed in 2021 and if staff has discussed the repairs with the City of Highland Park since they are responsible for 50% of the repair costs.

Director Smith reported that the project deferred until 2021 because the City of Highland Park does not have funds this year. Staff has a meeting scheduled with the City of Highland Park in August to further discuss this repair and the District's capital projects.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the sign replacement will be discussed during the meeting.

Executive Director Romes reported that staff does not currently have a design concept for the sign.

Hidden Creek AquaPark

Director Smith reported that the children's slide and speed slide had met their useful lives and could not be used this summer if not repaired, so the Park Board approved the resurfacing of these slides in April when staff were still hopeful that the AquaPark could open this summer. Director Carr reported that the drop slide, body slide, and slide structure repairs will be deferred.

Recreation Center of Highland Park

Director Smith reported that the indoor pool shell replacement projected was approved and the project should be completed by mid-August.

Sunset Valley Golf Club

Director Smith reported that the District has funds set aside for the walk green mowers-lease agreement.

President Ruttenberg would like to know why the walk green mowers-lease agreement decreased.

Director Peter's reported that the lease expires in 2021.

Manager Ochs reported that the District has the option to buy the walk green mowers or replace them.

President Ruttenberg recommends speaking with the contractor to see which is the better deal, buying or re-leasing.

SUNSET WOODS PLAYGROUND RENOVATION DESIGN SERVICE RFQ

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park District has a Land Management Plan, which has an inventory of parks, amenities, and play features. Additionally, the Park District has a capital replacement schedule specifically for playgrounds, sports courts, and park amenities. The Park District also has a comprehensive masterplan, GreenPrint 2020, and associated management plans for athletic fields and the lakefront. However, staff does not have master plans specific to park locations. Staff has identified the need for site plans for our larger parks, which includes Sunset Woods, Danny Cunniff, and Larry Fink.

Executive Director Romes reported that there have been discussions during GreenPrint meetings to develop a master plan for Sunset Woods Park which will look at the entire site to address connectivity throughout the park, parking, the building structure, drainage, and irrigation. As part of the GreenPrint update in 2019, the Park Board of Commissioners deferred the master plan, asking staff to focus strictly on the playground replacement and site amenities, which includes the athletic fields and sports courts.

Manager Schwartz provided images of the site reporting that staff is working with a design firm to replace the titanic tides and the 21st-century play features. There are three steps to this project, the first step is the request for quotes (RFQ) which staff solicits firms. The second step is to select a firm so they can design those play features, and the final step is construction. As of today, staff have solicited, ranked, negotiated, and selected a top-ranking firm. She reported that Staff is recommending Hitchcock Design Group based on their portfolio and experience.

She reviewed the project budget, reporting that the preliminary design costs are \$37,600. She estimates the final design to cost \$72,500 and construction to cost \$882,750. The total project costs are estimated to be a little over \$1million, which is within budget. Staff will have a better estimate once we have a clear design.

President Ruttenberg would like to know what preliminary design includes.

Manager Schwartz reported that the preliminary design includes two schematic plans, which identify our project program, what staff would like to do, what the focus of the project entails, and what staff would like to accomplish.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if staff and the Park Board of Commissioners will be able to understand the schematic plans.

Manager Schwartz reported that schematic design differs from construction blueprints so staff and the Park Board of Commissioners will be able to understand the plans which will include play equipment, materials, and playground features.

Manager Schwartz reported a brief update of the project timeline, reporting that the contract award will occur this month, a kickoff meeting will be conducted in August which will allow Hitchcock

Design Group to tour the site. Staff will schedule a community meeting and select a project team so Hitchcock Design Group can develop schematic designs. Staff expects to bring those designs to the Park Board of Commissioners in October. Once staff receives approval, a community meeting will be scheduled to gather feedback, so staff can select a preferred schematic design to present to the Park Board of Commissioners in November, followed by another community meeting before the end of the year.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if staff have an alternative plan if community meetings cannot be conducted in person.

Manager Schwartz reported that Hitchcock Design Group will conduct online engagement through a survey format. However, staff is expecting to conduct the meetings in person.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if there is a need for several community meetings.

Manager Schwartz reported that the goal of the first community meeting is to better understand what type of play equipment is preferred, how is the playground utilized, does the community prefer to have two separate play structures, and so forth. Once the Park Board of Commissioners approves a preferred schematic design, Hitchcock Design Group, will schedule another community meeting to determine colors, swing types, and so forth. She feels this will be an exciting experience for the community.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if it will be a community wide invitation to attend the meetings, or will it be limited to the Sunset Woods community.

Manager Schwartz reported that the invitation will be community wide.

Manager Schwartz reported that staff met with Hitchcock Design Group to discuss the possibility of a masterplan for Sunset Woods Park and received a verbal estimate of an additional \$10,000-\$15,000 to the total project. Hitchcock Design Group will provide a formal proposal if the Park Board of Commissioners approves the masterplan.

Executive Director Romes reported that staff felt this was a nominal cost with significant benefit. A masterplan will provide direction for the next 5 – 10 years, which includes re-evaluating the parking lot, park paths, amenities, sports courts, and athletic fields.

President Ruttenberg welcomes the additional overview from a design professional and would like staff to receive a formal proposal for a master plan.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that the community plays such an integral part, and he is fearful that staff may not be able to obtain that data due to the pandemic.

Vice President Kaplan, Commissioner Grossberg, and Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like staff to receive a formal proposal for a master plan.

President Ruttenberg reported that there is a consensus from the Park Board of Commissioners and asked staff to receive a formal proposal for a master plan.

2020 ROOF IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR DEER CREEK RACQUET CLUB AND RECREATION CENTER OF HIGHLAND PARK

Director Smith reported that the Park District received five (5) sealed bids on Monday, July 6, 2020, for materials and labor to complete the 2020 Roof Improvements Project for Deer Creek Racquet Club and Recreation Center of Highland Park. The roof at the Deer Creek Racquet Club has two styles, a flat roof vs the EPDM roof, both of which are shingled and in need of replacement. This is a scheduled replacement, which has been prioritized as a critical, Tier 2, project due to leaking on the courts, ice damming, and some leaks in the lobby area. Staff has had to put out buckets on the courts to catch the water.

As for the roof at the Recreation Center has experienced some leaking along the inside track walls over the past few years, successful repairs were completed last year on the East section and additional repairs are needed to continue along with the South Section.

Director Smith reported that the lowest responsible bidder was TOP Roofing of Wheaton, IL. Staff conducted 3 reference checks, which were favorable. Top Roofing has experience working with Park Districts and we are confident they meet all qualifications for these projects.

Director Smith reported that the total budgeted funds in the 2020 Capital Plan are \$410,000. The bid from TOP Roofing was \$381,540 which is a savings of \$28,460. This work is anticipated to take place from July 20 through September 4, 2020. Staff recommends the Park Board of Commissioners accepts the 2019 Roofing Project Bid from TOP Roofing for \$381,540.

President Ruttenberg would like an update on the solar installation for Deer Creek Racquet Club and how the roof replacement will impact that project.

Director Smith reported that the Park District opted with a lease option, signing a letter of intent with eco-solar. The panels will be installed after the roof replacement. Staff has been in contact with eco-solar, staff received a draft of the lease agreement, which legal counsel is reviewing. ECO-Solar will be conducting a site assessment tomorrow. If the site is approved by eco-solar the Park District will have the solar panels installed by November.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein seconded by Vice President Kaplan to approve the 2020 roof improvement project bid for Deer Creek Racquet Club and the Recreation Center of Highland Park.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING UPDATE

Director Romes reported that the state is currently in Phase 4 of *Restore Illinois*, which allowed the Park District to re-open playgrounds, re-open the fitness center, and increased capacities for outdoor programming. Staff has been following a very detailed emergency response plan which addresses the district's finances and strategic efforts for the delivery of programs and services while keeping the and the health and safety of community and staff as a top priority. Executive Director Romes reported that every decision is based on safety, to which staff has developed an employee return to work document and a facility re-opening manual which has the District's programming guidelines. He reported that staff is meeting and exceeding the state's guidelines and he is grateful for their attention to detail, especially since the implementation of these guidelines poses several challenges. He reported that the most challenging location to manage is our lakefront properties, due to pool closures, the Chicago lakefront closure, and the significant amount of people on unemployment or working from home, has made our beach highly desirable so staff is dealing with daily access control issues. The overwhelming increase in usage results in over-crowding, uncooperative, and disrespectful patrons. As a result, our residents are displeased with the lakefront.

Rosewood Beach

Executive Director Romes reported that staff has implemented a non-resident seasonal beach pass to better manage access control. As of July 3, non-residents needed to purchase a seasonal pass to access the beach. As of today, 300 seasonal passes were sold, generating \$14,000. Additionally, since the seasonal pass was implemented, the number of patrons visiting the beach has decreased, and we have yet to hit capacity.

Commissioner Bernstein was pleased to hear this and thanked staff for their efforts.

Park Avenue Boating Facility/Beach

Executive Director Romes reported that enforcing access control has been extremely difficult at this lakefront property as well. Similar to Rosewood Beach, over-crowding is a daily challenge, patrons are uncooperative and disrespectful. This lakefront property is strictly for boating, however, patrons have been swimming at the beach which violates Park policy and poses a significant safety concern, since lifeguards are not staffed at this site. As a result, staff is increasing staffing at this site, placing two additional park ambassadors. Park Ambassadors will be monitoring this site weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Commissioner Grossberg is pleased to hear that additional Park Ambassadors will be scheduled to better monitor our lakefront properties.

Executive Director Romes reported that while staff understands that our lakefront properties are highly desirable, staff are unable to permit swimming at Park Avenue Beach based on the findings from an assessment. In order to permit swimming at this location, staff would have to designate a swimming area within the water at north beach, which requires site survey and surroundings to understand the depths of the water and its shoreline. He reported that there is an increased risk of injury due to the rocky shoreline. Additionally, staff would need at least two lifeguards in the water, a site supervisor, and a break guard, totaling five staff at all times. The cost to implement this is an additional \$3500 week to covering staffing. The Park District does not have additional staff available, so the District would need to hire additional lifeguards who currently have their open water certification and would need to train those employees which would take away from operations at Rosewood Beach. Executive Director Romes reported that staff would not be able to schedule staffing operations at Park Avenue Beach until mid-August, so he advised against staffing lifeguards at Park Avenue Beach.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if staff received complaints from residents regarding patrons spilling over onto their private beaches from our Lakefront properties.

Executive Director Romes and Director Carr reported staff has received complaints of this nature at Millard Beach.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if this is a Park Ambassador issue or a police issue and who is supposed to respond to patrons accessing private lakefront properties.

Executive Director Romes reported that Park Ambassadors are trying to prevent patrons from trespassing onto personal property, but once patrons have trespassed those residents need to contact the police.

Commissioner Grossberg reported that patrons are ignoring the Park Ambassadors, however, he is not blaming the Park Ambassadors.

Executive Director Romes reported that unfortunately staff put this program together with little notice, having to quickly recruit, screen, and train those employees with little resources. Ideally, we would provide a couple of months of training for a position like this. He reported that the District is also scheduling Managers and Supervisors at our lakefront properties seven days a week and unfortunately, they too are being disrespected and ignored.

Millard Beach

Executive Director Romes reported that Millard Beach offers passive recreation for walking and jogging. However, swimming and boating are not permitted. Staff is receiving daily complaints from residents, so staff has closed the gate to try and prevent safety concerns arising from overcrowding of this lakefront property. He reported that attendance is well over 100 patrons at one time, which does not meet the social distancing standards. The City of Highland Park enforced a parking ordinance, only allowing residents to park within those neighborhoods. Additionally, staff posted signs that these lakefront properties are strictly for residents and the Park District scheduled additional Park Ambassadors daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Unfortunately, Executive Director Rome's reported that even with these additional measures there are still over

100 patrons flocking to these beaches and ignoring park policies, so staff is trying to hire and train more Park Ambassadors.

Commissioner Bernstein asked staff to place additional along Linden Road to prevent traffic from entering that neighborhood to find the gate is closed. Additionally, children walking on the groins and jumping into the water, which is a significant safety concern, so he asked that staff make the Park Ambassadors aware and do their best to prevent people from swimming.

President Ruttenberg recommends placing a barricade along the neighboring streets asking staff to contact the City of Highland Park.

Vice President Kaplan suggests implementing a one-strike rule. If patrons cannot follow the rules than they no longer should be able to access our lakefront properties.

Executive Director Romes reported that Rosewood Beach alone is a significant challenge, and in some cases, the District has closed the beach for swimming due to patrons not following the rules.

Commissioner Bernstein suggests scheduling Park Ambassadors at Ravine Dr. and Forest Rd. so they can divert cars from entering and check residency.

Executive Director Romes reported that the District would need to schedule two additional Park Ambassadors, one at Ravine Dr. and the other at Forest Rd. plus ones on the beaches. Unfortunately, the District does not currently have two extra Park Ambassadors available.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf would like to know when staff should contact the police. She is disappointed to hear about the public's behavior and would like the City of Highland Park to support the District.

Executive Director Romes reported that staff is calling the police and keeping an incident report log. Unfortunately, the police are spread thin, however, he will have a conversation with City Manager Neukirch.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the City of Highland Park can supply radios which will allow better communication between the Park District and the City when dealing with safety issues.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the City could supply staff from the CERT team to help monitor the Park District's lakefront properties.

Commissioner Grossberg and Commissioner Flores Weisskopf agreed with Commissioner Bernstein's recommendation.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that the City of Highland Park has 30 to 40 trained and certified volunteers which are provided police equipment and could assist the Park District with crowd management and traffic control.

Executive Director Romes reported he will contact City Manager Neukirch.

***Facilities and Programming
Recreation Center of Highland Park***

Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that the Recreation Center of Highland Park was able to re-open allowing patrons once again to utilize the fitness center since the closure in March. Unfortunately, use has not been significant averaging 30 – 40 people daily for general indoor fitness. As a result, staff is gauging the community to figure out what measures can be taken and implemented to see the number of users increase. Reported that while indoor fitness is low, there has been a significant increase in participation for outdoor group fitness classes, averaging 20 participants per class.

Programming

Assistant Director Maliszewski reported that Camp Hometown began last week, with 40 participants spread across West Ridge Center and Heller Nature Center. Staff is pleased to fill this essential need for families of Highland Park. As for athletics, the District is offering a traditional baseball league, several athletic clinics, and camps. He is pleased to report that the District is experiencing numbers pre-COVID and in some capacities, the District is above pre-COVID participation levels. The District has over 200 participants registered in youth leagues from children ranging from tot to 14years.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Peters reported that the vouchers from the previous month total a little over \$6000. \$2,020 of these expenditures were from capital, and a little over 60 refunds.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Vice President Kaplan and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Romes", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Romes, Secretary