

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Highland Park was held in the Multi-Purpose Room, 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 4:48 p.m. by Vice President Grossberg.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Freeman to allow Commissioner Kaplan and President Ruttenberg to join the meeting through electronic means as their absence was due to employment purposes.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Freeman, Vice President Grossberg
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Freeman, Vice President Grossberg, President Ruttenberg

Absent: Commissioner Kaplan

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

Guest Speakers: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE EMPLOYEE VACCINE AND TESTING POLICY

Executive Director Romes reported The Park District of Highland Park believes that the suppression of the COVID-19 virus is a priority for the health, safety, and welfare of employees, patrons, and the community at large.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against severe disease and death from the virus that causes COVID-19, including variants of the virus.

Additionally, The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) believes the vaccine helps protect the health, safety, and welfare of our employees, patrons, and their families.

Furthermore, the FDA has issued emergency-use approval of the COVID-19 vaccine, and the FDA has given one vaccine its full approval for individuals age 13 and over. Currently, there is not an approved vaccine for children under age 13, and individuals under age 18 require adult consent.

To this end, with the intent to minimize and manage the risk associated with COVID-19 staff are recommending approval from the Park Board *The Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy for Employees*.

This Policy and the District's application of it will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the (CDC) and state and local health authorities.

The development of this Policy was discussed with Park District Policy Committee Members on Monday, September 13, and all Park Board Commissioners have received a full copy of this Policy. In summary, Effective September 22, 2021 this Policy includes:

1. All vaccinated employees to submit copies of their vaccination cards or other approved documentation to the Human Resource Department.
AND
2. All employees, full time, and part time, working on premises or onsite, in positions that interact with children (under 18 years old), to be fully vaccinated or, alternatively, complete weekly COVID-19 screenings beginning October 31, 2021.
ADDITIONALLY,
3. While COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone at no cost, regardless of insurance status, to the extent there are associated fees for administering the vaccine that are not covered, reimbursement can be requested to the Human Resources Department.

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4. Employees unable to be vaccinated or complete testing because of religious or medical reasons **may** submit requests in writing for accommodations or exceptions from this Policy to the Director of Human Resources.
5. Finally, because there is evolving data, recommendations and mandates surrounding Covid-19, this policy will permit The Executive Director to expand, change, suspend, or revoke any or all parts of this policy at any time.

Executive Director Romes reported that he will continue to keep the Park Board abreast of any proposed changes to this policy, and prior to expanding, changing, suspending, or revoking any or all parts of this policy I will be sure to communicate with the Park Board.

Commissioner Freeman, Vice President Grossberg, President Ruttenberg thanked staff for quickly developing this policy, as many changes were requested at the Policy Committee Meeting on September 13, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by President Ruttenberg to approve the COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy for Employees.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Freeman and approved by a unanimous vote. The Special Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary