

Minutes of a Workshop Session of the Board of
Park Commissioners of the Downers Grove Park
District held on March 3, 2022 at the Recreation Center,
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Call to Order Commissioner Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bender, Dahlstrom, Kotula, McDonnell, Mahoney, Director of Human Resources, Marian Olund; Director of Recreation, Dave Haring; Director of Finance & Technology, Erik Brown; Director of Parks & Planning, Geoff Penman; Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, Dawn Hartman; Superintendent of Facilities, Kevin Rozell; Superintendent of Finance, Tricia Farkas; Superintendent of Customer Service, Sally Hayduck; Superintendent of Natural Resources, Mike Stelter; Superintendent of Parks, Dan Hopkins; Superintendent of Technology, Chris Kapus; Clerk, Adine Wrzesinski

ABSENT: Executive Director, Bill McAdam

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Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Changes to the Agenda: Yes. There will be a discussion regarding renting baseball fields under Miscellaneous

Visitors: None

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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2021 Year in Review – Director of Finance & IT, Erik Brown complimented Dawn Hartman for putting a lot of work into all of the PowerPoint presentations that the Board will review in tonight's meeting. Recreation, Fitness, Golf, Marketing, Parks and Planning and Fitness/IT gave an overview of their 2021 accomplishments. After the Recreation report, Commissioner Mahoney commented that it's crazy good how many people are interested in Lyman Woods now. She said it is very commendable and a job well done. Dave Haring commented that all the credit goes to the Recreation Supervisors. After the Golf report, Commissioner Mahoney asked Erik Brown to discuss how the golf course is self-sufficient. Erik responded that there are no taxes tied to the golf course that is why it is self-sufficient. After the Marketing Report, Commissioner Mahoney asked how many people, on average, go to the summer concert series. Dawn responded anywhere from 800-2,500 people. Dawn mentioned that there will be food trucks and exciting new things this year. After the Parks & Planning report, Commissioner Mahoney asked on an average how many trees are planted and removed? Geoff Penman and Mike Stelter commented that there isn't an exact number but would like to attempt to plant more trees and have less removal. After the Finance/IT report, Commissioner Mahoney commented on the reason why the Park District's bond rating is high is because of all of Erik and his staff's hard work. She thanked Erik. All reports can be found via audio on our website: www.dgparks.org under Board Meetings, Podcasts and Webcasts.

Miscellaneous – A letter was received from Edward and Lori Ritzert regarding Illinois Premier Downers Grove Dragons renting baseball fields. Dave Haring mentioned to the Board that the Park District has not had outside rentals and that we cannot make a commitment for 2022. Dave doesn't know what fields will be available until all the registrations are closed and he hasn't received all the requests from the affiliates yet. Once Bill McAdam returns, Dave will have a conversation with him. Dave did provide to the Ritzert's, a contact for the YMCA. Commissioner Mahoney asked Marian Olund about staffing problems that we are having. Marian Olund discussed that it is a challenge to hire people. Not only are we competing against other Park Districts but we are competing against other companies. This was brought up because the Park District doesn't have the manpower to go out and take care of all the baseball fields.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – Lori Ritzert (via Zoom) mentioned that she is a big advocate for the DGYB and Dragons. Her son is actually on the Dragons. She wanted to put a face to the email that was received. She appreciates the Board taking time to look into this. Edward Ritzert commented that we would really like the Board to consider the Illinois Premier Downers Grove Dragons to play on some of the fields. Commissioner Mahoney is not sure this can be resolved in the next two weeks. Commissioner Mahoney asked for a timeline. Dave responded that Anna reached out to DGYB to find out their requests. We already have the Dolls request. We will work as fast as we can but need to make sure we don't rush through this and miss anything within the Park District activities. Commissioner Mahoney will look forward to hearing from Bill and Dave regarding this matter.

Commissioner Mahoney announced that the next Park District Board meeting will be held March 17, 2022 at the Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Room.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. following a motion made by Commissioner McDonnell and seconded by Commissioner Dahlstrom.

Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners McDonnell, Dahlstrom, Bender, Kotula, Mahoney
 Nays: None
 Absent: None

Robert Kotula

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ready**sign**

Robert E. Kotula, Secretary
Downers Grove Park District