



AQUATICS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

City of Aurora & Fox Valley Park District

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

LOCATION: Cole Center Administrative Office

Starting Time: 8:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

President Ossyra called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Roll Call

The following members of the Aquatics Administrative Board were present: Chuck Anderson, Scheketa Hart-Burns, Robert O'Connor and Rachel Ossyra; excused: Juan Reyna. A quorum was present. Also present: Executive Director Jim Pilmer, Diana Erickson, Mike Erickson, Jaime Ijams, Ray Nugent, Jeff Palmquist and Jerica Cyr- Ellis Rep.

3. Minutes

➤ Approve meeting minutes from September 22, 2015

Scheketa Hart-Burns moved, Chuck Anderson seconded, and the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from September 22, 2015. Roll call – voting Aye: Chuck Anderson, Scheketa Hart-Burns, Robert O'Connor and Rachel Ossyra; voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

4. Financial Reports

➤ Approve Statement of Revenues & Expenses

○ Period ending 09/30/15

○ Period ending 10/31/15

Diana Erickson reported revenues had changed slightly from August. Season pass sales were down but daily admissions ended strong. Group admissions were also up. There was a filter accident at Splash Country resulting in the need to refill the pools. Overall, total revenues were up. However, total expenses were also higher in comparison to last year's expenses at this time. Robert O'Connor asked what the daily attendance was at Phillips Park and Splash Country; Jaime Ijams said 28,000 and 49,000 respectively. Rachel Ossyra commended staff for their hard work in turning around the numbers from the beginning of the season. Diana said it was because the daily pass sales came through. Robert added there was a great effort by staff to keep expenses down. Chuck Anderson asked what the total deficit was; Diana replied it was up another \$70,000 but year-to-date less than \$300,000. Director Pilmer said he recognizes there is a need for continued changes. He informed the board that he will be meeting with Jeff Ellis Management Wednesday, November 18. He expressed concern with the district's lifeguards being the lowest paid in the area. He told the board he would like to explore an opportunity to bundle the Fox Valley Park District's aquatics with Raging Waves in Yorkville. He will be presenting capital ideas. Director Pilmer said he will also look at total programming; possible extended hours, but recognizes that needs to balance with the cost of lifeguards. Rachel commented it is important that the whole community has access to aquatics, as it enhances lives. Director Pilmer also suggested the need for competitive swimming programs. Rachel said the Foundation could offer scholarships to promote social equity. Director Pilmer added it also provides a safe environment. Scheketa Hart-Burns moved, Chuck Anderson seconded, and the board unanimously approved the Statements of

Revenues & Expenses for the periods ending 09/30/15 and 10/31/15. Roll call – voting Aye: Chuck Anderson, Scheketa Hart-Burns, Robert O’Connor and Rachel Ossyra; voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

➤ **Approve List of Bills**

- **Month ending 09/30/15 totaling \$99,912.38.**
- **Month ending 10/31/15 totaling \$19,357.24.**

Scheketa Hart-Burns moved, Chuck Anderson seconded, and the board unanimously approved the List of Bills for the month ending 09/30/15 totaling \$99,912.38 and the month ending 10/31/15 totaling \$19,357.24. Roll call – voting Aye: Chuck Anderson, Scheketa Hart-Burns, Robert O’Connor and Rachel Ossyra; voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

5. Continued Business – None presented.

6. New Business

➤ **Aquatics Study Update**

Jaime Ijams presented a PowerPoint giving a summary of the Aquatics study. The proposed concept at Phillips Park includes improvements to the plaza entrance which is recommended to be done first to make the facility more welcoming and inviting. Jaime reported that both bath houses have already been renovated and improved. Other improvements include:

- a birthday party area
- cabanas
- a pool shade
- concessions
- zero-depth activities
- a spray play area for all ages that will extend the season
- and a climbing wall in the deep well

Director Pilmer commented the concept allows for day-long visits; people would enjoy bringing their own food for picnics. This would be a 3- to 5-year plan to phase in.

The proposed concept at Splash Country includes improvements to:

- the entry plaza
- a grill/picnic area
- pavilion area
- 2-level spray pad for all ages
- Volley ball courts with a shade area
- Expanded pool deck
- More seating around the lazy river

Initial improvements to the lazy river would include minor repairs

Director Pilmer commented the lazy river is a very popular attraction but expensive to maintain. There will be a proposal to the board to reconstruct the lazy river. Rachel Ossyra said the community sees the pools as great assets. Robert O’Connor asked if there could be a discussion about rebuilding the lazy river in a new location; Jeff Palmquist said he would look at that. Robert added there needs to be a discussion about whether the City of Aurora wants to continue in the long-term to be a part of aquatics. Director Pilmer informed the board that January’s meeting will have action items for recommendations. Chuck Anderson said it will work well if the district can implement step-in options for improvements. Robert said the proposed concept had great ideas. Scheketa Hart-Burns suggested the improvements should be phased in with the most necessary improvements first. She also suggested bringing in music somehow to keep things upbeat. Jaime Ijams said the district will be meeting with Williams again in December.

Director Pilmer said he will be meeting with Jeff Ellis Management; there will be a presentation by Williams in January; the board can expect some action items in January.

The board agreed the next Aquatics meeting will be January 19, 2016 and the 2016 Aquatics Board Meeting schedule will be approved at the next meeting.

7. Adjourn

Sheketa Hart-Burns motioned, Robert O'Connor seconded and the board unanimously approved by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Arlene Kallien
Executive Assistant*