



AQUATICS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
City of Aurora & Fox Valley Park District
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 8:00 a.m.
Cole Center, 101 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora, Illinois
MEETING MINUTES

Director Pilmer thanked the Board for accommodating the change in location due to the emergent weather situation in the Aurora area.

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Roll Call

President Ossyra directed the Board Secretary to take attendance by roll call. The following members of the Aquatics Administrative Board were present: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, and President Rachel Ossyra. A quorum was present. Excused Absent: Scheketa Hart-Burns. Roberto Saenz joined the meeting at 8:06am after roll call was taken. Also present: President Chuck Anderson, Executive Director Jim Pilmer, Executive Staff, Administrative Staff, JEM Staff, and guests.

3. Addenda to the Agenda

Director Pilmer added a Public Safety report to New Business Item 7.2.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approve meeting minutes from April 24, 2018.

Robert O'Connor made a motion to accept the minutes from April 24, 2018, Mary Anne Cummings seconded. Roll call voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: None and the minutes were approved.

5. Continued Business

5.1 Report of Joint Task Committee for study of community aquatics.

Director Pilmer reported on the progress of the community aquatics study. Director Pilmer met with Mayor Irvin, Deputy Mayor Nelson, Alderman O'Connor, and Alex Voigt on May 8, 2018 to discuss the Joint Task Committee and community study. The group agreed to proceed with both, and to meet again on May 31, 2018 at City Hall, along with Steve Collins and Jason Dwyer of Wight and Company. At the May 31, meeting a discussion took place regarding the current assets and what the scope of the study should include.

Mary Anne Cummings asked if the plan was for a continued partnership between the City of Aurora and the Fox Valley Park District, Director Pilmer confirmed that it was, but that the agreement calls for an unwinding strategy for the current assets. He also stated that community input would be important in determining the future of outdoor aquatics in our community.

6. Financial Reports

6.1 Approve Statement of Revenues & Expenses

- **Period ending: April 30, 2018**
- **Period ending: May 31, 2018**

Mary Anne Cummings made a motion to approve the statements of revenue and expenses for April and May 2018, Roberto Saenz seconded. Robert O'Connor noted the total expenditures on the consolidated statement for 2017 and 2018, and asked why 2018 was lower than 2017 when there were major repairs made at Splash Country in 2018. Diana Erickson explained that the capital outlay was removed from both to create an appropriate comparison. Roll call voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, Roberto Saenz, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: none and the statements were approved.

6.2 Approve List of Bills

- **Month ending: April 30, 2018 totaling \$59,478.54.**
- **Month ending May 31, 2018 totaling \$165,499.18.**

Robert O'Connor made a motion to approve the list of bills for April and May 2018. Mary Anne seconded. There were no questions or discussion. Roll call voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, Roberto Saenz, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: none and the lists of bills were approved.

7. New Business

7.1 Preseason Update and Marketing

Jaime Ijams reported on a great opening weekend at Phillips Park in part due to the hot weather over Memorial Day Weekend. Splash Country had a delayed opening due to emergency repairs. Since opening, attendance at both parks has dropped off due to cooler temperatures.

Memberships are up 12% year to date from last year which can be contributed to the marketing campaign. Rentals appear to be on track with last year. Swim Lessons have been restructured, including moving lessons indoors during inclement weather. Classes are filling up for the first session, there are openings remaining in the second session that the staff is working to fill. Learn to Swim program is underway with 37 children. Funding help came from the Rotary Club and busing is provided by Aurora Township. Every year the District is finding new ways to reach more children. World's Largest Swim Lesson is coming up on June 22. Director Pilmer asked if the Riptides Swim Team practices or competes outdoors, Erik Enslin clarified that they do not due to the size of the outdoor pools.

Dan Leahy reported on the preseason membership sales in May, which are up 6%. In June, daily admissions will be promoted through mailings, coupons, social media, Groupon, and other District events.

7.2 Facilities & Operations Report

In John Kramer's absence, Director Pilmer reported on the maintenance and repair issues at both parks. Although Phillips Park is older, it requires less maintenance than Splash Country. When the study is completed, the Board will have a better idea of what decision should be made regarding the future of the parks and the feasibility of operating them in the future. Director Pilmer shared the information regarding the extent of the emergency repairs at Splash Country and commended John Kramer for getting the repairs done quickly and for compiling a summary for the Board of the repair work and costs involved.

Director Pilmer reported on the recent District hire of an Operations employee with extensive plumbing experience which will be very beneficial to Aquatics and the District as a whole.

Robert O'Connor asked about the extent of prior knowledge to what future issues at Splash Country and Phillips Park might be. Director Pilmer commented on the Operational changes that are occurring to better winterize the facilities and the proactive best practices steps that are being taken with the facilities under John Kramer's leadership.

Robert O'Connor also commented on the overall presentation and flow of information from Recreation, Marketing, Operations and others to the Board is immeasurably better than it has been in the past.

Director Pilmer also reported on the June 15 closing at Phillips Park due to broken glass found on the pool deck. It was determined to be tempered glass from swim goggles, the deck and pool were vacuumed and the pool reopened.

President Ossyra commended John Kramer for his leadership.

Public Safety Report

In Chief Summer's absence, Director Pilmer presented the Public Safety report. There were three minor police incidents at Phillips Park, and one minor risk management issue at each facility.

The Public Safety report will be on the agenda in future months.

7.3 Approve amended bylaws

An amendment was made to the bylaws to replace the verbiage "trustee(s)", with "commissioner(s)". Mary Anne Cummings made a motion to approve the bylaws, Robert O'Connor seconded. Roll call voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, Roberto Saenz, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: none and the amended bylaws were approved.

7.4 Proposal of Aquatic Study

Director Pilmer recommended approval of a study of the future of aquatics in our community. He introduced Steve Collins and Lois Vitt Sale of Wight & Company who presented their study proposal. The cost of retaining Wight & Company would be \$37,000 plus \$3,000 in reimbursable expenses. Lois Vitt Sale will be the Project Manager. Step one would be to assist the Joint Task Committee in creating a survey to determine what the community desires for the current and future outdoor facilities.

Director Pilmer and Mayor Irvin will meet to discuss and invite potential committee members which will include members of the community, as well as representatives from the Villages of Montgomery and North Aurora, among others.

Mary Anne Cummings made a motion to approve the aquatic study to be performed by Wight & Company, Roberto Saenz seconded. Roll call voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, Roberto Saenz, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: none and the aquatic study was approved.

Director Pilmer inquired whether the Board would like to continue to hold two meetings per season at the aquatics facilities, with the remainder at Cole Center, the Board agreed that they would like to continue in this way.

Jerica Cyr, Director of Operations from Jeff Ellis Management introduced new staff members; Alyssa Moore-Area Manager, Shelby Jeffery-Assistant Area Manager, and the managers of Splash Country and Phillips Park.

8. Adjourn

Roberto Saenz made a motion to adjourn at 9:13am, seconded by Mary Anne Cummings. Voice voting Aye: Mary Anne Cummings, Robert O'Connor, Roberto Saenz, and President Rachel Ossyra. Voting Nay: none, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Kim Nooncaster
Board Secretary*

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 17, 2018 8:00 a.m. at Splash Country Water Park