



AQUATICS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES
City of Aurora & Fox Valley Park District
May 17, 2022 10:00AM
Cole Administration Center 101 W. Illinois Avenue, Aurora

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

President Broholm called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2.0 Roll Call

President Broholm directed the Secretary to take attendance by roll call. The following members of the Aquatics Administrative Board were present in person: Sherman Jenkins and President Al Broholm.

Present via Teams: Marea Clement. Scheketa Hart-Burns joined the meeting via Teams at 10:27am, after roll call was taken. Excused Absent: Robert O'Connor. Also present: Executive Director Jim Pilmer, FVPD Board President Chuck Anderson, COA Chief Management Officer Alex Alexandrou, Directors Halverson, Ijams, Kramer, Michael, Palmquist, Paprocki, and Summer, administrative staff, and guests.

3.0 Addenda to the Agenda

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jim Pilmer gave an overview of the history of the operating agreement for the Aquatics Administrative Board. The agreement originated in 1989 between the City of Aurora (COA) and the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) for outdoor aquatics. In July of 2019, the agreement was set to sunset as the debt for the outdoor aquatics parks was paid in full. Both agencies agreed in 2019 to renew the agreement for a period of 10 years, with the current agreement set to sunset in 2029. The COA and FVPD are 50/50 owners of the two facilities, with the FVPD as the managing partner for which it receives a 4% management fee from the parks revenues. Both parks are up to date on all deferred maintenance projects with no mechanical issues with continuous improvements being made.

4.0 Minutes

4.1 Approve meeting minutes from November 2, 2021.

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2, 2021, seconded by Marea Clement. Voice voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the minutes were approved.

4.2 Approve meeting minutes from March 15, 2022.

Marea Clement made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022, seconded by Al Broholm. Voice voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the minutes were approved.

5.0 Continued Business

None presented.

6.0 Financial Reports

6.1 Approve Statement of Revenues & Expenses for Period October 2021 through December 2021.

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to approve the statement of revenues & expenses for October through December 2021, seconded by Marea Clement. Roll call voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the statement was approved.

6.2 Approve Statement of Revenues & Expenses for January through March 2022.

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to approve the statement of revenues & expenses for January through March 2022, seconded by Marea Clement. Roll call voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the statement was approved.

6.3 Approve List of Bills for Period November and December 2021 in the amount of \$109,638.06.

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to approve the list of bills for November and December 2021, seconded by Marea Clement. Roll call voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the list of bills was approved.

6.4 Approve List of Bills for Months of January through April 2022 in the amount of \$127,649.78.

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to approve the list of bills for January through April 2022, seconded by Marea Clement. Roll call voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the list of bills was approved.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Ratify surveillance equipment purchase and installation in the amount of \$28,460 from Chicago Communications LLC for Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center.

John Kramer recommended ratification of the surveillance equipment for Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center. Sherman Jenkins made a motion to ratify the equipment, seconded by Marea Clement. Roll call voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the equipment purchase was ratified.

7.2 Departmental Reports

7.2.1 Recreation-Jaime Ijams reported on the decision-making process for the non-opening of Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center for the 2022 season. The decision was primarily centered on safety and the fact that the District did not (and still does not) have adequate staffing levels to safely operate both parks. The decision was made to open only Splash Country as that would allow for the accommodation of 500 additional guests per day, as well as the fact that deep water certification of lifeguards is not required at Splash Country, making it easier to hire lifeguards.

Jaime also reported on the lifeguard training process and the low completion rate of the applicant training course, as well as upcoming training sessions, and the many remaining open positions for lifeguards and admissions staff.

Jaime then reported on season pass sales to date, hours of operation, swim lessons, special events, parties, group reservations and rentals.

7.2.2 Operations-John Kramer reported that all off-season work has been completed and all mechanical operations at both parks are in working order. They began filling the pool(s) at Splash Country today.

7.2.3 Marketing & Communications-Kyle Halverson reported on the marketing efforts related to outdoor aquatics, including: many advertising initiatives including digital e-blasts, billboard, social media posts, Kane County Cougar promotions, radio ads, Groupon, print ads, and direct mail; internal promotion on the FVPD website, and in facilities. Kyle also reported on the concentrated effort that was made to recruit employees, especially lifeguards that included: many social media posts, a lifeguard recruitment video highlighting the benefits of becoming a lifeguard for FVPD, digital marquee messages, emails, and website promotions. These efforts are separate from the extensive recruiting efforts made by the HR and Recreation departments including participation at job fairs at area high schools and the Aurora Housing Authority, FVPD hosted job fair, recruitment flyers distributed to area high schools and colleges,

recruitment letters to Swim Team Members at Waubensee, Metea, Marmion and Rosary, and the introduction of a FVPD Employee Referral Incentive Program.

7.2.4 Police & Public Safety-Chief David Summer reported that the Police and Public Safety team is ready for the summer outdoor aquatic season. Park Service Officers will have a presence at the parks to monitor behavior violations. Patrons violating behavior rules will be educated about the rules, consequences will be discussed, and if escalated will be subject to a “three strikes and you’re out” policy. Patrons exhibiting continued unwanted behavior will be politely asked to leave. If they refuse or create problems for the staff or other patrons, assistance will be called in from the FVPD Police Department and/or the Aurora Police Department. More serious situations will be investigated and handled by Chief Summer.

7.2.5 Planning-Jeff Palmquist reported that research has been done to provide transportation from the east side of Aurora to Splash Country on a daily basis while the park is open. He discussed the costs associated with the transportation which would be an estimated amount of \$55,000 for the season. There are many additional issues to be considered, including rules regarding unsupervised patrons under the age of 12, and the District’s potential liability and responsibility (as advised by the District’s risk management insurance provider) for patrons from the moment they board the bus to the moment they are returned to the drop off site. One way to control the risk of this situation is to create a camp model whereby a camp counselor would be responsible for a group of 10 or less patrons. The issue with this scenario leads back to overall staffing issues. FVPD currently does not have the desired number of counselors to staff current summer camp options, finding additional counselors to support this model will be extremely challenging. FVPD will continue to search for solutions on this matter, although there are no assurances being made.

Guests in attendance asked to make comments to the board regarding Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center, it was determined that a discussion would take place after adjournment.

8.0 Adjourn

Sherman Jenkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scheketa Hart-Burns. Voice voting Aye: Marea Clement, Sherman Jenkins, and President Al Broholm. Voting Nay: none and the meeting was adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Nooncaster

*Kim Nooncaster
Board Secretary*