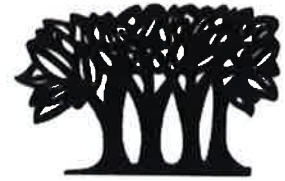


Morton Grove Park District

6834 Dempster Street • Morton Grove, Illinois • 60053 847/965-1200



**MORTON GROVE
PARK DISTRICT**

Minutes of the
October 2, 2019
Special Meeting

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Minx called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- II. **Roll Call: Commissioners Present:** Mark Manno, Keith White, Paul Minx, Erica Epperson and Steve Schmidt
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attorney Present: None.

Staff Present: Jeffrey Wait, Executive Director; Marty O'Brien, Superintendent of Finance; Mary Mucci, Recreation Supervisor and Claudia Marren, Administrative Assistant.

Guests Present: T. Langer, Kathy Denning, Bella Elswat, Mark O'Brien, Hillary Zazove, Becky Lombardo, Jeff Gorr, Nikki Lawrence, Liama and Ed Puzzo, Heather Kucharik, Andrea Hottovy, Eryn Swanson, Emily Schmidt, C. Camacho, S Lakhani, T. Epperson, Rosemarie Alioto, D. Niebuhr, Shel Marcus, Heidi Kapsalis, McKenna's, Casey Faust, Amy Opensky, Mary Behrendt, Nancy Lanning, Colleen Gray and Valerie Moothart; are all Morton Grove residents

- IV. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Director Wait noted that due to the number of audience members who had never attended a Townhall Meeting this meeting would be conducted as such.
- V. **Citizens Comments and Discussion on the Harrer Pool Redevelopment Plans:** Director Wait welcomed the residents and introduced the Park Commissioners and staff. Wait explained he would be giving a brief general history of Harrer Pool, plus the concept plans, costs and tax implications of a building a new pool.

Harrer Pool was built in 1962 and renovated in 1995. In 2017 the District conducted a systems analysis of the infrastructure and mechanicals of Harrer Pool. The analysis concluded that the pool was beyond its useful life and therefore unadvisable to do more repairs, explaining that it was more than likely that one repair would possibly trigger another repair. In 2018, the District conducted a community wide survey which determined most Morton Grove residents wanted to keep Harrer Pool open. The survey was sent to 6,000 households with 400+ responses.

Based upon the community survey, Williams Architect developed four concepts for a new pool: Option 1: Keep the same foot print of the current pool with all new amenities at a cost of \$9.9 - \$10.9M. Option 2A: Reduce the size of the pool from 50 meters to 25 yards, include a spray area, separate diving area and slide area with an additional plunge pool, and an expanded parking lot at a cost of \$11.2- \$12.4M. To enclose the pool with a retractable roof would cost

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\$12-\$13.2M. Option 2B: The same as option 2A with a second floor for program rooms and an indoor walking track at a cost of \$13.6-\$14.9M. With a retractable roof, the cost for Option 2B would be \$16.5-\$18.1M. Option 3: An enclosed 25-yard pool; making swimming a year-round activity, a therapy pool, a gymnasium, a second floor with program rooms, office space, new fitness center and lockers, at a cost of \$28.4-\$31.2M.

Wait also explained the District is a special taxing district meaning it is supported by real estate taxes and program revenue. The District has reviewed and reduced many departmental expenses, however, the District has limited resources and if the residents agreed to redevelop Harrer Pool, the District would need resident approval of a referendum to sell bonds or raise taxes. If the District decided to build a new pool, they would have to place a referendum on the March 2020 ballot.

There are two possibilities of funding a new pool; issue bonds or increase the tax rate.

- Issue Bonds: Sell \$11M in bonds with 20-years to pay off the debt.
- Increase the tax rate: The current Park District tax rate is 4.4%. If the community would support a tax increase the money could be used to issue bonds and once the bonds are paid off the district would continue to receive revenue for operational and maintenance costs.

Director Wait gave estimates of the tax increases:

- Option 1: On a \$200,000 home the cost would be \$52.00 annually or \$26.00 for every \$100,000.
- Option 2A: \$62 annual increase per \$200,000 or a 1.2% increase
- Option 2B: \$85 annual increase per \$200,000 or a 1.6% increase
- Option 3: \$147 annual increase per \$200,000 or a 2.6% increase

The difference between issuing bonds and a tax increase is that once the bonds are paid off the process is completed. With a tax rate increase the District could pay the bonds off and then use the money to fund some future projects.

Many of the residents noted they did not want Option #3 and the District should not be thinking just about adult swimmers. They also voiced their dislike of making the pool smaller in option 2A and 2B. The audience asked many questions and had many opinions on building a new pool.

The Commissioners agreed it was important to keep the residents informed and educate the residents on the next steps.

VI. Adjournment: Commissioner White made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Epperson to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Meeting ended at approximately 8:30pm.


Board President, Paul Minx


Board Secretary, Jeffrey Wait

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