

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE PAXTON PARK DISTRICT  
HELD MAY 2, 2019

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Paxton Park District convened at the Paxton Park District Civic Center, 601 South Fall Street, Paxton, Illinois, on the 2<sup>ND</sup> day of May, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

President Sample called the meeting to order, and upon roll call, the following Commissioners answered present:

Bradley D. Ecker  
Kaye Harper  
Steve Sample  
Bobby Kinnaird  
Denver Piatt

The following was found to be absent: Amber King.

Also present at this meeting was Attorney Marc R. Miller.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Commission then entertained comments from the public. The President thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that to keep the meeting operating efficiently that the Commission would like to follow the announced 5 minute time limit to speak but that he would consider requests for time to be extended.

Craig Keith gave a presentation regarding possible solutions to help with changes to the proposed pool hours. He represents a collection of community members organized to save the pool. He passed out a handout. He introduced Brian and Cody who are part of the organization. The President had a handout summarizing last year's pool income/expenses distributed.

Mr. Keith is proposing either a schedule similar to 2018 or a hybrid which would be M-Su 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. at \$4 admission and evening hours M-Thu 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. with admission for \$1.00 with evening hours for rentals/events reserved for Fri, Sat & Su. The community would pledge time and money to support the pool.

They are also proposing a volunteer fundraising committee.

Cody Evans spoke reaffirming the points that Mr. Keith had proposed. They are supportive of the Commission's efforts and the community members want to support the District efforts. He stated that the prior proposal for the pool would not allow it to survive.

The President explained that the general hope is that the pool will not close and wants to keep “free” nights. The strategy is to get more people to use the pool.

Alaina Keith asked why the pool is not made more affordable during daytime hours. The President explained that feedback on outreach for an empty pool two years ago was that people indicated that they worked during the day and could not go to the pool during the day. This led to the current proposal. Ms. Keith stated that there were other days where the pool was highly attended.

Dave Eckerty indicated that he was previously the President of the Commission and wants to encourage positive marketing of the pool. He said that he believes that the primary purpose of the District is to sponsor the pool. He encouraged the Commission to explore every option.

Mindy Glazik expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Park Manager. She is concerned that changes to the pool were not announced enough in advance of the vote. She is supportive of the pool and wants to find a way to keep it open.

Kim Brown explained that the smaller children who go to the pool meet and look up to the older kids. She believes that it needs to be open during the day. Swimming teaches important lessons.

Ms. Cochrane asked about the annual budget. The President explained that the Park District breaks even but that it loses money on the pool.

Jacob Pietkiewicz stated that he was hoping that there was a better job of getting information out on social media. He encourages a lot of sharing of information and volunteered to help out. He said that the existence of the pool was a draw when he was choosing a home.

Bryan Welch indicated that he would like to work with the District to keep the pool open. He thinks that M-F 6-9 is not a popular choice.

Amy Barradas spoke about her day care group increasing the use of the pool if it was open during the week.

One attendee wanted clarification regarding whether the issue was the budget or attendance. The President indicated that he believed it is both. He feels that the \$14,000 +/- loss was less than he would have expected.

Ms. Glazik suggested that there needs to be some fundraisers for the pool.

There was a question about the condition of the pool. The President explained that the pool is near the end of its life. A new liner was installed 2 years ago and almost wasn't installed because the pool is near the end of its life. There was some discussion about trying to get a grant for a new pool or possibly a referendum for the community.

There was a proposal to keep the existing base of annual pass purchasers and supplement it by cutting the price of admission at a later hour.

Hillary Sawyer thanked the Commission for its supports of the kids. She has 4 children under 12. As an educator she has seen a drop in activity in students over the past 20 years. She sees more addiction to technology where at the pool children are socializing. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under category are the biggest users of the pool.

Judy Luebchow had a question about why there was not a decision to do 3 days plus a few nights.

Kate Inman proposed a variety of nights and days. She has a daycare.

The President indicated Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the day and Tuesday and Thursday nights was considered before.

James Knight wanted clarification about money versus attendance. He expressed concern about attendance at night. He believes that there are kids who are busy at night who won't attend the pool.

Joe Sawyer expressed appreciation that there is dialog. He hopes that some goals are set so that attendees know what the minimum attendance is to keep the pool open.

Lois Harness suggested that the hours remain the same as last year.

## **POOL DISCUSSION**

There was discussion by the Commission regarding the 2019 pool schedule.

Neal handed out a proposal for Tuesday – Friday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. with 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday only. Closed Saturday, Sunday or Monday unless there was private sponsorship. The cost to sponsor 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday would be \$400.00. The cost of Monday sponsorship 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. would be \$500.00. He had no suggestions for rates.

Billie Glad had questions about a pool pass.

Commissioner Piatt made a motion to go with 2018's swim schedule. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Piatt made a motion to approve the proposal made by Neal. The motion failed for the lack of a second.

Commissioner Harper made a motion to go Monday through Friday 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. The motion failed for the lack of a second.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kinnaird to keep the pool open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. with a second by Harper.

Roll Call Vote:

Bradley D. Ecker	Yes
Kaye Harper	Yes
Steve Sample	Yes
Bobby Kinnaird	Yes
Denver Piatt	No

The motion carried.

The President thanked everyone for attending. He explained that the Board would consider charges for admission at the next regular meeting which will be May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, there was a motion by Commissioner Harper and a second by Commissioner Kinnaird to adjourn. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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Secretary

APPROVED:

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President