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**MINUTES  
RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 20, 2020**

**1. Roll Call:**

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Recreation & Facilities Committee was held on October 20, 2020 at 7:21 p.m. at the Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Chairman K. Evans, Commissioner Chhatwani, Comm Reps Henderson (teleconference), Macdonald, MacGregor

Absent: Comm Reps Beranek and Dressler

Also Present: Executive Director Talsma, Director of Recreation Kapusinski, Director of Parks, Planning and Maintenance Hugen, Director of Golf & Facilities Bechtold, Executive Assistant Logan

Audience: President Kaplan, Commissioners R. Evans, Kinnane, McGinn

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Comm Rep Macdonald made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

**3. Approval of the Minutes:**

Comm Rep Macdonald made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

**4. Comments from the Audience:**

None

**5. Old Business:**

None

**6. New Business:**

A. Jeff Ellis Management / M20-119

Director Kapusinski explained that staff has researched the option of contracting out the management of the operations at Seascope. The proposal includes the management staff, lifeguards, and pool maintenance at Seascope and this would eliminate the need to hire a full-time Aquatic Manager as well as two part-time seasonal staff. The pool will be staffed from Memorial Day through Labor Day with extended hours.

Executive Director Talsma explained that in 2019 the District was operating at a net loss of ~\$145,000 to operate Seascope on our own. The estimated amount to operate Seascope for the 2021 season will be ~\$250,000; the difference between 2019 and 2021 is because of the increase in lifeguard wages. He added that the District will continue to be the recipient of any revenue generated from Seascope.

Commissioner McGinn asked how this will impact Garibaldi's and Executive Director Talsma confirmed Garibaldi's will continue to do their concessions per usual as they won't be impacted by this.

Executive Director Talsma emphasized JEM will ensure Seascope will have lifeguards for the duration of the pool season, something the District has struggled with over the years.

Commissioner McGinn asked what will happen if the pool is closed due to another COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and how will that impact paying the management company. Executive Director Talsma explained the contract will include a stipulation that covers catastrophic events such as a pool closure due the pandemic.

Executive Director Talsma noted that staff are looking into the possibility of transferring all swim lessons to The Club and discussing with JEM the possibility of covering the lifeguarding of lessons at The Club, in addition to their services at Seascope. He noted this is still being discussed.

Community Rep Macdonald asked how it would be handled if JEM's maintenance of the pool resulted in damage to the pool or hardware and Executive Director Talsma explained JEM will be the primary insurer and will be responsible for any damages they cause.

Commissioner Kinnane asked if selecting a management company to operate Seascope is something that needs to be bid. Executive Director Talsma confirmed with the District's legal team that due to the specific nature and high level of skill required of this service, it does not need to be bid.

Commissioner Chhatwani asked about the duration of the contract and Executive Director Talsma explained the initial contract will be for one year as a trial run and staff will evaluate the length of the contract based on performance prior to the contract's expiration.

Chairman K. Evans noted the operations of Seascape costs the District approximately \$250,000 annually and is wondering if it is the best use of Park District money. Executive Director Talsma explained that the District provides the pool to the community as an amenity and it is up to the Board whether or not this operation is going to be continually supported with tax dollars. Chairman K. Evans asked if there is a way to bring more revenue in to compensate for the loss from this operation. Executive Director Talsma explained staff can analyze the daily fees/memberships to the pool and see if these can be increased in some way. He added that entertaining the idea of closing the pool as a solution to the revenue loss is something he highly recommends not doing.

Commissioner R. Evans and Community Rep MacGregor both noted how important it is to continue to offer this amenity to the Community.

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to recommend the Board approve including the Jeff Ellis Management (JEM) LLC operation of Seascape for 2021 budget. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman K. Evans was not in favor of recommending the Board approve including the Jeff Ellis Management (JEM) LLC operation of Seascape for 2021 budget.

**B. Range Enhancement Project / M20-118:**

Director Bechtold explained staff are looking to bring a technology based virtual golf system to Bridges. This range enhancement will include a covered structure with 10 hitting stations, a social area with seating, TopTracer technology at each station, and heaters to allow for all-season play. The TopTracer technology is provided on a three year lease agreement. An add-on that staff would like to include are automatic tee box bay dispensers. To further enhance the area and turn it into a destination, staff would like to add an area that will serve as entertainment area like a beer garden, amongst other enhancements. The expense for the entire project would be at a minimum \$375,000, and on the upper end around \$500,000. The estimated number of years for pay back is seven years. It was noted that customers will be charged per bay and in hour increments. Customers will have the option to rent clubs from Bridges.

Commissioner Kinnane and Commissioner R. Evans noted there is a market for something like this in Hoffman Estates and the sport of golf is on the rise.

Commissioner Kinnane asked if there is a restriction on how late we can have the lights on at the range and how late does our liquor license cover. Director Bechtold

explained the range is currently lit until 11:00 p.m.; however, he is waiting to receive an answer on whether that can be extended to midnight. He added the liquor license covers until 2:00 a.m.

Commissioner R. Evans asked about the security of the area. Director Bechtold noted staff will pursue options for securing the area. Executive Director Talsma noted there will be security cameras covering the area.

Commissioner Chhatwani commended staff on being forward thinking and thinks this is a great idea as it will appeal to all ages and skill levels.

Community Rep Henderson noted this is a great idea and will allow Bridges to compete with other golf facilities in the area offering similar amenities.

Chairman K. Evans asked how food and beverage will be handled for this new area. Executive Director Talsma explained staff are looking at options to make food and beverage delivery as quick and efficient as possible.

Commissioner Chhatwani made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Macdonald to recommend the Board approve moving forward with planning the Golf Learning Center Enhancement Project as a part of the 2021 budget. The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Rec Board Report and 3Q Goals / M20-112:

Director Kapusinski highlighted the following:

Two digital brochures were released this fall, one for September/October and one for November/December. The ELC program was awarded an additional \$65,190 in grant money for October and November, which will go towards wages and any COVID-19 related expenses. The STAR program has been modified to accommodate the hybrid school schedules; unfortunately, due to low enrollment the program may or may not be able to continue depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Congratulations to Community Rep Marc Friedman for his baseball team going undefeated and winning the league title. The Fishing Derby was a huge success on October 3 and staff are looking to hold a winter Fishing Derby.

Comm Rep Macdonald made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to send the Rec Board Report M20-112 and 3Q Goals to the Board as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

D. Facilities Board Report and 3Q Goals / M20-117:

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for golf:

For high school golf, Bridges held three events on September 29, October 6, and October 12 and all went very well. The Turkey Shoot was a sold out at 108 players

with a waiting list for the event. Weddings/receptions are receiving a great deal of inquiries for 2021.

Chairman K. Evans noted the HE Chamber golf outing at Bridges was really well done and has heard nothing but good things.

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for The Club:  
The HIIT program is doing well and Sarah, Fitness Program Manager, is doing a good job. At this point, The Club is at ~2/3 of the membership. Despite the pandemic restrictions, The Club is still seeing new memberships.

Comm Rep Macdonald made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to send the Facilities Board Report M20-117 and 3Q Goals to the Board as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. **Committee Member Comments:**

Comm Rep Henderson thanked staff for the update and a job well done.

Comm Rep Macdonald shared that his children are appreciative of the programs at HEParks and are loving it. He added he is excited for the golf enhancement project.

Chairman K. Evans thanked staff and noted a lot of work went into the proposal for Jeff Ellis Management and the golf enhancement project.

8. **Adjournment:**

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chhatwani to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma  
Secretary

Monica Logan  
Executive Assistant