Devils Lake Park Board

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting

August 3, 2023

Present at this Special Board Meeting were Commissioners Kale Stromme, Mark Beighley, Peter Jerome, Lisa Uhlenkamp and President Beck. Also present were Josh Janzen, Terry Wallace, Office Manager Heather Brandvold and Attorney Doug Broden.

Comm Beck called the Meeting to order at 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at the Burdick Arena.

1. Dockside Manager Position

Comm Beck asked Josh if he had made a decision on the Dockside Manager Position. Josh told Comm Beck that he had a couple of questions. Josh asked what he would be doing from now until February when Dockside opens. Comm Beck told Josh that he would be coordinating with Construction Engineers on construction, marketing, setting up hours of operation and figuring out what we will need for staff. Josh asked if the long term would be managing the facility and mentoring with the new Superintendent. Comm Beck told him that would be the long term yes. Josh asked Comm Beck if the option of extending the 3-month probation was still an option. Comm Beck stated that he felt that the probation extension was off the table. Comm Uhlenkamp mentioned that she was not at the last meeting so she was wondering what brought this on. Comm Beck told Comm Uhlenkamp that his extended 3-month probation was up and things haven’t really improved much from the last review. Comm Uhlenkamp asked Josh about the missing deadlines on grants if it was a communication thing or lack of knowledge or training. Josh told Comm Uhlenkamp that it a little bit of lack of confidence and knowledge on where we wanted to go as a Park District. Further discussion was held. Josh told the Board that his heart has not been in it from the start. Josh asked for more time to make a decision. Doug Broden told the Board that since there was no written contract all 3 option’s they discussed at the last meeting were still options. Doug told the Board that since there was no written contract the Board would not be able to offer a severance package or pay health insurance if Josh chooses not to take the offered position. Doug told the Board that if Josh chooses not to take the position the Board would have to rescind their original motion based on that fact that it would not be beneficial to pay someone a salary for this position until the facility opens, then they could terminate and he would be eligible for unemployment. Further discussion was held. Comm Uhlenkamp told the Board that if we are going to mentor someone, we need to make sure that they are getting mentored and that they are working side by side with the person that is doing the mentoring. Comm Stromme made a motion to table the dockside position offer until Monday to give Josh more time to make his decision, seconded by Comm Beighley. All aye, motion carried, Comm Uhlenkamp abstained from the vote. Discussion was held. Josh has until 5pm Monday, August 7th to inform the Board of his decision. All aye, motion carried.

1. Interim Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

Comm Beck told the Board that Terry Wallace is willing to be the interim Superintendent until a new Superintendent can be hired. Discussion was held. Comm Jerome made a motion to appoint Terry Wallace as interim Superintendent at his previous salary with 5% increase added to it, seconded by Comm Beighley. Further discussion was held regarding what would be done if Terry needed to be gone for an appointment. Comm Jerome made a motion to amend his motion to also give Terry 2 weeks of paid vacation, seconded by Comm Beighley. Roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

1. Superintendent Hiring Process

Comm Beck asked the Board if we would want to use a selection committee or just have the Board do the interviews. The Board will do the interviews and make the selection themselves. They will start the advertising process immediately and the deadline to apply will be August 31st at 5pm.

Comm Jerome made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Comm Stromme. President Beck adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm on August 3, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Recording Secretary