

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF MARCH 28, 2020**

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at 10:00 am. at the Fargo Park District office at 701 Main Avenue, Fargo, North Dakota. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Joe Deutsch and Jerry Rostad. Commissioners Rusty Papachek, Vicki Dawson, and Stacey Griggs appeared by phone. Also present in person or on the phone were Dave Leker, Carolyn Boutain, Tyson Lund, Brian Arett, Dave Bietz, and Diane Jones.

Approval of Order of Agenda

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Rusty Papachek seconded a motion to approve the Order of Agenda. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Flood Impacts to Edgewood Golf Course

Dave Leker presented to the Board regarding the potential flood impacts on Edgewood Golf Course. Dave Leker noted that the impact on El Zagal Golf Course should be minimal because the water drains to inlets and central pump station. He noted that the water could be off El Zagal Golf Course within two days. It was noted that the Edgewood Golf Course has six holes that are in the bowl area where water and silt settles. It was noted that this can kill the grass which would require reseeding those six holes. It was noted that if not for the Covid-19 pandemic, work on protecting the holes would likely have already started.

Dave Leker noted there are three potential options: (1) mandate staff to sandbag the bowl area; (2) ask for volunteers to sandbag; or (3) allow the course to possibly flood. Brian Arett noted that he reached out to the state epidemiologist who stated that if volunteers or staff are not showing symptoms of Covid-19 the risk factor of the disease spreading would be very low. It was noted that the Park District could have a thermometer to test temperatures when staff or volunteers would arrive.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed that the risk of spreading Covid-19 outweighed sandbagging to protect Edgewood Golf Course. Commissioner Papachek stated that the only way he would be authorize moving forward with sandbagging Edgewood Golf Course is if there was 0 risk to those sandbagging. He noted that it comes down to the safety of the staff and volunteers takes precedent over protecting turf. Commissioner Dawson stated that the Park District cannot risk harming the staff or volunteers especially when the risk is unknown. Commissioner Griggs noted that potentially sandbagging Edgewood would go against all the policies that have been put in place to protect people. Commissioner Deutsch agreed with the comments of his fellow Commissioners. Commissioner Rostad stated that there is no reason to save a few holes of golf at the risk of employees or volunteers.

The head groundskeeper for Edgewood Golf Course presented to the board noting that he believes turf loss will be minimal this year because they should be able to pump the water off the holes faster than last year and there is hope that the crest will come in lower than projected. He noted that he and a few staff could shore up some low areas without breaking social distancing guidelines to help protect the vulnerable spots on the course.

Dave Bietz noted that with all other Park District programs slowed down there will be plenty of resources to clean the course after the flood while keeping social distancing in place. Carolyn Boutain noted that she will get the message out regarding the plan for Edgewood Golf Course and at the recommendation of Commissioner Papachek reach out to the Forum.

No action was taken on this matter.

At the conclusion of the above agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and upon unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 am.

Jeffrey B. Gunkelman