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MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Conducted at Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
October 24, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Commissioners Present: C Mathes (Chair), K Hansen, D Way, J McNett, A Olson

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: R Peterson, C Bigelow, K Durfee

PUBLIC COMMENT

This was an open public meeting to get public input on the way forward for FPFC regarding reattempting a Metropolitan Park District (MPD) and a new facility.

The ED and M Stadler provided a background on the history of the facility replacement efforts and how we got to where we are now. M Stadler explained how a previous renovation bond did not reach the required 60% and that subsequent studies have shown that the current facility cannot be renovated to bring it to standards

Commissioner McNett spoke about the funding difficulties.

There were several comments about the school district as a partner, that expanded to the identification of other stakeholders and how they need to be engaged and supportive.

The public wants to make sure the requirements meet the needs of the patrons that are being served and that there is no requirement creep and thus costs increase.

For the MPD it was suggested to set a new mil rate and talk to the public about the facility and what it provides. Urged to use a PR firm to help.

It was decided that the commissioners would like to try for another MPD in the fall of 2025.

The public also advocated for asking the voters for a bond as soon as possible. This will require some fundraising to be done. The suggestion was to raise at least half the cost, if possible, but that getting this to the voters no matter what the amount was more important.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.