

VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
AGENDA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
May 18, 2009 - 7:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL- MEMORIAL BUILDING
(Tentative and Subject to Change)

Deputy Clerk Bruton swore Jeff Curran in as the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. John Deppe stated that he is willing to serve another term.

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:35 p.m. at Memorial Hall Board Room.

Members Present: Chairman Curran, Commissioners Deppe, Finlay, Opler, McCarthy and Otto

Members Absent: Commissioners Griffin and Lubenow

Also Present: Trustee Bob Saigh

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation
Linda Copp, Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Curran moved approval of the April 20, 2009 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Otto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

Ms. Hassett stated that some expenses still need to be posted in the April 2009. Ms. Hassett will have Fiscal 08/09 and May of 2009. Some expenses were done relating to the pool

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett told the Commission that Ryan Miller has resigned and that the Recreation Supervisor position is open until May 22. Bob Marshall will fill in for Ryan until someone is hired. Chairman Curran asked if Bob Marshall was on for a set period of time. Ms. Hassett stated that Mr. Marshall will be working 40 hours and he will stay at least through the summer. Ms. Hassett commented that she is hoping to hire someone with pool certification. She hopes to be able to take care of the field allocations and the responsibilities of the Director. Chairman Curran asked if there are any interns available for the summer. Ms. Hassett stated that there are no funds for that. Commissioner Opler asked what starting pay is for the open position. Ms. Hassett stated the starting pay is \$39,000.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

Ms. Hassett explained the information on bike racks. She called DuPage County and we are getting 137 bike racks and the cost to the Parks and Recreation Department will be

approximately \$7300 to install the racks. \$14,000 was allocated for cleaning and that cost is now less, so the \$7300 cost will come from there. Superintendent of Public Works, George Franco has worked with the placement of the racks, some will go to the train station and the rest to Burns and the pool.

Chairman Curran asked if the old racks could be reused. Ms. Hassett stated the plan is to scrap them because of the poor design. Commissioner Otto asked about revenue being used to pay for bike racks. Ms. Hassett explained that the cost will come out of new fiscal year. Commissioner Opler asked about budget being better than projected. Ms. Hassett explained how the finances are looking better than anticipated.

Ms. Hassett explained that she negotiated with Village Manager Dave Cook for some items that were needed now. Commissioner Otto stated that if we can save some funds that we should be given a percentage of what is in the budget. Chairman Curran stated that we should look at that next March and then look at the items that are still needed.

Commissioner Finlay stated that the budget is set early. Ms. Hassett will email budget to Commissioners. Commissioner Opler wanted to know what this year's budget is. Ms. Hassett stated that the 2009/10 budget is very lean. Commissioner Otto wanted to know if we can ask more from the capital project if we come in under budget. Ms. Hassett will talk to Mr. Cook regarding that. Chairman Curran wants to review next year's plan at the June meeting. Ms. Hassett explained that the budget year is ended and there are some expenses that needed to go in this year's budget and could not be deferred for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Otto stated that if we can save money from the budget, we should be able to have some of those funds for items that are needed. Ms. Hassett will include a copy of the budget in next month's packet. Commissioner Otto wanted to know if it is reasonable to receive funds if the Department expenses come in under budget.

Ms. Hassett stated that the Village has received a grant of \$3000 for the Burns Field Warming House to do a condition assessment. It is a 50% matching grant so the Village will also need to pay 50%.

Ms. Hassett explained the July 4th water billing insert requesting donations. \$1,760 has been received to date. Another insert will be included in the June water bills. Ms. Hassett stated that last year we paid \$22,000 to contracted groups in the parade and entertainment. The parade Marshall for this year will be Alyce Mansell and the theme is Let Freedom Ring. The route will stay the same because Garfield construction will not start until after July 4th. The Arts and Crafts Fair and the Family Festival will all be at Burlington Park this year.

Chairman Curran stated that sometime the problem with entries is the logistics. You come to town and then they don't know where to go. He suggested giving all entrants a cell number so they know where to go when they get there. Commissioner McCarthy asked if the route could be changed to raise the money for the parade. He suggested having neighbors organize their street to raise money. Commissioner Finlay stated that marshalling the judges would be an issue. Ms. Hassett explained that would create a huge challenge of where to stage the judges. Chairman Curran stated you need a dumping area

at the end for groups and Robbins has been a good ending point for that. Chairman Curran suggested keeping Commission McCarthy's idea in mind for the future. Commissioner Otto stated other locations could be used for ending points.

Commissioner Finlay commented that the parade also has watchers as well as participants and we would need to be aware of parking for the watchers. Commissioner Deppe stated that the police would have to be contacted first because some neighborhoods may not be able to have the parade on their street. For this year, only the craft show and festival will be moved and change can be looked at for further years. Ms. Hassett asked Commissioners for their help with the Parade.

Ms. Hassett stated that she is working with The Community House and HCA to work together to not duplicate services. Commissioner Deppe stated that there is a Zook House meeting on May 27 that he will attend and report back to the Commissioners.

Ms. Hassett reported on the locked gate at KLM going to Burr Ridge. The footing is still unsafe and Public Services are still working on fixing it. Once there are about 3 days of dry weather, it can be repaired. Once the weather is dry and the work begins, it can be reopened in about a week.

Ms. Hassett explained about sponsorships. Tommy R's wants to sponsor the movie. There is someone that might sponsor all of the events. The cost would be approximately \$36,000. She will keep the Commissioners informed.

Pool report

Ms. Hassett explained that currently memberships are down and it will open this weekend. Clarendon Hills pool is closed due to a crack in the pool. If the weather is warm, Clarendon Hills residents may swim at the Hinsdale pool this weekend. Clarendon Hills anticipates their pool will open by Wednesday. Ms. Hassett will keep Commissioners posted on status of the Clarendon Hills pool.

Chairman Curran asked if we have all staff hired for the pool. Ms. Hassett stated that we need 4 or 5 more lifeguards, but she is not concerned. Commissioner Otto asked about memberships being down. Ms. Hassett stated she thinks it is mainly because money is tight and people are waiting. She is concerned that the Hinsdale Swim Club is offering swimming lessons at Hinsdale Central. That will affect the number taking lessons at the Community Pool. Commissioner Opler stated that he thinks people are waiting to see what their summer plans are.

Ms. Hassett stated that she talked to a resident about the early bird rates not giving anything additional. Ms. Hassett stated that maybe next year an incentive could be offered to purchase the pool membership early. She might offer free guest passes as an incentive next year. Ms. Hassett explained that staff costs are up due to the minimum wage being raised but custodial costs are down since staff will be doing more in that regard.

Ms. Hassett stated that she is still working on KLM promotional packet and that KLM revenue is starting to peak. Commissioner Finlay commented on an article about how

people are saving money by having weddings on weekdays for example. Ms. Hassett stated that more people are booking events on weekdays to save costs.

Veeck Park Skate Park Status

Ms. Hassett stated that there is no time line on opening of the skate park. She also commented that the Veeck park project is six weeks behind schedule. The building structure and utilities are started. The heavier construction has started.

Parks Foundation

Ms. Hassett will continue to follow up.

Memorial Tree Program

Ms. Hassett reported that the Beautification Task Force is working on a recommendation for our fall brochure. Chairman Curran asked if there is any grant money available. Ms. Hassett will check with Village Manager, Dave Cook. Chairman Curran requests a few items on the grant list, bike racks for one example. Chairman Curran also requested Capital ideas for a future agenda. Ms. Hassett stated that the open space grant is one that could be pursued.

Dog Receptacles and signage update

Ms. Hassett stated that it is on her list after the pool opens. She thinks we have funds for some.

Capital Projects & Repair/Replacement Schedule update

Ms. Hassett stated that currently all she has time for is getting the pool open and hiring the pool staff. She will provide an update once the pool is open.

New Business

July 4th Parade and event update

Ms. Hassett stated that she would like a parade committee. Commissioner Finlay asked if we are still having the Festival and the Arts and Crafts Fair. Ms. Hassett stated that there are currently 80 vendors signed up. There will be two inflatable's on the east end of Burlington Park, a petting zoo, turtle races and West Suburban Concert band. Chicago Ave will be closed for the event. The event will all be free. Commissioner Finlay asked where access would be. He suggested possibly accessing from Lincoln and no traffic on Washington.

Chairman Curran asked about Middle School property. Ms. Hassett commented that all festival activities will be at Burlington Park. It will not interfere with parade if they are late.

Correspondence

Ms. Hassett reported that was no correspondence.

Liaison Reports

Administration and Community Affairs Committee

Ms. Hassett reported that the Westmont and Hinsdale Swim Club requests were both approved. Westmont Swim Club will start this Saturday. Westmont Swim Club will pay us \$3500 to use the swimming pool.

Ms. Hassett will email information about a schedule for attendance at ACA meetings. Chairman Curran stated that a lot of historical information comes from those meetings. Chairman Curran stated how the Commissioners are teamed up in pairs to look at the parks. Chairman Curran asked for prior year list to start with for pairing. Ms. Hassett stated that Dan Hopkins has inspected all the parks but Commissioners would look at different items than Dan does.

Chairman Curran commented that Burns basketball court has been on the capital improvement list twice and still has not been replaced. Commissioner Finlay stated that the Commissioners make a list of maintenance issues versus capital improvements so each time there are Trustees changes, there will be a plan for them to see.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if landscaping companies could take over the maintenance of the parks. Commissioner Deppe suggested it might be worth our time to find neighbors to show the Commissioners what concerns them about a park that they live by. Commissioner McCarthy agreed that the residents would know the issues for a park. Perhaps those people would be involved in cleaning up the park and identify the problems.

Commissioner McCarthy suggested sending out a notice of when a park would be inspected. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to try to get a PTO or PTA list from the schools before school ends to help with summer projects and to send them a schedule to meet with the Commissioners. Commissioner Opler suggested having this item as a follow up item with the sponsorship and signage and he agreed that preventative maintenance is a huge issue. Commissioner Deppe commented that having community help will make the Commissioners more responsible for the inspections.

Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett stated that the Agreement with Gateway is up. Ms. Hassett also stated that Gateway is waiting for an offer and that they have funding issues. Gateway has offered a one year renewal with a 3% increase which could be \$3500 - \$4800 increase to the Village. Hinsdale does not have much participation in program. Ms. Hassett explained that any special needs child can attend Gateway programs. Commissioner Finlay stated that Julie Ranahan is very involved in the special needs department at the Library and would be a good contact person.

Commissioner Otto shared program that AYSO had that parents want to mainstream their children. Ms. Hassett explained how the program works for any of our programs. The Village would have to cover the cost of the aide for a reasonable accommodation. It is a program that your child may have to go to another community for service. Chairman Curran asked about Gateway's philosophy on mainstreaming these children. Ms. Hassett explained that the program is designed for all different levels and different age groups.

Chairman Curran asked how mainstreamed students are funded. Ms. Hassett explained that any mainstreamers would be at the Village cost.

Commissioner Deppe congratulated Commissioner Curran as the new Chairman. Commissioner Opler suggested Ms. Hassett pursue sponsorships soon to help the budget. Chairman Curran stated that a lot of activities could be co-sponsored. Commissioner Opler believes people would welcome the opportunity to be recognized. Commissioner Deppe suggested Ms. Hassett to check with the Village attorney. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to follow up.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Finlay moved to adjourn. Commissioner Otto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp