

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Tuesday, July 26, 2016
Memorial Building Old Board Room

Chairman Banke called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Memorial Building Old Board room.

Members Present: Chairman Banke, Commissioners Baker, Conboy, Owens and Waverley

Members Absent: John George and Steve Keane

Staff Present: Heather Bereckis, Interim Manager of Parks and Recreation
Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant
Suzanne Ostrovsky, Management Analyst
Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager

Also present: Kim Fornak, The Doings

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Waverley moved approval of the May 31, 2016 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Gateway Special Recreation Association Report

Ms. Bereckis commented on the packet. The vehicle has been delivered and has 644 miles on it. It can accommodate more participants in the programs. The website is still being worked on and hopes to be finished by the end of the year. Chairman Banke asked if Ms. Bereckis will be filling in for Gina as the Chair. Ms. Bereckis is going to the meetings, but a woman from Elmhurst is the new chair.

Recreation Staff Report

Ms. Bereckis presented the staff report. Programming is down and we believe that District 181 and Ruth Lake have new summer programs that are affecting our registrations. The library and the Community House programs also have been reduced. Lunch on the Lawn have both been held in the library due to the weather. There is one final one on August 3rd. Commissioner Waverley stated S/D 181 is doing a lot of enrichment classes that could continue to hurt us in the future if we don't collaborate with them. Commissioner Owens stated that it is called summer school, but it is a summer program similar to what we offer in our tot summer camps. Chairman Banke stated it is also an opportunity for a shared service to promote various programs.

Ms. Bereckis stated that we have had increased enrollment in the swim classes and the afternoon sports programs. The consistency in coaching is helping in this regard. Ms. Bereckis stated that the fall brochure will be delivered on Aug. 1st and registration begins Aug 8th. There will be cooperative programs with the Community House. We have seen increased enrollment on the Community House programs. We have had 4 students of inclusion from Gateway. Ms. Bereckis stated that 13% of the budget goes for landscaping.

Ms. Bereckis stated that the lodge revenue is down slightly because of shorter times for parties but that there are the same amount of events.

Annual court maintenance will be done on the paddle courts and the walkways bid was awarded at the last board meeting. They will begin work in early August and should be finished by the beginning of September. Chairman Banke commented about the fact that the amount was quite a bit under budget, most of which was the materials that would be used. The budget was \$150,000. Chairman Banke asked about the warranty. Ms. Ostrovsky stated that public services is taking care of the capital projects so staff does not really know those details. Membership letters went out and fees will increase because of Mary Doten's contract as court manager and the cost of the walkway repairs. The HPTA agreement has been extended through April, 2017. The main issues are the capital projects and some coverage for court fees to cover the village costs. Mr. Bloom explained about the issue with the lifetime memberships and that more time is needed to negotiate the contract.

Ms. Bereckis stated that pool passes have trended upwards from last year. This is all weather driven. Resident family passes are down but they are purchasing 10 visit passes. Daily fees are also up and rentals are being maximized, especially birthday parties. There are also private after hour's rentals. The staffing model is consistent with last year and costs will be a little higher because of higher temperatures. Mr. Bereckis stated that the swim meet went well and was well attended.

Recreation Financial Report

Ms. Bereckis explained the financial report for June. 4% decreased revenues and 12% decrease in expenditures. The biggest decline is in programming and there are a lot of other options out there for people. Chairman Banke mentioned about meeting regarding helping with programming. Fitness revenue overall is down. Commissioner Owens commented about a rowing program that has been a huge hit lately. Chairman Banke asked about liability is some of those athletic events. Ms. Bereckis mentioned that we don't want to overlap programs with the Community House.

Platform tennis revenue decreased about 3% and operating expenses have increased. The lodge revenue increased 6% and the staff is working on a marketing plan.

Picnic and field revenue increased and non-resident rates help with those revenues. Chairman Banke asked if there will be men's softball league. Ms. Bereckis stated it is held at Veeck on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Old Business

Public Donation/Artwork Guidelines Update

Ms. Bereckis stated that the policy was approved at the board meeting with one minor addition. By exception only explanation will be added. Chairman Banke has stated that the village now has a policy for the family that wants to make the art donation.

New Business

Ms. Bereckis commented on adding pickle ball courts at Robbins. Since the courts are going to be resurfaced in the fall, the courts can be made as a dual court. The noise is not that bad unless you are already in a quiet area. Chairman Banke stated that we don't cater to the older community and this would address the issue that came from the survey. Chairman Banke mentioned that Burns tennis courts have received a lot of use since they were resurfaced. Commissioner Owens mentioned that staff should look into having pickle ball lessons. Ms. Bereckis also stated you can use chalk and tape if permanent lines are not used. Ms. Ostrovsky stated that there is a consultant that is working on what the price point would be.

Mr. Bloom mentioned that the bid specs are being put together so staff needs to know if the Commission is interested. Chairman Banke asked if we have email addresses to get survey information to be included. The Commission agreed to have 2 courts at one location at one of the less utilized parks, possibly Peirce. Ms. Ostrovsky stated that the fencing will need to be replaced at the Peirce tennis courts. Commissioner Waverley stated that she believed Peirce would be a better location than Robbins.

Correspondence

None

Community Survey Presentation

Ms. Ostrovsky commented on the community survey. Hard copies were sent to every postal address and it was on-line. 1000 surveys were returned and the report was put together by EIU students. The response was reopened to try to capture the younger families but only a few more surveys were received. The people that responded were primarily women between 30 and 49 and a significant amount had children school age.

Recreation programs have a high satisfaction rate. Improvements are needed for the older residents, special events are strong and they would like more. Additional special events would be welcomed. Program guide is the most utilized reference and the website was #4 and is not utilized as much as hoped. Chairman Banke mentioned that the survey indicated residents do like the guide but the village needs to look at potential partners for resources.

Ms. Ostrovsky went through the summary – 68% of residents with children are using the pool. Recreational swimming, swim lessons were strong. There are many other pools in the area that offer more amenities. Amenities were a big issue because of the age of the pool. Ms. Bereckis stated that opening the pool earlier in the season is hard because of being able to perform maintenance earlier. Ms. Bereckis stated that all college kids leave by Aug 15 and most high school kids have sports practices that begin at that time so staffing will always be an issue in August.

Ms. Bereckis stated that there needs to be a staff of 15 for the entire pool to open. Clarendon Hills has the same guard program that we have. Oak Brook closes the last two weeks of August, but their guards go on vacation for those two weeks. Ms. Bereckis stated that it could be possible to be open at the beginning of the season when we have been closed. Commissioner Waverley asked if lifeguards could be asked if they would be able to work extra hours at the end of the season. Ms. Bereckis stated there will be a pool survey sent out at the end of the season to all pool members.

Ms. Ostrovsky explained more of the comments from the pool survey and asked the Commission if they had any questions. There was discussion about comments made. Commissioner Conboy mentioned that the survey is a great start and having a model to make it work. There was discussion about the pool comments and what can be done to bring more people there.

Ms. Ostrovsky stated that the parks have a high utilization rate. The most visited are KLM, Robbins and Burns. Improvements needed are Burns Field warming house and park bathrooms.

Future needs – 1. Indoor facilities for fitness 2.pool 3. Walking and biking trails

Chairman Banke asked about the status of the Burlington fountain. Mr. Bloom stated that an emergency repair was made and staff is concerned that kids will climb the fountain again. The top bowl broke and shattered and the 2nd bowl has significant damage. Staff is considering what design will be used.

Sept. 13 will be the next scheduled meeting and there will not be an August meeting.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Conboy moved to adjourn. Commissioner Waverley seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant