



VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
June 4th, 2020

Chairwoman Tredore called to order at 6:30 p.m. the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board. This was a virtual meeting. The agenda for this virtual meeting informed the public that they could attend and gave directions on how they could access it online or via telephone.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Diane Tredore and Members John Andrea, Nicole Sandage, Brad Wackerlin, Michael Cairns, Wendy Anderson, and Sai Sivakumar were present. Also present were Community Services Director Fred Mullard, Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz, and Administrative Specialist Laura Pekovic.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No real-time comments and Director Mullard confirmed that there were no written comments received outside of the meeting as well.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Andrea made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting of May 7, 2020. Member Sivakumar seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Director Mullard stated that the Recreation Survey had just closed on June 1st and thanked Casie Peltz for doing all the leg work on the survey and for making it possible. Director Mullard stated that he would quickly present the results, question by question, and would take questions throughout the presentation. The survey attracted 292 respondents and 59% indicated, in question #1, that it is important for their families to have organized activities to participate in this Summer. Question #2 indicated very low interest in virtual activities and fairly high interest in in-person activities such as nature, athletics, fitness, camps and preschool. As a result of the interest in in-person nature activities, staff has contacted the McHenry Conservation District about possibly holding some nature type events within the Village in the future. Staff believes these results indicate that respondents feel safer doing outside activities that allow for more social distancing. Question #3 indicated that very few respondents are willing to pay for virtual activities. Similar activities are readily available online for free. Question #4 indicated that respondents are willing to pay for the in-person activities that are offered and what price ranges they are willing to pay for those activities. Respondents indicated that they are willing to pay the higher fees for the camp programs that tend to cost more as a result of staffing requirements. Member Anderson asked for clarification on respondents' willingness to pay for activities. Director Mullard reiterated the reluctance of the respondents to pay for virtual activities with little hands-on experience and the availability of similar programs that are free online. He indicated that they are willing to pay higher prices for in-person activities that are offered, especially the camp programs. Question #5 indicated little interest in modified FuntastiCamp options; presumably respondents are happy with the way FuntastiCamp is currently run. Question #6 indicated that 72% of respondents would return to in-person activities if procedures for stringent cleaning of facilities were in place. Cleaning was the most important factor for them to send

their kids to camps and other in-person activities. 12% indicated that there is nothing that could be done that would make them consider sending their children to any in-person activity. Question #7 indicated that 46% of respondents would return to in-person activities immediately, 33.5% would return between 2 and 4 weeks and about 20.5% would wait 4 or more weeks. The data results overwhelmingly show that the community would prefer and be willing to pay for in-person activities over virtual activities. LITH residents made up 85% of the respondents and 15% were non-residents. Member Wackerlin inquired about the capabilities and feasibility of participant testing. Director Mullard indicated that touchless thermometers are relatively inexpensive and would not require sanitizing if the same person used the thermometer and questions would be asked regarding the presence of COVID-19 symptoms while observing the participant. Personal protective equipment and other equipment is available for use at multiple facilities at the same time. Member Anderson asked what procedures were in place for testing staff. Director Mullard stated that the Village has an overall policy in place now since the Village Hall is open. The current policy includes disinfecting common and high touch areas every few hours, vending machines, drinking fountains, refrigerators and microwaves have been shut-off and are off-limits, masks are required inside the facilities, floors are marked for social distancing and supervisors do a daily verbal check questioning the presence of COVID-19 symptoms while observing staff members. Director Mullard expressed that the survey results would be used as we move forward with setting up programming options and offerings.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Staff Report:

Director Mullard reported that the Summer brochure is out and registration is open online. As expected, registration has been slow but staff is working on it and talking to folks. Hot Shots Sports, Sports R Us and Yoga will be holding in-person classes starting in July primarily at Carpenter and Sunset Parks as well as the outside patios at Village Hall. All will be operating in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the State of Illinois and the CDC in regards to social distancing and not using common equipment. All senior trips and events have been canceled for the Summer. Staff did, however, conduct the first GoTo Meeting “Coffee Chat” that a few seniors expressed interest in trying. The “Coffee Chat” will be held on Wednesdays if all goes well. There was only one participant yesterday but staff will continue to try different virtual ideas for seniors; seniors face some of the biggest challenges with regards to being able to get out for socializing. Staff is reaching out to our senior and assisted living facilities to see if any of them are interested in participating in virtual events of some sort. Preschool is in preparation for summer camp starting in July as well as the FuntastiCamp program. There are currently seven participants enrolled in the virtual camp; all seven participants are enjoying the program and we’re encouraging them to pass the word in order to attract additional enrollees. Member Anderson asked how the bathrooms at the Sunset Park concession stand are being operated or if they were open. Superintendent Parchutz stated that those bathrooms are only open during baseball games and that the YAA locks/unlocks and cleans those facilities.

PARKS STAFF REPORT

Superintendent Parchutz reported that the Sunset ballfields are in dire need of maintenance upgrades and have had significant drainage issues for the 15 years that he’s been here. The drainage problems cause water to go over the bike path which has resulted in significant erosion issues. He’s tried to get grants for the \$1M estimated cost but COVID-19 has directed grant funding to other projects. He feels staff can do the repairs and grading in-house and may combine fields to create one premier field similar to Plote Field. Echo Park and Hynes Park have been approved and conversations with the construction companies have taken place and work is expected to start soon. Taylor Skate Park and Horner Park are going to the Village Board in June and Superintendent Parchutz is hopeful that all four parks will be completed by the

end of the year. Copenhaver Construction is scheduled to begin the Turtle Island improvement project on June 10th. Staff moved 70 boats from Turtle Island over to Indian Trail Beach for continued use; boats will be moved back to Turtle Island when improvements are completed. Stable property demolition is about 95% complete, only the grain silo structure remains. Demolition of 9017 Haligus will begin after the silo is taken down. Superintendent Parchutz is working on a presentation for PW Director Kaup in order to make a decision on a Thor Guard weather prediction system. Thor Guard is a pre-strike warning system with a 15-mile radius versus its competitor's 5-mile radius system that notifies after a strike has already occurred. Staff found about 30 boulders and made a rock border that lines the walkway down to the beach at ITB. The boulders replace the old 6x6 timbers that were there. Superintendent Parchutz mentioned the Bark Park fence replacement project is expected to start on June 13th and will be completed in a couple weeks. The new fence will prohibit dogs from getting through the smaller holes. The Hain House heating and air conditioning has been removed and installation of new equipment will begin soon. All work is being done in-house and will cost \$2 or \$3K versus an estimated \$16K using an outside contractor. Lastly, Superintendent Parchutz is in discussions with the Village engineer to alleviate Barbara Key Park flooding issues by replacing existing drainage pipe with a larger weir pipe with a screen on the front. If water cannot get through the screen, it releases over the top into a V-ditch that acts like a spillway; the weir will relieve itself and alleviate the flooding issues.

TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT

Trustee Murphy was not in attendance. Director Mullard confirmed that Trustee Murphy was not on the call.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Sandage inquired about the completion timeline for the Echo Park and Hynes Park equipment replacement. Superintendent Parchutz stated that the projects have been delayed about a month due to the COVID-19 pandemic and expects a late August or September completion. Member Andrea inquired about the basketball hoops at Sunset Park. Superintendent Parchutz stated that the tennis courts are open for singles only and that the basketball hoops would be put up once we enter Phase 4. Member Cairns asked about meeting in person and wanted confirmation that in person meetings are part of Phase 4. Director Mullard confirmed the current Phase 3 guidelines for ten person gatherings prohibited the Parks & Recreation Meetings from being in-person meetings. In-person meetings would resume in Phase 4 and with no meeting scheduled for July, the August meeting would most likely be an in-person meeting. Member Wackerlin mentioned that he has noticed the police tape around playground equipment is down at a lot of the parks and was asking if the parks (playgrounds) were open. Superintendent Parchutz stated that the skate park is open and Director Mullard confirmed that playgrounds will be closed until at least Phase 4. Member Wackerlin also asked if there was anything the P&R Board could do for the Village Board Meeting to help facilitate the Horner and Taylor Skate Park equipment replacement approval. Director Mullard stated that the Village Board tabled discussion on additional equipment replacement at the last meeting based on cost concerns. Director Mullard also mentioned that Village staff had budgeted for the replacement of the equipment and staff confirmed funding availability. He went further and mentioned that park equipment is on a 20 year replacement cycle and with 19 parks we risk falling behind the replacement schedule if we skip any scheduled replacements. Superintendent Parchutz stated that the playground equipment becomes very difficult to maintain and find parts for after 20 years of wear and tear and exposure to the elements. Director Mullard also said the P&R Board could engage in direct dialog with the Village Board or attend the meeting as P&R Board members and LITH residents to further voice their recommendations. Member Wackerlin just wants to make sure the P&R Board is represented and their recommendation are being heard and considered. Director Mullard stated that the P&R Board could prepare a statement for the Village President if they wanted to as well.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None. Before moving to adjournment, Member Anderson inquired about a schedule for a Board walk-around to observe the Parks and equipment like has been done in the past. Chairperson Tredore stated that she did not believe a schedule was available because of COVID-19. Superintendent Parchutz confirmed that no schedule has been created at this time but agreed to have staff contact Chairperson Tredore to discuss and set-up a schedule in order to start the process up again.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Sivakumar seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0. The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Wayde Frerichs

Assistant Finance Director