



VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING January 7, 2021

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. remotely via Go To Meeting. Those present were Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Anderson, Sivakumar, Andrea, Donahue and Chairwoman Tredore. Also present were Recreation Superintendent Kim Buscemi, Public Properties Superintendent Scott Parchutz, Trustee Murphy and Customer Service Specialist Tracey Padula.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Andrea made a motion to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting. Member Sivakumar seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Informational item concerning Future Board Meeting Structure - Superintendent Buscemi shared that the board packets were updated and will look different moving forward. They will now include cover sheets for Agenda Items which will include an executive summary for that item. It may be for information sharing only or it may require an action or motion from the board. Staff reports will still be included. Superintendent Buscemi and Superintendent Parchutz will only go over the highlights at the meeting. If there are any question or concerns that are not covered during the highlights, board members are asked to bring up at that time. As agreed upon at a prior meeting, a representative from the Parks and Recreation Board will attend a Village Board Meeting once a quarter. After more discussion with the Village Administrator it was determined that it would be more beneficial for the representative to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting instead. Although this meeting is longer it would contain more information of value plus this is when the liaison reports back and a Parks and Recreation representative would be there to answer any questions. Superintendent Buscemi will send out the updated schedule showing the new dates.
- B. Informational item concerning Parks Stewardship – Superintendent Parchutz shared in an effort to improve communication received through the Park Stewardship Program an inspection form was created with five questions. This is just a start and can be enhanced at any time. Photos would also be beneficial. This will allow Public Works to receive and keep track of all input from members and improvements completed. Program beings in March and ends in October. Superintendent Buscemi will forward the form to the board. Completed forms will be emailed back to Superintendent Parchutz before that month’s meeting
- C. Request for Board Action Resident Survey Results - Superintendent Buscemi shared that this survey was conducted in the fall and the recreation programs had an overall quality rating of 92% positive. The one question the Recreation staff found interesting was that residents put social environment as their number one important attribute and recreation was rated last. This may be because of the pandemic where socialization opportunities were limited. Moving forward in 2021 staff will focus on highlighting the socialization aspect for all programs and events. Another item on the survey was the need for more adult programs. Staff discussed and realized that residents might be missing activities since they are listed under Seniors and some might think 55 and up but

that is not the case. Moving forward the activities offered will be listed under Adults/Seniors in brochure. Staff will also focus on trying to add new adult activities like parents night out where babysitting could also be offered. Another idea was offering a Co-Ed Softball league. Superintendent Buscemi asked the board to provide any other ideas, suggestions or feedback. Member Anderson commented that she would like to see more league or tournament offerings such as Cornhole and Pickleball for youth and adult. This would allow for socialization opportunities. Member Andrea commented that he noticed neighboring cities that converted some of their Tennis courts into Pickleball courts. Superintendent Parchutz will look into costs and opportunities as to which courts could be converted and bring information back to board. Member Sivakumar brought up Disc Golf and how that would be a great opportunity for leagues or even just drop in's. This would provide socialization and physical activity while at the same time allowing for social distancing while being outdoors. Member Anderson agreed saying that we need to advertise and education residents more on Disc Golf because even though she is a resident she does not know much about it. Member Wackerlin shared that the boy scouts now offer a Disc Golf Patch. He suggested a program could be set up and then be advertised to the local troops for earning the patch. He will provide Superintendent Buscemi with a contact name. Member Donahue suggested on not only having a competitive league for those already familiar with the sports but also a fun league that could cater to beginners that are just starting out and would like to learn the rules and how to play. Superintendent Parchutz suggested Cricket as another activity that could be offered. Member Wackerlin brought up the consolidation of the Sunset baseball fields and once that is completed there should be a big event to open up the park. He suggested that there is a historic recreation league that plays town ball where they could play an exhibition game to open the park. Member Wackerlin will email the link to the league so Superintendent Parchutz can look into. Member Anderson brought up a senior casino night. Superintendent Buscemi shared that the Parks and Recreation staff are going to co-op with Huntley, Crystal Lake and McHenry to coordinate trips that will create more opportunities like that.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Staff Report: Superintendent Buscemi reviewed upcoming events starting with the Winter Wonderfun Kick-off Party on January 18, 2021. This is a new event offering self-directed activities while social distancing. The McHenry County Conservation district will come in to do a winter's track program. There will also be a bonfire with s'more's. January 23, 2021 is the 4-on-4 Pond Hockey Tournament. Several teams have already signed up. January 30, 2021 is the Ice Fishing Tournament and beginning of February is the Pop-up Winter Story walk which is a new, self-directed outdoor activity offered where families can walk the park while reading a story and keeping socially distanced. A couple of volunteers are needed for each event. Member Andrea asked that the dates and times where volunteers are needed get emailed to board members and then they can respond. Superintendent Buscemi pointed out that her staff reported in their board reports a summary wrap up from second session of Fall Brochure and highlights of what to expect coming up in the winter.

Parks Staff Report: Superintendent Parchutz stated that Turtle Island renovation was completed but the roof had a significant leak so that was redone at the end of the year and some money was held-back to validate there are no additional leaks or damage come spring. Thorguard project should get started and replaced by April. HVAC at the Ford School Classroom will be upgraded. Village Staff is also looking to put in some storm windows with period looking hardware to help the temperature inside. Hain House renovation and repair project will include plumbing upgrades and painting the inside.

TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT- Nothing from the board but Trustee Murphy had a couple of requests for Superintendent Buscemi. First, to make sure that entire Village Board gets any links and locations for

all upcoming meetings so any board members can join if they wanted. Second, she requested that the volunteer list needed for upcoming events be emailed to her and she will share with the board next week.

MEMBER REPORTS –

- A. Chairperson Tredore - None
- B. Member Andrea - None
- C. Member Anderson – Nothing to report but wanted to follow up with a question that was brought up when the Parks and Recreation Board met with the Village Board. They would like to request that all projects that are being worked or suggested include financial information so they know how much is coming out of the Parks and Recreation budget. She suggested that a continuous spreadsheet could be created and reviewed at each meeting. Superintendent Parchutz said that is something he can look into and could be added into all future reports.
- D. Member Cairns - None
- E. Member Donahue – Nothing to report but wanted to mention that there has been allot of Social Media about available Ice Rinks in the area and Lake in the Hills is continually popping up with comments stating Sunset Park always has one not sure when it's opening. Although it was decided not to have one this year Member Donahue would like to make sure this stays on the list to review for next year. Since there are so many people looking for available Ice Rinks on Social Media, that could be free advertising plus Parks and Recreation staff could look into doing some leagues and other events around the Ice Rink.
- F. Member Sivakumar - None
- G. Member Wackerlin- Nothing to report but wanted to bring up another Social Media comment regarding the survey. People are asking if the number of responses that were received were enough to accurately represent the community and get meaningful results. Member Wackerlin wanted feedback from Superintendent Buscemi on her thoughts. Superintendent Buscemi stated that there was an adequate amount of responses and was going to supply the response that was given on social media specifically addressing that question, explaining more about why that number based on percentages was enough. Member Anderson wanted to know how Superintendent Buscemi felt those numbers were skewed given the COVID situation. Superintendent Buscemi felt there was a definite impact. In the past safety was usually number one and in her opinion after 9-11 that was probably the case as to why people put that to the top. Now given the current state with COVID that is why the top concern was socialization.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7–0. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Submitted by,

Tracey Padula
Customer Service Specialist