



Village of Lake in the Hills

600 Harvest Gate, Lake in the Hills, Illinois 60156

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call was answered by Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Donahue, Sivakumar, Carman, Vice Chairman Andrea and Chairwoman Tredore.

Also present were Village President Ray Bogdanowski, Assistant Village Administrator Shannon Andrews, Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz, Recreation Superintendent Kim Buscemi, Recreation Supervisor Kristi Brewer, Recreation Coordinator Michelle Steffey, Recreation Coordinator Casie Peltz, Trustee Wendy Anderson, Customer Service Specialist Dana Popovich and Recording Secretary Tracey Padula.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Parks and Recreation meeting minutes of August 5, 2021, was made by Member Andrea and seconded by Member Sivakumar. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Presentation – Larsen Park, Upland Design

The Upland Design team reviewed the Larsen Park Master Planning project, which included design schedule and process. They began by asking what the Village wants to see in the park – what is the vision? To help guide the Board through understanding that question, they presented slides of different types of parks with five different themes such as Nature Exploration, Health and Wellness, Recreation, Recreation & Nature, and Entertainment & Engagement.

The team then asked for input from the Parks and Recreation Board asking what they would like to see and what they have heard from the residents. After discussion it was suggested that the design should have a stronger focus on recreation instead of entertainment, be sensitive to the neighbors, engaging to the public, include the food bank, have a permanent structure for restrooms and be an All-Inclusive Park including a sensory area.

Assistant Administrator Andrews asked whether the Board prefers an inclusive playground be located specifically at Larsen Park or if they are open to an inclusive park being located elsewhere as part of a park replacement. The Board shared that they have asked to have inclusive parks be incorporated into park replacements in the past, but the request has not been accommodated. The board agreed that making Larsen Park the All-Inclusive site is important because not only does it require a large space but there is no other All-Inclusive Park within miles. This is needed not only for Lake in the Hills but for all of McHenry County. There was an exercise done which will help the Upland Design team when creating the vision boards that will be presented at the public meeting.

Based on the feedback in the exercise, Upland Design indicated that they were seeing a lot of splash, splash with stones, nature, and a river theme. There were also images of pump tracks or skate park features. Finally, there was some discussion regarding the surfacing preferences, with considerations for environmental concerns, ease of maintenance, or needs for accessibility.

Upland Design questioned how the Board defines fitness and asked about their level of interest in a ninja course, explaining that these have been very popular in other locations. Generally, there was interest, with a comment



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made that it would be great to have options for adults while kids are playing. Member Donahue expressed concern with a ninja course not being consistent with the priority of offering inclusive play.

B. Request for Board Action – NISRA Membership

Superintendent Buscemi reviewed the Request for Board Action seeking recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board to approve the FY22/23 membership dues. She then gave an overview of the report that was included in the packet explaining how the dues were calculated and that NISRA had frozen its rates back in 2011, with Lake in the Hills paying the same rate for the past ten years. There were three different multipliers reviewed. The NISRA Finance Committee will be recommending to its Board of Directors to consider an increase to its operation budget of 0.1700. However, this increase will not affect Lake in the Hills for FY22/23. This is because dues are distributed across the member communities by applying a multiplier against the previous year's EAV divided by \$100. The bylaws prevent a member's dues from being less than the previous year. Since the NISRA Finance Committee's recommendation was to reduce the previously used multiplier of .0175 down to .01700. This would bring Lake in the Hills lower than the previous year keeping the dues the same as FY21/22. The Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board will be brought to the Village Board for consideration and their vote will be brought to the NISRA Board meeting on October 20, 2021.

Motion to recommendation the approval of the NISRA FY22/23 membership dues using the multiplier of .01700 was made by Vice Chairman Andrea and seconded by Member Wackerlin. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

C. Request for Board Action – Triathlon 2022

Superintendent Buscemi reviewed the executive summary from the packet where staff is seeking the Board's input on whether to continue the Triathlon event in 2022 despite continued losses in the revenue. She then gave an overview and presented the three options that staff had identified. The first is to proceed with the event as the Village has done in the past, which could result in a loss of up to \$9,000 in unrecovered Village expenses. The second option is to issue a Request for Proposal to find a Race Director that may be willing to share in more of the costs. Finally, the third option would be to discontinue the event. It was then opened for discussion and direction as to which option the board felt was best to move forward with.

Staff was asked what the level of interest has been from the residents and they confirmed that there have been limited inquiries. Member Wackerlin suggested offering bussing services to take residents to triathlons in other communities. The Board expressed concerns with offering a race program that allows the contractor to take a profit while the Village takes a loss. Superintendent Buscemi explained that the second option would attempt to mitigate those losses.

Member Sivakumar asked whether it would make sense to change the triathlon to a biathlon instead. Superintendent Buscemi explained that it still comes down to how the race is managed and what level of loss the Village is willing to accept. Member Donahue suggested surveying the interest in the community. Staff confirmed that there was positive feedback from participants. Village President Bogdanowski clarified that there is an alternative to the \$9,000 loss by renegotiating with different providers. He expressed concern with the Village donating any police or public works services and encouraged exploring our other options.

Motion to move forward with Option B which would be to issue a Request for Proposal for Race Director services was made by Vice Chairman Andrea and seconded by Member Sivakumar. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 5-2. It was further clarified that the Request for Proposal would need to be developed as soon as possible so that Board approval could take place in December or be open to considering other dates.



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D. Informational Memorandum – Recreation Third Quarter Program Statistic Report

Superintendent Buscemi reviewed the executive summary reviewing the third quarter program statistics including program's revenue, expenses, net revenue, margins, cost recovery and participation numbers.

Staff Report

Superintendent Parchutz reviewed his staff report. Highlights included the storm damage that occurred causing large trees at Barbara Key Park and the Hain House to up-end. Staff was able to clean up and have both locations back open within a week. There was also damage to four roof structures that required an outside company to make the necessary repairs. In addition, the completion of both pickleball courts at Sunset and Leroy Guy Parks along with the HVAC upgrade at the Ford School.

Superintendent Buscemi reviewed her staff report starting with a list of the upcoming special events that require volunteers. Highlights included the Behavior Management Training hosted by the NISRA staff. She shared that the Buddy Baseball program will be brought back next spring and it be co-op'd with NISRA. Staff will also look at other possibilities for that field. Moving forward, staff will work with NISRA on future programs to make them more all-inclusive. She then pointed out that this year when we held the Movie at the Park, they were able to include closed captioning and added extra handicapped parking. End of Summer programs included Dog Days of Summer, Pond Exploration at Turtle Island, the Rec2U van was at Sunset Fest, Come Play with Us event. The Adult/Seniors held events including a Lake Geneva boat ride, lunch and Rush Creek Distillery tour, Arlington Park Racetrack and the Fireside Dinner Theatre in November. They continue to meet at Village Hall weekly for Bingo, Card games, Player's choice game day and once a month for UFO – Unfinished Craft Objects club. Youth sports started the early fall sessions and Preschool Academy started in September. Beyond the Bell is back at Lincoln Prairie and the annual "Lights on Afterschool" event is scheduled in October. Superintendent Buscemi provided each of the Board Members with a personal invitation to be part of this nationwide celebration and to support the impact that this afterschool programing can have on a youth development. In August, the Connor Kincaid Memorial Fishing Tournament took place with 125 participants.

Park Steward Reports

Member Wackerlin visited Lynn Dillow Park, and everything looked good except for two comments. First, the blue paint on the playground equipment was starting to chip and second, there were alot of water bottle caps all over the wood chip area. He picked up about 50-60 bottle caps. He also visited Stoneybrook and was pleasantly surprised with how much this park had to offer. Besides the beautiful playground there was Bocci Ball, Volleyball and Basketball courts. All was new with no issues and very well kept.

Chairwoman Tredore visited Turtle Island. This was her first visit since renovations, and it was beautiful. There were two issues in the gazebo. First, the two benches need to have the bolts tightened. Second, there are alot of spider webs inside the top of the roof and around the light. In addition, there are alot of weeds in the grass area and some of the newer tree water bags were empty.

Vice-Chairman Andrea visited Nature's View Park and commented that the way they incorporated the playground into the view of the pond is very beautiful and relaxing. Everything looks great. He also visited Sunset Park and said the new pickleball courts look great and thanked Scott for getting that done. Only thing that could use attention is the main parking lot because it is starting to show age from so much use.

Member Cairns visited Leroy Guy Park and asked if the parking lots were on a schedule like the playground were. Superintendent Parchutz replied they were. Member Cairns said that was the main thing that stood out that the



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parking needs attention. He also visited Ryder Park and said it was one of his favorite playgrounds. The only thing that stood out was it looked like a resident's tree went down coming into the park and it had barricades around it. Superintendent Parchutz replied that forestry is working to clean it all up.

Member Sivakumar visited LaBuy Park and commented everything look great and was peaceful. Issues included the bridge that you can walk on requires a coat of paint and a second trashcan or recycling bin is needed. There is concrete missing from around the slides. She also visited Richard Taylor Skate Park. She doesn't know anything about skate parks and questioned if it should look that worn. Superintendent Parchutz replied it was only 2 years old and that was part of the décor including the graffiti. She also comments that the parking lot striping and potholes could use attention.

Member Donahue visited the Hain House. She commented about that she knew renovations were taking place and the property and landscaping still looked beautiful. She also visited Plote Field and park and the dug outs looked good. Only question she had was they look flat and was wondering how much water they would hold with heavy rain. Superintendent Parchutz answered they do hold a little.

Member Carman visited Horner Park and commented this is a new park and everything looked great. No weeds and there were a couple of kids there. They commented that they liked it better when it was all one color because that is how they identified the park to their friends.

Village Trustee Liaison Report

Trustee Anderson started by saying nice work on the Larsen Park project and wanted to make sure that the Food Pantry was included to join in on these types of discussions. She also wanted to encourage everyone to attend the ribbon cutting ceremonies that are held for the community because it is a great time to hear how much the community appreciates the hard work done by this committee.

Member Reports

None

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Cairns and seconded by Vice Chairman Andrea. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

There being no further business to discuss, the Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey A. Padula".

Tracey A. Padula