



Village of Lake in the Hills

600 Harvest Gate, Lake in the Hills, Illinois 60156

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. Roll Call was answered by Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Sivakumar, Donahue, Carman, and Vice-Chairman Andrea. Chairwoman Tredore was absent.

Also present were, Public Works Director Tom Migatz, Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz, Recreation Superintendent Kim Buscemi, Recreation Supervisor Kristi Brewer, Trustee Wendy Anderson, Assistant Village Administrator Shannon Andrews, and Recording Secretary Dana Popovich.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Parks and Recreation meeting minutes of December 2, 2022 was made by Member Cairns and seconded by Member Carman. On roll call vote, Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Sivakumar, Donahue, Carman and Vice-Chairman Andrea voted Aye. No Nays. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. 2021 Year End Review-Program Statistics

Superintendent Parchutz reviewed the year-end financial and program statistics for 2021. Highlights included Facility Rental Revenue of \$29,527.50, Park Shelter Rental Revenue of \$7,390.00, Bark Park Revenue of \$33,433.00, Lake and Boat Revenue of \$10,692.00, and Community Garden Revenue of \$810.00. The gross income from rental and permit revenue is \$81,852.50.

B. Lynn Dillow Playground Replacement

Assistant Village Administrator Andrews started the discussion about the Lynn Dillow playground replacement and went through where staff was coming from. She said it stemmed from the discussion about the Larson Park planning and the Boards wanting an inclusive park. At that time, the Board expressed concern that while this has been an interest and priority for many years, the necessary funding had not been made available. Assistant Village Administrator Andrews stated that funding has been incorporated in the 2022 Fiscal Budget. She also stated that the Larson Park Project has not been ruled out as an all-inclusive park, but that we also have other opportunities that should be looked at.

One of the reasons Lynn Dillow is being considered is that the features are conducive for that kind of park. There is parking and handicap parking available and walkways to both the playground and basketball courts. There would be some work that would need to be done on the surface of the playground to ensure access to all the playground equipment, but this park does seem to meet the criteria to be considered for an inclusive park. We have requested an additional \$60,000 dollars in funds from the Village Board in order to move forward and at least explore the possibility. The Village Board supported that request and we have \$223,000 for this playground replacement. How we utilize that still has to be determined. Step one in helping us identify in how to move forward was to go through the process of conducting a survey. There were a couple of things that stood out, first was that there were two individuals that have a person in their home that would require special accommodations for them to use the park. Fifty-nine residents provided ideas on how to improve the parks. Nineteen volunteered to be in a focus group for inclusive park designs. If we are going to move forward with trying to incorporate inclusive design in any of our parks, we really need to have a team of people in the community that have more knowledge and experience on



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how to design an inclusive play space for the kids. We are hoping to have more information at the February meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to determine how the Parks and Recreation Board would like to move forward with the equipment replacement at Lynn Dillow Park.

Assistant Administrator Andrews opened the discussion to the Board to get their feedback. Member Carman stated that she would really like to see an inclusive park. She also added that people are willing to travel to this kind of park. This would be good for our town and our economy. Member Sivakumar agreed with Member Carman. Member Donahue agrees and added that we should be looking at any park we are replacing equipment to include some inclusive features. She believes that this is going to be the future of park development. She also would like there to be a list of each park and their amenities so one can easily identify which park offers the features they would want. Assistant Administrator Andrews commented that our designers have been working very hard to make sure our web site has very detailed information about each park. Member Wackerlin thinks we should focus on making two parks all-inclusive, one on the east side and one on the west, instead of having one or two features at every park. Member Carman spoke to that in saying that we really need to have some inclusive activities at each park. Trustee Anderson thinks we should really focus on Lynn Dillow and see if we could make it a fully inclusive park, not just a patchwork park.

Assistant Administrator Andrews stated that the budget of \$223,000 may not be enough to make it a true all-inclusive park. She stated that we are going to have to change the footprint of the park. Also, what kind of equipment would be needed and whether that \$223,000 is going to be sufficient, we don't know yet. Tonight, we need to figure out if Lynn Dillow could be an inclusive park. The survey did show that we do have a couple families that would require special accommodations to utilize the park. She would like the Board to decide if not just for the couple of families in the survey, but for others who could benefit from this kind of park. Is Lynn Dillow that park? That may not be fully answered at this moment, but this is our opportunity at the moment. Member Donahue stated do we really need just inclusive features or an inclusive park and whether it is at Lynn Dillow or do other parks need to be explored. More research needs to be completed. Vice-Chairman Andrea stated he is in support of exploring Lynn Dillow since the funds have already been approved. Assistant Administrator Andrews stated that if we move forward and find that the funds are not enough we would have to go the Village Board and request additional funds. Member Wackerlin says that the question is being asked of us to decide if Lynn Dillow is the right park to consider all-inclusive. He feels it is too hidden and not off any main roads. He feels if he had to make a choice between Lynn Dillow or Larson, he would rather Larson be all-inclusive. He encourages the Board members to take a look at Lynn Dillow before making any decisions. Member Wackerlin thinks that maybe some inclusive features could be added at Lynn Dillow, but does not feel it should be the all-inclusive park.

Vice-Chairman Andrea speaks to that and thinks it is too soon to make any decisions without seeing a masterplan. He agrees with Member Wackerlin about including some inclusive features at Lynn Dillow, just not all-inclusive.

Member Sivakumar agrees with Member Wackerlin that Lynn Dillow is not a conducive location for an all-inclusive park, some elements yes, but no all-inclusive. Trustee Anderson stated that the Board should be focusing on the area, Lynn Dillow is in the middle of a huge residential area. That is something to keep in mind.

Assistant Administrator Andrews summarizes that there is vast support for considering inclusive play and adding inclusive features at Lynn Dillow, but having it be the essential all-inclusive park is where there is a difference of opinion.

Assistant Administrator Andrews stated that she agrees with Trustee Anderson. The response from the survey indicated that either 20 people or 20% of the people that visit the park, drive to the park. That is why there is a parking lot and the ability for the population to have access to the park. Assistant Administrator Andrews also



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stated that there are going to be limitations on availability and timing of when these opportunities come up. We can identify in part of the master park planning process which park might be best for an all-inclusive park, but it may be years before that happens. There needs to be an understanding that how we proceed with this could be impactful. It may or may not happen with Larson, and we do not want to miss the opportunity at Lynn Dillow.

Member Donahue spoke about the frog at Lynn Dillow, and requested that we do not remove it as the residents requested. Assistant Administrator Andrews agreed with that.

Staff Report

Superintendent Buscemi reviewed her staff report which included the upcoming events for January and February. Also, asking if anyone would like to volunteer for any of the events to let her know. She highlighted some of the events that took place in December. This included tree decorating at the Algonquin Library with the Beyond the Bell Afterschool Program. There was a Funtastic Camp over the holiday break. There was a house decorating contest. The Holiday Lights Bus Tour was sold out for each of the three nights. The adult seniors took a trip in early December to Naperville for a holiday trolley ride and dinner at Francesca's. She also talked about the adult drop-in activities.

Pre- School was back in session. There was a brief pause on Monday January 3, just to take a look at mitigation procedures and see if there were any changes that needed to be made. Superintendent Buscemi asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

Village Trustee Liaison Report

Trustee Anderson expressed her appreciation for everyone bringing their heart and soul to the Parks and Recreation Department. She also wants to make sure that there is clear communication between the Village and staff, as well as the Board members. She said we need to work together to have one clear vision. She also thinks everyone is doing a great job and to just keep working together as one village.

Member Reports

None

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Sivakumar and seconded by Member Carman. On roll call vote Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Sivakumar, Donahue, Carman, and Vice Chairman Andrea voted Aye. No Nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Popovich".

Dana Popovich

Recording Secretary