

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2023 5:30 P.M., Reinders Room

Present: Trustee and Chairperson Katy Cornell, Village President Neil Palmer, Ms. Stacy Barry-Coffey, Dr. Susan Retzack, Mr. Ryan Black, Trustee Kristina Sayas, Ms. Allison Kelly

Absent: Mr. Wes Parkin

Also Present: Mr. Dave De Angelis, Village Manager; Ms. Katherine Gehl, Assistant Manager/Zoning & Planning Administrator

1.) Call meeting to order

Trustee & Chairperson Katy Cornell called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2.) Review and act on minutes dated October 20, 2022

Mr. Palmer motioned to approve the minutes dated October 22, 2022 as presented. Mr. Black seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Ms. Barry-Coffey arrived at 5:33 P.M.

3.) Discussion and possible action on request from Junior Spartans regarding baseball fields

Dr. Chris Spahr, President of Junior Spartans Board, was present at the meeting.

Dr. Spahr explained that Junior Spartans has had a partnership with the Village for four seasons. Mr. Spahr had worked with a previous Recreation Manager to add 50'x70' base distances to the Village baseball diamonds for his older teams to use. Mr. Spahr reached out to the most recent Recreation Manager after the 2022 season and explained that there are a couple of Junior Spartans teams that need to play at shorter distances than what is currently there and is requesting that 60' base distances be added. Mr. Spahr also stated that he had concerns with field prep last year with fields either being very soft or very hard.

Dr. Retzack agreed that the baseball fields could use additional maintenance.

Mr. De Angelis stated that the Village hires a company to come in every other year to re-dress fields and this helps the condition of the dirt. Mr. De Angelis stated this is planned to be done this year.

Mr. Palmer suggested a potential increase in field rental fees to cover extra charges for better maintenance if needed. Mr. Palmer also stated he was In favor of adding the additional distance.

Chairperson Cornell suggested having regular "check-in's" with Dr. Spahr throughout the season about the field conditions.

Ms. Barry-Coffey and Dr. Retzack suggested looking into what other communities are doing for re-dressing.

Dr. Spahr stated he would like to get the Junior Spartans involved to do work around the park. Staff will send info about "park clean-up" in April.

The Committee also discussed new batters boxes as well. This was last done two Recreation Manager's ago.

Dr. Retzack motioned to approve adding the additional base distance to the baseball fields. Ms. Barry-Coffey seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

4.) Recreation Manager Update

Mr. De Angelis and Ms. Gehl gave an update to the Committee about the current hiring situation for the Recreation Manager. Staff will be doing interviews with a number of candidates in the coming week.

5.) Discussion and possible action on summer staff wages

Ms. Sayas arrived at 6:15 P.M.

Ms. Gehl updated the Committee on the current situation with summer staff. There are still a number of open positions that need to be filled.

Ms. Barry-Coffey suggested reaching out to the YMCA or Red Cross to see when lifeguard classes are being offered and if they can be advertised in our Summer Recreation Guide.

The Committee asked about age qualifications for the summer staff. Staff will look at ages of job postings on the village website and will update. The Committee also suggested sending job postings to the Elmbrook Swim Club.

Mr. Palmer motioned to approve the summer staff wages as proposed. Ms. Kelly seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

6.) Discussion and possible action on National Fitness Campaign Proposal

Chairperson Cornell stated she reviewed the National Fitness Campaign Proposal and liked the proposal; however, thought it was a large project to take on in the absence of a Recreation Manager.

Mr. De Angelis stated that it would be a large cost and it would take up a lot of space in park.

Mr. Palmer has seen these facilities around the country and believes they are nice facilities but would like to look at it later when there is a Recreation Manager.

Ms. Kelly motioned to table the item. Dr. Retzack seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

7.) Discussion and possible action on memorial bench donation

Mr. De Angelis explained that the Village had been contacted by an individual looking to donate a bench in the park. Staff is unable to find the map that the Recreation Committee created to mark future bench locations, so the item had to be brought before the Committee.

Chairperson Cornell thought there was a need for more permanent seating near the pool and suggested taking a donation for this. Heavy resin benches or picnic tables were suggested for the pool area or splash pad area.

The Committee agrees that a few different types of these items should be picked out by the Committee and then added to the brochure that outlines items that can be donated.

The Committee directed staff to ask the potential donor if she would like to donate a bench to the pool area or outside the pool area.

Mr. Palmer believes the Recreation Committee should create a new map for bench locations.

8.) Summer Program Update

Ms. Gehl gave an update on the Summer Recreation Guide. The Guide is being completed by a small number of staff members and it is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. There will be a new class offered this year through the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation.

9.) Summer Events Update

Ms. Gehl informed the Committee that the Junior Guild has informed staff that they will not be organizing the games at the 4th of July celebration. The Committee would still like to have the bike contest, baking contest, run, food trucks, and DJ. The Committee suggested having the fire trucks come a little earlier before fireworks.

The Committee discussed potentially changing the fireworks/celebration to Labor Day but thought the community would like to keep the celebration on the 4th of July.

The Committee directed staff to create a “mock” schedule for the 4th of July celebration that can be reviewed by the Recreation Committee in time to include in the Summer Recreation Guide.

10.) Other Business

Dr. Retzack asked staff about the maintenance being done on the splash pad. Mr. De Angelis stated the lining of pipe will be done in April. Dr. Retzack also asked if the basketball court is planning to be resurfaced. Mr. De Angelis stated that he will have to look at the Capital Budget to see what year the project is planned for. Dr. Retzack asked that the 2022 earnings from the pool and summer programming as well as the beer garden be emailed to the Committee. Dr. Retzack inquired if the beer garden area was fixed. Mr. De Angelis stated that new turf that is designed for heavy use was installed in the beer garden area. Staff will monitor how it holds up during this years’ beer garden.

11.) New Business

Ms. Barry-Coffey noted that the park master plan is still outstanding.

Dr. Retzack brought to the Committee a comment from a new resident about Malone Park in New Berlin that is designed for older and younger children. Dr. Retzack thought this should be reviewed when the Recreation Committee is reviewing the existing playground.

Mr. Palmer suggested that a “want list” should be put together for projects the Recreation Committee would be interested in pursuing when a Recreation Manager is hired.

12.) Adjourn

Ms. Barry-Coffey motioned to adjourn. Ms. Kelly seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Katherine Gehl, Assistant Manager/Zoning & Planning Administrator