

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Recreation Advisory Committee
May 4, 2015
7:00pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on May 4 at the Field House Sports & Fitness Center, 800 Baldwin Ave, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jay Lerner, Superintendent of Recreation who directed a call of the roll.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner, George Bridges, Caryn Clothier, Odie Pahl, Mercedes Rivera, Della Steele, Greg Petry, Jay Lerner, Errick Beverly, Mike Mayfield, Quincy Bejster, Sam Stevens, Elizabeth Fallon

Absent: Peggi Braden, Sara Griffin, Karen Harris, Jerry Holisky, Sharon Hoyle-Yap, Diane Kajfez, Desiree Martinez, Jesus Martinez, David Motley, Dulce Ortiz, Martha Padilla-Ramos, Doris Richter

Due to lack of a quorum, no official board business was conducted.

III. Review, Discuss, Decide

A. Aquatics Update and Discussion

1. Stevens gave an update on the pool project explaining changes and additions to the design including the increase from 6 to 8 lanes in the lap pool to be able to accommodate swim competitions, redesigned therapy pool, tots play pool, additional multipurpose room attached to the current child center, family changing rooms and an additional 150 parking spaces. Stevens shared a handout with pool plan.
2. Stevens continues to develop the fee structure and programs which would include more swim lessons during the school year, special recreation swim lessons and working with Waukegan High School usage needs.
3. Greg gave an update on the funding status conveying an optimistic message that the 2015 grant funding would be released for the pool project, as well as the Clearview Park project, and that alternate plans are in place in the case that the funding is not available.

B. Youth Athletics

1. Beverly reported to the committee that Kaitlin Fischer, the new Recreation Specialist, Youth Athletics, is doing a great job accommodating programs to the needs of the community. This session 300 kids are participating in youth athletic programs which include an increase in skills & drills programs offered.
2. New for spring: providing activities that combine Fitness and Athletics together for programs in the schools and inviting schools to the FH for evening programs. Little Fort School came to the Field House on April 30 with over 300 participants, students and parents. New for summer is Girls (only) t-ball in addition to the regular t-ball program, and more skills camps and programs. During a discussion about which parks are being used for programs Greg suggested also planning programs for Arbor Park. Beverly asked for suggestions of other sports skills programs.

C. Field House Update

1. Bejster reported to the committee that current membership totals are at 3386. For summer we brought back the successful baseball themed promotion for membership. New members choose their favorite Chicago baseball team and however many games your team wins you get that many dollars off the following month. Also for summer Bejster has renewed the Waukegan Marriott Intern program which provides memberships to summer college interns residing at the Marriott. Interns come from all over the country for internships at Abbott and Baxter.
2. Stevens updated the committee on a new exercise program coming to the FH called Fitness on Demand. This program is a video exercise program which will be set up in the fitness studio to enhance our current group exercise class offerings. During off peak times for fitness classes we can still offer a class type program using Fitness on Demand for the members who would like to participate in that type of fitness. This would be part of the Gold membership. Suggestions from the committee were to include Fitness on Demand in the drop in fee schedule.
3. Bejster reported that a new Recreation Specialist position for the Field House has been developed with a new hire expected soon. This position would focus on programs and events at the FH such as a running/walking club with incentives, triathlon when the pool comes, working with our WorkFit businesses to create a more interactive relationship, working with our insurance group partners, Healthways and American Specialty Health. Bejster explained to the committee how a member can get signed up for a membership through their participating health insurance provider. Greg suggested looking through the ESRI report for the top fifty activities for ideas for

programs.

D. Belvidere Recreation Center

1. Mayfield updated the committee on the progress of converting office space to program space giving a handout of photos of how the new space looks. The project is 95% complete. To be added are computer workstations. This space is being used for early childhood programs, summer day camp, and recently the babysitting class was held in this space.
2. Mayfield gave an update on the new building hours. The regular hours are M-F 4pm-8pm & Sat 9am-2pm with summer hours extended to M-F 9am-8pm & Sat 9am-2pm. Summer hours will be May-August. Lerner added that overall the building has seen a decrease in traffic so it was decided to make a change in the regular hours.
3. Mayfield and Lerner talked about the new Recreation Specialist position created to focus on Family Programs, Special Interests and Volunteers. A new hire is expected soon.
4. Mayfield reported on the \$15,000 nutrition and literacy grant from NPRA and Walmart to provide breakfast and lunch to summer camps and snacks to the after school program.
5. New programs for spring and summer include Father/Daughter and Mother/Son programs. The first Mother/Son dance was very successful. Coming up is Mother/Son kickball and Father/Daughter canoeing cookout. This summer there is a partnership with the school district to provide day camp after summer school. We are working on setting up a similar program for B.A.S.E. during the school year.

E. New Programs and Event Ideas

1. Lerner updated the committee on the Touch A Truck event and the Family Yard Sale. Lerner asked for suggestions for other programs and events.

IV. Closed Session

There was no closed session

V. Adjournment

Lerner announced the next scheduled meeting is December 7, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm