

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District  
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Recreation Advisory Committee  
May 8, 2017  
7:00pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on May 8, 2017 at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics 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 and welcomed new members.

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Jay Lerner, Superintendent of Recreation; Errick Beverly, Recreation Manager; Quincy Bejster, Recreation Manager; Jen Dumas, Recreation Supervisor; Mike Mayfield, Recreation Supervisor; Shelby McDonald, Recreation Supervisor; Mercedes Rivera; Peggi Braden; Odie Pahl; Brain Cowart; Nadine Burluson; Mandi Florip; Eric Lyons; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Support Aide

Absent: Caryn Clothier; Sara Griffin; Jerry Holisky; Sharon Hoyle-Yap; David Motley; Dulce Ortiz; Martha Padilla-Ramos; Doris Richter; Della Steele; Greg Petry, Executive Director; George Bridges, Commissioner

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

**III. Review, Discuss, Decide**

**A. Belvidere Park Updates – Jay Lerner**

- There will be a Public Meeting on May 17 at 7:00pm to review plans and get community input for the Belvidere Park renovation.
- Households in the wards around the park have been mailed a post card about the public meeting, information has been included in the park district newsletter and at each facility advertising the meeting.
- Renovation considerations: Belvidere Recreation Center is over 50 years old and needs updates and renovations, Rose Administration Center may also have updates to the building or possibly an addition to BRC to remove it from the center of the park, Aquatic component to the park to either keep existing pool with updates, add splash pads, or remove pool and add pavilions and splash pads.

**B. GO Waukegan Updates – Shelby McDonald**

- GO Waukegan is part of a larger initiative through the Lake County Health Department to promote walking 30 minutes per day and increase activity for the residents of Lake County.
- Statistics show that Waukegan is the least healthy community in Lake County with higher incidence of diabetes, hyper tension, and obesity.

- The park district will have monthly events with the kick-off event on Saturday, May 13 at 9:00am at Hinkston Park. Raffle tickets can be earned for each lap around the path and prizes will be drawn every 30 minutes during the event. Each child that participates will get a pool pass to try out the pool for free. During the event Vista will be available for health screenings.

**C. Centennial Celebration – Jen Dumas**

- This year's American Independence Parade and Festival will be on July 2 and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the park district.
- The Festival will have a similar set up as previous years but with added games and activities including old and new games, entertainment, Centennial Time Capsule, and an Olde Time Baseball Game.
- So far \$4000 in sponsorship money has been raised for the event.

**D. Field House Family Nights – Shelby McDonald**

- Schools have been participating in Family Nights at the Field House to encourage health and fitness activities for the whole family. Several elementary schools have held Family Fitness Nights with huge success attracting 400 or more students and their families to each event.
- We are seeking suggestions on additional structured activities to have at the Family Nights. Suggestions from the committee were: Cardio Drumming, Kids Yoga, Kick Boxing, games like Kickball

**E. Free For All Update – Quincy Bejster**

- An explanation of previous Free For All events was given to the group
- Proposed changes include limiting the hours to daytime hours, changing it from free for all to free for youth up to 18 years old, and adding more structured activities during the event.
- The committee members asked for clarification of the goal of the event – is it to provide a safe place for kids to during time off from school or to get more exposure of the facility by offering free days – with both being goals the priority has become offering safe place for kids during time off from school.
- Suggestions from the committee included: have other free events during the year geared towards families to give exposure to the facility, offer these events on a regular basis such as once a quarter, change the name of the current Free For All event if it's only going to be free for youth

**F. New Programs/Event Ideas – Jen Dumas**

- New programs this year were the George Bridges 5K, and the Charity Hockey Game which were both successful and will continue.

- New programs coming up are the Touch A Truck event in collaboration with the city's Police Night Out event at the Waukegan Lakefront on July 28 and a summer Leadership Camp for teens which will focus on leadership skills, volunteerism as well as summertime fun.
- Special Events coming up are the Live Green Family Festival on May 20, Fishing Derby on June 3, American Independence Festivities July 2 and Community Yard Sale on July 15
- Suggestions from the committee for new programs were more hockey and skating programs, a different variety of martial arts

**G. Field House Steam Rooms – Quincy Bejster**

- The steam rooms in both the men's and women's locker rooms in the fitness center are being replaced due to general wear and usage. The new steam rooms are custom designed and will be a larger and better product.
- Expected completion date is May 12-17

**H. What Can We Do Better? – Jay Lerner**

Committee suggestions & comments:

- Inquiry about the bike trail connection from Lyons Woods as well as any other bike trails planned
- Pleased with increased Child Center hours for member use
- Suggestion to use school district gymnasiums for Jr Bulldogs Basketball. An inconsistent game schedule due to tournaments creates extra communication issues and frustration
- Longer distance race which would draw runners from both Chicago and Milwaukee
- Committee member suggestion to move the meeting off of first Mondays due to conflicts with city council meeting schedule. The committee all agreed second Mondays of May and December work fine for them.

**Closed Session**

There was no closed session

**IV. Adjournment**

Lerner thanked the committee members and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2017 at 7:00pm.

2018 Meeting Schedule: May 14, 2018 & December 10, 2018