

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Recreation Advisory Committee
May 14, 2018
6:00pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on May 14, 2018 at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center, 800 Baldwin Ave, Waukegan, Illinois

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation who directed a call of the roll and made introductions.

II. Roll Call

Present: Jay Lerner, Executive Director; Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation; Quincy Bejster, Deputy Superintendent; Mike Mayfield, Deputy Superintendent; Jen Dumas, Recreation Supervisor; Shelby McDonald, Recreation Manager; Yolanda Brown; Nadine Burluson; Brian Cowart; Mandi Florip; Eric Lyons; David Motley; Dulce Ortiz; Martha Padilla-Ramos; Odie Pahl; Mercedes Rivera; Elizabeth Fallon, Dept. Coordinator

Absent: Peggi Braden; Caryn Clothier; Sara Griffin; Doris Richter; Della Steele; George Bridges, Commissioner

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

III. Review, Discuss, Decide

A. New Recreation Department Structure – Errick Beverly

The Recreation Department and the Cultural Arts Department combined into one department in January. With this change there have been some personnel changes and promotions from within the park district. Two Deputy Superintendent positions were created. Quincy Bejster was promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Sports, Fitness, & Aquatics and Mike Mayfield was promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Recreation & Arts. Ty Rohrer was promoted to Manager of Cultural Arts and Shelby McDonald was promoted to Manager of the Field House & Aquatics. These personnel changes have also opened a few jobs which will be filled by new candidates. There are a lot of new things going on in the Recreation Department.

B. Park District App – Shelby McDonald

An interactive app for your smart phone is being developed for the park district which will have incentives and rewards for participation. This will be the first interactive park district app in the Chicagoland area. It is projected to be up and running in the Fall 2018.

C. Special Events

- Fishing Derby is June 2 at Bevier Park. The pond is stocked for this annual popular family fishing event. There are awards for largest catch in various age groups.
- Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival is June 2 in Bowen Park. This event is run by the Cultural Arts staff and is an art fair with performances throughout the day.
- The American Independence Parade is July 1 with no festival this year. Additional resources are being put towards getting more special units including drill teams, Jesse White Tumblers, and more. More effort has been made to increase the general unit participation.
 - David Motley asked if units are allowed to throw out candy. Mayfield informed the group that units are instructed to have extra people walking to hand out candy and treats and not to throw candy from their float or vehicle.
- Touch A Truck is August 3 and is a joint event with the City of Waukegan at the Waukegan Municipal Beach. There are a variety of trucks and vehicles, activities and games, and food truck vendors.
- Partners In Parks golf outing is July 27 at Bonnie Brook Golf Course and is a main fundraising event for scholarships. Mayfield will email committee members more information.

D. New Fitness Equipment – Quincy Bejster

- We are in the process of switching out the Technogym treadmills for Cybex treadmills which allow for greater interval training and provides features for tracking maintenance and repairs. We are expecting all new treadmills to be in place in June.
- There will also be Bike and Elliptical equipment replacements this year. There will be demo models coming over the next couple of months.

E. 2nd Grade Swim Lesson/Field Trip – Quincy Bejster

- The Waukegan Parks Foundation committed to funding a field trip to the Field House for each 2nd grade classroom (public, private and homeschool) in Waukegan for the purpose of providing a SwimSmart water safety class plus students also participated in a sports and fitness activity during the field trip visit. The park district provided the staff and programming, Keifer donated swimsuits, and the students went home with goodie bags with a family swim pass and some park district freebie items. This first year went well and 1200 2nd graders participated in the program. There has been great feedback from the students, teachers, principals and parents. The Waukegan Park Foundation is committed to continuing to financially support this program for another year.
 - Martha Padilla-Ramos suggested that a Go Fund Me page be created for donations to support the foundation initiative.
 - Dulce Ortiz asked how was the age/grade group was determined? Quincy responded that based on the current SwimSmart program lessons 2nd

grade is a highly teachable age with some retention as well as independent skills with regards to changing and caring for self.

- Dulce Ortiz inquired about statistics and tracking reports. Quincy responded that going forward we can track which students returned to sign up for swim lessons. Brian Cowart asked how we are tracking these students and Quincy responded that we have the names of each of the 2nd grade students who came for the field trip and can cross reference names of swim lesson registrations.
- Martha Padilla-Ramos commented that the real issue of drowning is for the teenagers since they could be at the lake on their own and asked how the park district is reaching that age group. Dulce Ortiz agreed that high school age is a good group to try to reach to reduce drowning rates. Staff commented that high school students have a swimming unit in their physical education class.
- Martha Padilla-Ramos asked about the participation level of adults in swim lessons. Quincy responded that there are usually 10 adults per session and approximately 200 youth per session. Yolanda Brown suggested trying different times to reach adults, especially older adults. Errick informed the group that there is currently Senior Aquatic Classes offered during the day time hours that are going great and growing.
- Martha Padilla-Ramos suggested that there be family swim lessons and Quincy informed the group that we currently have parent-tot swim lessons and also semi-private lessons can accommodate families.

F. GO Waukegan Updates – Shelby McDonald

- GO Waukegan is part of a larger initiative throughout the Lake County Health Department to promote walking 30 minutes per day and increase activity for the residents of Lake County. The initiative began with GO Gurnee and then GO Waukegan joined the effort and now many more communities have joined the initiative.
- The next GO Waukegan event will be at Bevier Park on July 28 in collaboration with the Lake County Forest Preserve and the opening of the trail connecting Lyons Woods and the Des Plaines River Trail.
- The park district will be partnering with the school district with the help of Mary Olsen bringing GO Waukegan events to the schools in the 2018-19 school year.

G. Bowen Greenhouse – Jen Dumas

- A grant through the Grainger Foundation was awarded for \$22,950 for the renovation of the Bowen Greenhouse. Construction began in February 2018 with the project completion later this month in May. The renovation has included new shelving, cabinets, sink, insulation, auto-ventilation system, auto-watering system, raised garden beds, and growing towers.
- Already a Special Recreation Leisure Ed program came to tour the greenhouse and learn about the growing process.

- There has been interest from schools and outside groups to assist throughout the year with growing, harvesting and maintaining the greenhouse.
- The Grand Opening event is still being planned. This information will be emailed to the committee.

H. Summer Day Camps – Jen Dumas and Mike Mayfield

- There are many options for Summer Day Camps this year which include 3 full day camps, 1 half day camp, and many specialty camps. Most camps have before and or after care for working parents that need extra care.

I. Park District Happenings - Jay

- Belvidere Park will officially be renamed Corrine J Rose Park in honor of the park district's first female director. This comes at a time when the park is being renovated including removing the current administration building, named for Corrine J Rose, and relocating administrative offices to Golf Rd. The park renovation will include a new playground, splash pads, picnic shelters, a new pool with a water slide, diving well, rock wall and splash pads. The bocce ball courts will be improved and there will be a fitness circle around the park. The projected Grand Opening will be Memorial Day 2019.
- The administrative offices are being renovated now and move in date is mid-summer. The logo being installed on the building will light up after the Grand Opening. The new building will provide for a more formal board room and staff training rooms.
- June 19 will be the Grand Opening of Clearview Park which has a new entrance on McAree Rd. Some of the park improvements include a new playground, splash pads, and basketball court. The funding came from an OSLAD grant.
- Committee member comments:
 - Dulce Ortiz asked if there would be a fee to use the park. Jay responded that the only fee will be for entrance into the pool. The pool fee may increase by a small percentage and we are working on a fee analysis now to continue to make it affordable. The rest of the park and the park splash pads will be open to the public with no charge. As with other park pavilions there is a reservation and permit process which includes a fee.
 - Dulce Ortiz asked if the Belvidere Rec Center would still be open for programming. Jay responded that Belvidere Rec Center would operate as normal and will be reviewed for renovation in the future. Errick added that there has been room in the park renovation plans for any possible future expansion including that of the Township's Park Place.

J. What Can We Do Better? – Errick Beverly

Committee suggestions & comments:

- Martha Padilla-Ramos suggested bringing a van or trailer to a park with play equipment including bicycles. Staff informed group we offer a few

programs with this concept including Meet Me in Your Park, Park & Play, and the ArtsPark Van has art and play equipment. Also in the summer families can check out camping equipment from BRC for a family camping trip.

- Nadine Burleson is looking forward to the movie in the park. Errick informed the group that not only is the movie free but also the popcorn is free thanks to a generous sponsor.
- David Motley commented that Gerry Cook is donating his time for a Women's Self Defense class.
- Erik Lyons inquired about a golf pass just for Greenshire. Jay informed Erik he would email him about this information.
- Dulce Ortiz suggested adding more information about the renovations and progress in the park district weekly emails.
- Yolanda Brown inquired if golf lessons are free. Errick informed the group that there is a charge for golf lessons.
- Martha Padilla-Ramos suggested that golf should offer a free trial lesson so more people could try it out and introduce golf to younger people.
- Nadine Burleson suggested better communication when group exercise classes need to be canceled. And during a recent canceled class the Fitness on Demand wasn't working. Quincy responded that we can do better at communicating.

Closed Session

There was no closed session

IV. Adjournment

Errick thanked the committee members for their time and invited them to provide feedback at any time. The 2018 meetings will be scheduled at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

2018 Meeting Schedule: December 10, 2018 at 6:00pm