

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Recreation Program Advisory Committee
December 10, 2018
6:00pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on December 10, 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 6:03pm by Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation who directed a call of the roll and made introductions.

II. Roll Call

Present: Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation; Quincy Bejster, Deputy Superintendent; Mike Mayfield, Deputy Superintendent; Jen Dumas, Recreation Supervisor; Kari Robinson, Special Recreation Supervisor; Cameron Crombie, Recreation Supervisor; Caryn Clothier; Brian Cowart; Eric Lyons; David Motley; Dulce Ortiz; Mercedes Rivera; Elizabeth Fallon, Dept. Coordinator

Absent: Marc Jones, Commissioner; Jay Lerner, Executive Director; Peggi Braden; Yolanda Brown; Nadine Burlison; Sara Griffin; Martha Padilla-Ramos; Odie Pahl; Doris Richter; Della Steele

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

III. Review, Discuss, Decide

A. Golf Update – Mike Jesse, Bonnie Brook Golf Pro

Over the past year Bonnie Brook Clubhouse completed renovation projects in the Banquet Room and Golf Club area updating flooring and décor. The new dinner events, Grillin' & Chillin' and Tacos & Tunes, have seen an increase in attendance this year. Due to the weather there was a decrease in league play but overall there was an increase in tee times as well as Golf Club food purchase. The Howie Robinson Indoor Golf and Learning Center will have upgrades including an 18 hole simulator. Events that went well were the Spring Scramble and Glow Golf at Greenshire. Both of these events will be enhanced in 2019. The Bonnie Brook Season Passes will be the same with an addition of unlimited cart added to the premium unlimited golf pass. All golf outings from 2018 have re-signed for 2019.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Will there be a Season Pass just for Greenshire?
 - This is being discussed and feedback is appreciated
- Are there any off season activities planned on the golf course such as XC Skiing or Snowshoeing?
 - These types of activities are being explored. Special barriers need to be purchased to protect the greens plus special storage features for

equipment. The clubhouse dinner and music events will go on throughout the winter.

B. Holiday Programming

- Free For All – Quincy Bejster

The hours for Free For All will be the same as last year, 10am-6pm, on the scheduled days. This was successful in getting our target population of youth and teens into the building for activities. There will be one less day of Free For All this year due to a gymnastics tournament scheduled for the first weekend in January.

Handouts: Free For All Flyer

- Holiday Adventures – Jen Dumas

During the winter school break there are 6 days of out of school all day programming. The program runs from 7am-6pm each day for ages 6-12. Each day there is a special outing, plus planned crafts, games, and activities to keep the kids active.

- Christmas with the Clauses – Jen Dumas

This program is on December 15 with two session options for morning or afternoon. Participants visit Santa's Workshop set up in Jane Addams Center, decorate cookies, make a craft, sing songs, and then have a special one on one visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This is a very popular program which fills up each year.

Committee member questions and comments:

- Do you get this information out to the schools?
 - Information is promoted through the quarterly PLAY Newsletter with seasonal programs that is distributed to students at each elementary school, the brochure that gets delivered to resident mailboxes, promotional flyers, facility marquees, and social media including facebook and the park district website.

C. Special Events

- 2018 Event Recap – Quincy Bejster/Mike Mayfield

It has been a busy summer and fall. Changes made to improve special events were successful with increased or improved participation at events including the Vendor Fair, 5K & World Wide Day of Play, Turkey Trot, Halloweenfest, the Parade, Eggstravaganza Trail, and Touch A Truck.

Each special event relies on sponsorship money which has been decreasing over the past few years. Turkey Trot was at Bevier Park, which was a recommendation of this committee, and participants were very happy with the new location. World Wide Day of Play is the only event that saw a decrease in interest and this event will be revamped for 2019.

Committee member questions and comments:

- What was the feedback on eliminating the Festival?

- There were very few people who even commented with most comments relating to the absence of food in Bowen Park where many gather to watch the Parade.
 - What was the response to the new line up with extra entertainment in the Parade?
 - The response was all positive towards the added music and entertainment special units secured for the Parade.
- Polar Bear Plunge – Kari Robinson
This year is the 20th Annual Polar Bear Plunge which benefits the Special Recreation Scholarship fund. These monies go towards Special Olympic fees including team uniforms, supplies, and traveling costs for teams that go to state competitions and also assist families with Summer Camp fees. Event sponsors are charged a \$250 fee and get their name on the t-shirt as well as being included in all social media promotions. We are looking for additional sponsors for this year. The sponsor deadline is December 14. The event received great press coverage last year due to our event being the only event not cancelled due to the extreme temperatures on that day.
Handouts: Polar Bear Plunge Sponsor Form, Plunger Form, and Pledger Form.
- Upcoming Events – Quincy Bejster
At the Field House in January there will be a Blood Drive and also a park district Job Fair advertising to fill current jobs and summer seasonal jobs.
Handouts: Promotional Flyers for Blood Drive and Job Fair

D. Swim Program Updates – Quincy Bejster/Cameron Crombie

- Quincy Bejster introduced the new Recreation Supervisor of Aquatics, Cameron Crombie, who started in June 2018. Cameron was a previous seasonal employee for seven years and graduated from the University of Iowa in May 2018.
- Cameron gave an update on current swim programs. Fall swim lessons had a total of 506 participants, 2nd Grade Field Trips have seen 5 schools and 318 students so far this fall, and Family Saturday Swim Nights have seen a dramatic increase in participation due to improved promotional efforts and programming ideas. The largest event was Dec 8, Swimming with Santa, with 50 participants. It was a great event and the busiest Saturday evening the pool has had since opening.
Handout: Promotional Flyer for Swimming with Santa and photos from event

E. S.T.E.A.M. Programming – Jen Dumas

S.T.E.A.M. programming has been a collaborative effort between Recreation and Arts. Some new things happening this year are a Gaming Truck event, a Video Game Tournament, increased nature programming with the Greenhouse, S.T.E.A.M. Discovery Fair, S.T.E.A.M. Camp Night program during Spring Break, and a new S.T.E.A.M. related camp for summer. Programs that have been

offered for about a year but are just beginning to gain interest are Computer Design and 3D Printing.

Errick Beverly added that ESports are trending and we want to reach out to the kids interested in video games and ESports to engage them in our facilities and with our staff.

Handouts: Promotional Flyer of S.T.E.A.M. programs

F. Rose Park Splash Pad & Park Renovations – Quincy Bejster/Errick Beverly

Still in the planning stages but getting close to completing the plan will be the largest and greatest public splash pad in the Midwest. If all goes well we will be able to open for a few weeks starting in September 2019. There were discussions on building a pool versus a splash pad and the splash pad offers lower operating costs, greater accessibility for all in our community, and a longer operational season. An outdoor pool offers 10 weeks, at most, of seasonal use and a splash pad/park can offer 22 weeks of seasonal use. The splash pad is just a portion of the total renovation planned for Rose Park which will also include a premium playground, picnic shelters, and expanded parking. Construction is set to begin in March 2019.

Errick Beverly added that the slide structures planned will be 40 feet high and will be visible from the road. Rose Park will be a destination park even grander than Bowen Park.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Will the splash pad be fenced and gated?
 - There is a bather load restriction that so there will be a 6 foot fence and entrance gate.
- Will the splash pad have a bigger footprint than the current Ganster Pool area?
 - The area of the splash pad will be 14,000 square feet which is larger than the current Ganster Pool area.
- Will there be concessions?
 - There will be a concession area as well as new restrooms.
- Will a 6 foot fence be adequate since there is currently an 8 foot fence around Ganster Pool?
 - The 6 foot fence will allow a degree of visibility and with no standing water when not in operation there is less concern for any potential after hour unauthorized entrance.
- Will there be lifeguards?
 - There will be lifeguards and attendants.
- Is there a concern about vandalism?
 - There isn't any more concern about vandalism in Rose Park than in any other park. There are methods in place to help identify and control vandalism.
- Will the park be lighted?
 - There will be lighting.

- As in the past will a Field House Membership allow access to the Splash Park?
 - Field House Member Passes that included the pool will now include the Splash Park.
- Will the park district take over the lake front beach?
 - The lake front is city property and the beach has staff called beach rangers who patrol and care for the beach area, there are no lifeguards on duty and the city has no responsibility once someone enters the water.
- There was opposition in the community to eliminating the outdoor pool, how did you deal with this?
 - This was addressed with the community and the numbers were the most compelling factor since a pool typically has a loss of \$200,000 per year and on top of that the fact that a splash pad park increases accessibility and days of usage.
- What will the cost be to participants?
 - That still needs to be decided but in the range of a \$3-\$4 entrance fee and we are considering season pass fees.
- What is the total cost of the project?
 - The estimate is currently around 4 - 5 million dollars.
- Will bids go to local companies and will they be required to hire local workers?
 - It is the policy of the park district to contract with local companies and those companies are required to use local workers.
- When will the project be completed?
 - The projected completion date is September 2019 but as with any project the biggest hold up can be permits and inclement weather.

G. Park District App – Quincy Bejster

The launch date for the Waukegan Park District App is March 2019. Users will be able to check into parks and facilities and utilize interactive games for reward points as well as look up information and links to the website. We will be the leader in Illinois park districts in rolling this out to the community.

H. New Equipment and New Carpet Field House – Quincy Bejster

2018 Capital Improvement Projects in the Fitness Center are complete with the purchase and installation of new treadmills, elliptical trainers, and cross trainers, as well as new carpet. The old equipment and carpet were original to the opening of the facility and had long outlived their normal lifespan.

I. What Can We Do Better? – Errick Beverly

Committee suggestions & comments:

- Brian Cowart relayed information that he has been hearing from the community that there is a gap in availability and accessibility for indoor soccer, plus the current facility is busting at the seams. Dulce Ortiz added

that the group that runs indoor soccer seems to have a monopoly. Caryn Clothier added that there are large empty buildings such as the closing HOBOS location that could be re-utilized.

- Errick Beverly responded that the park district tends to stick with what we do best, does not over step or duplicate outside groups' efforts and the park district has no plans to invest in another facility at this time but will to look into the situation.
- David Motley responded that Heart of the City has looked at the properties on Belvidere Rd and have expressed interested.
- Errick Beverly responded that we currently partner with Heart of the City for their outdoor space needs and will continue to be a community partner with them.
- Brian Cowart inquired about the outdoor ice rink locations for this winter.
 - Errick Beverly responded that the outdoor rinks will be at Victory Park and Arbor Park and added that there are preliminary cost analyses being done for a possible permanent outdoor rink.

Closed Session

There was no closed session

IV. Adjournment

Errick Beverly thanked the committee members for their time and invited them to provide feedback at any time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

2019 Meeting Schedule: May 13, 2019 and December 9, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,
Errick Beverly
Superintendent of Recreation