

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District  
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Special Recreation Program Advisory Committee  
April 15, 2019**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a Special Meeting of the Special Recreation Program Advisory Committee on April 15, 2019 at the Douglas House, 732 North Genesee Street, Waukegan, Illinois.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Julie Schneider who directed a Call of the Roll and introductions of interns.

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Jay Lerner, Executive Director; Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation; Mike Mayfield, Deputy Superintendent; Julie Schneider, Manager of General & Special Recreation; Kari Robinson, Supervisor of Special Recreation; Maria Owens, Specialist of Special Recreation; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Coordinator; Melissa Juarez-Ehlers; Mercedes Rivera; Janalle Roth.  
Interns: Lauren Burnell; Filip Ferguson  
Absent: George Bridges, Commissioner; Jean Kulczyk; Christian Torres; Tina Yurik

Being that there was no quorum of the board, no official business was conducted.

**I. Review, Discuss, Decide**

**A. Fundraising Efforts**

- 2019 Polar Bear Plunge raised a record \$14,348. Additional sponsors and a few Pledge Plungers increased this year's donations.
- 2018 George Bridges 5K Run/Walk raised \$2450.
- WHS Booster Club fundraiser emailed Kari to say that they raised \$3700 and a check was being sent.

**B. Camp**

- Field Trip Ideas
  - Looking for ideas for field trips not more than 45 minutes away with a few current plans going to the same farm as last summer and bringing in a Drum Circle program for an on-site field trip
  - If anyone has other ideas please email Kari

**C. Programs/Services**

- IAPD PowerPlay! Grant of \$1000 was awarded for 2019 and will be used in camps funding sports and fitness activities.
- Summer Programming
  - Awarded the Autism Speaks Grant which will be funding Summer Camp Swim Lessons and will pay for lifeguards, instructors, adaptive equipment including swimsuits for any participants with needs. The swim lessons will include instruction time and water play time.

- Go Waukegan - Dates for 2019 are in the SRSNLC brochure and will continue to promote this program to families. New this year there will be a GLOW Walk.
- Staycation - This season the Staycation program headed to Schaumburg for dinner and a comedy show on Friday evening. Participants got to choose what they wanted to do on Saturday and they chose shopping.
  - This summer the Staycation will be a Lake County tour including a trip to Independence Grove, outdoor concert, and the Wildlife Museum
  - Looking for additional ideas for local staycations, not more than one hour away:
  - Committee member suggestions:  
Chicago Train trip – museums, Millennium Park, dinner  
Cabin camping at local Boy Scout Camp  
Great Wolf Lodge  
After Hours @ Field House  
Melissa commented that Clearbrook is doing something similar with local overnight programs which have been popular
- Activity Ideas
  - H.E.A.R.T. program currently has 8 participants with the program meeting 2 times per month 10am-2pm. Starting in August this program will meet 3 times per month. They have been getting out into the community to practice etiquette skills at restaurants and learning new skills at service projects. Participants have expressed interest in experiential learning and opportunities to try new things.
    - Committee member suggestions:  
Melissa recommended to staff to contact her to coordinate volunteer/service projects with Clearbrook's REACH program
- Family Programming
  - Splash Bash on April 27 has 35 participants registered and looking for a few volunteers
    - Committee member suggestions:  
Janalle suggested having snacks to go for after the program rather than mixing eating and swimming, and also suggested giving each participant a pool toy with logo
  - WPD Family programs – will continue to advertise to Special Rec families
  - Family Zumba is back for the summer
  - Family Yoga is new this summer
  - Looking for Fall Family program ideas
    - Committee member suggestions:  
Tai Chi, Family Game Night (Bingo) with good prizes, Paint Night, Parent's Night Out (kids monitored in safe environment while parents have an adult social to provide support and connection)

- D. Strategic Plan Goals related to Special Recreation – WPD Initiatives
- Initiative: Revitalize & Maintain Parks & Facilities with a Focus on Excellence & Sustainability
    - Julie will be focusing on repurposing facilities to better fit the needs of programs and staff
  - Initiative: Strengthen Intergovernmental Relationships, Community Connections & Communications
    - Kari is working with school social workers to connect students to programs. Currently Kari has made good connections with social workers and attending all of the Diverse Learner Resource Fairs.
      - Committee member comments:  
Janalle suggested advertising more that there are inclusion services.
  - Initiative: Foster Staff Engagement & Development
    - Maria has conducted a Parent survey on Staff Engagement which has received 26/100 surveys returned. So far there has been great feedback with some good constructive advice. As part of this initiative Special Rec staff attended a Diversity Training by Tracey Crawford, Director of NWSRA.
- E. Priorities for Next Meeting – Monday, October 28, 2019
- Polar Bear Plunge
  - Recap of Autism Speaks & PowerPlay! Grants
  - H.E.A.R.T program

**IV. Closed Session**

There was no closed session

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Schneider  
Manager of General & Special Recreation