

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Recreation Program Advisory Committee
May 13, 2019
6:00pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on May 13, 2019 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: Marc Jones, Commissioner; Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation; Quincy Bejster, Deputy Superintendent; Mike Mayfield, Deputy Superintendent; Shelby McDonald, Manager of Field House & Aquatics; Julie Schneider, Manager of Special & General Recreation; Jen Dumas, Recreation Supervisor; Maria Owens, Recreation Specialist; Peggi Braden; Yolanda Brown; Nadine Burluson; Brian Cowart; Mandi Florip; Eric Lyons; Elizabeth Fallon, Dept. Coordinator

Absent: Jay Lerner, Executive Director; Caryn Clothier; Sara Griffin; David Motley; Dulce Ortiz; 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. Summer Programming

• **GO Waukegan**

As part of the Live Well Lake County initiative to walk 30 minutes a day the first GO Waukegan event this season was on May 4 at Hinkston Park with 78 people attending. There are three other events scheduled for the summer on June 12 at Clearview Park, July 17 is a Glow Walk at Bevier Park in collaboration with our Movie in the Park, and August 17 at the Lake Front.

• **Swim Lessons**

This session 208 participants are registered for swim lessons. This year the 2nd Grade Field Trips are wrapping up with the last one on May 16 for the private and homeschool groups. So far this year we have had 1022 2nd graders attend the field trips which provides a swim lesson, fitness and sports activity for each 2nd grader.

• **Summer Camps**

General Recreation

This year there are 3 full day camps offered in General Recreation. Rangers is a traditional camp at Bowen Park for ages 5-10 and new this year will be Rangers Crew for ages 11-13. Rangers and Rangers Crew will start and end their day together, go swimming together, but the other activities may be separate to allow for more age appropriate programming. Explorers camp

goes on one all day field trip each week along with swimming and fun activities related to the weekly theme. New this year is Destination Exploration which is a nature and STEM camp for ages 5-10 at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park. For all camps there is an option for each child to sign up for a swim lesson to occur during camp swim time.

Special Recreation

This year there are 2 full day camps and 1 half day camp in Special Recreation. Campapalooza is at Douglas House for ages 6-12. TNT Camp is at Belvidere Rec Center for ages 13-17. The half day camp is at the Field House for ages 5-10. New this year, all campers will get swim lessons through a special grant from Autism Speaks. Special Recreation also provides inclusion services and staff for campers who can attend General Recreation camps.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Marc Jones asked if there were limits to the ability to accommodate special needs campers?
 - Julie explained that there is an assessment completed with each new participant which may include information from teachers and social workers to best meet the needs of each participant. A behavior management plan is put into place when needed. It has been rare but there are limits to staff's ability to provide for some violent behaviors.
- Peggi Braden asked if and how the district covers any daily medical needs?
 - Julie responded that there is a form to complete for each camper so that the staff know ahead of time medical needs and then a personal conversation with parents regarding care during the day. There is a flow chart followed to know what things staff can oversee and what things would require a professional. Camps do not have a nurse on staff.
- Errick Beverly solicited field trip ideas from the committee with the following ideas given: Lambs Farm, Discovery World, Milwaukee Zoo

- **American Independence Parade**

The Parade is on June 30. This year's theme is United We Stand and Jan Keller is the Parade Marshal. There have been meetings with the city to plan out police and road closure details. General Units and Specialty Units are being secured. The Parade application is on the website.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Marc Jones inquired if it is possible to reverse the parade route and start at Bowen Park ending downtown Waukegan?
 - This has been discussed with the city and a possibility in the future. The concern for making that change this year was the major CLC construction project that will be going on downtown.
- Brian Cowart asked what was the feedback regarding discontinuing the festival after the parade?
 - Errick responded that there was no negative feedback from last year and over the last few years of the festival numbers were going down

since Great Lakes started back up their festival and the parade goers are often involved in neighborhood parties and not interested in the festival

B. BRC Improvement Project

The Belvidere Rec Center is getting a facelift to update furnishings and make improvements. The outside will be power washed, new outdoor lighting will be installed, and new landscaping. Inside will get a paint job, renovated front desk, and new flooring.

C. Rose Park Splash Pad & Park Renovation Update

The demolition of the existing structures at Rose Park is complete and preparing the land for repurposing the park has begun. The new playground installation should begin in June with a state of the art playground, picnic shelters, and soccer field. The new Splash Pad will have a Bath House which includes public access to the restrooms and concession stand. The Splash Pad area has the capability to be open from May through September or even later depending on the weather. The Splash Pad park will have 4 tall slides and 2 smaller slides and lots of fun multilevel water features. The bid opening is May 20 with construction to hopefully begin in June and projected Grand Opening in May 2020. Progress and completion of this project is dependent on the weather.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Marc Jones inquired if it is warm in October can the Splash Pad be turned on.
 - Quincy responded that if the whole system hasn't gone through the winterization process the Splash Pad can be turned back on.
 - Errick commented that the Splash Pad will be fenced and not in operation without a lifeguard.
 - Marc Jones commented that the renovated Rose Park will be a destination park for Northern IL.
- Peggie Braden inquired what is the surface material for the park and splash pad?
 - Quincy responded that the playground has the pourable rubberized surface with designs to add interest and playability for kids. The Splash Pad will be a concrete surface.
- Marc Jones asked what are the fees?
 - Quincy responded that nothing has been approved by the board yet but there is a proposal to have the first year free for WPD residents.
- Mandi Florip asked if permits would be required for the shelters?
 - Quincy responded that just like all picnic shelters in the park district residents can get a permit to use/rent the shelters and green spaces.
- Peggie Braden inquired about the need for lifeguards?
 - Quincy responded that when the Splash Pad is open for operation there will need to be 3 lifeguards and 3 attendants on duty and a lifeguard supervisor. He further explained that there is a well at the end of each tall slide which can accumulate 3-5 inches of water as the participate slides down to the end.

- Marc Jones inquired what special security measures will be in place?
 - Errick explained that the park, as well as all parks, is included in the Park Patrol with the Police Department as well as WPD staff will be on site.

D. Park District App

The park district mobile app was introduced two months ago and provides users with easy access to information, schedules, connect to RecTrac to register for programs, and also participate in the interactive aspect of the app to earn points for rewards. So far there have been 504 downloads of the app. We are the first park district in IL to have an interactive feature on the app.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Nadine Burleson asked if you can scan in to the Field House using the app?
 - Shelby responded not yet, as our Field House system isn't compatible with the technology available on the app.

E. Fitness Center Upgrades Planned for 2019

This year we will be updating the bikes in the fitness center. This is phase 3 of 3 in terms of upgrading all equipment. The first phase was the treadmills, then the elliptical machines and now the bikes will be upgraded. We are looking at trends in fitness, getting bids and will be bringing in demos. Other upgrades will be a TRX Cross Training station in the 2nd floor lobby, the saunas will be replaced, and the Mondo athletic flooring currently in the free weight area will be extended to the outside windows to allow for rearranging and distribution of free weights and equipment.

Committee Member questions and comments:

- Nadine Burlson commented that the staff do a great job maintaining the Field House including cleanliness, friendliness, and keeping equipment updated and fresh.

F. Best of the Best of Lake County

Once again the Field House is in the running to be voted the Best of the Best Fitness Centers in Lake County in the Daily Herald's Readers Choice Awards. Please take a few minutes to login and vote.

G. What Can We Do Better? – Errick Beverly

Committee suggestions & comments:

- Nadine Burleson commented that she attended the Mother Daughter Tea Party and really enjoyed the event and the nice job that staff did in putting it together.
- Brian Cowart inquired about the status of ice rinks.
 - Errick Beverly responded that there was a survey conducted to solicit feedback from the community which was promoted on the website, constant contact newsletter, facebook, plus paper surveys at each facility, events, and programs. The current pop-up rinks will continue but an indoor facility is on hold at this time.

- Marc Jones responded that survey resulted in not overwhelming demand from the community.
- Brian Cowart suggested that along with temporary rinks a warming house would be a nice feature.
- Eric Lyon commented that Kenosha used a seasonal portable rental rink with chillers in their downtown area last winter for public skating.
- Eric Lyon inquired about a season pass for Greenshore Golf Course.
 - Errick Beverly responded that Golf Visions is aware of the interest and is working on it.
- Mandi Florip had compliments for the kids' golf program last summer stating it was an awesome program and the perfect thing for her son. She also complimented the Country Lane Park improvements and that her family is enjoying the park.
- Nadine Burleson inquired how the Soccer Camp registration has been going?
 - Errick Beverly responded that it is popular.
- Nadine Burleson and Eric Lyon both expressed interest in bringing back the all-day one week theater camp.
- Brian Cowart inquired how was registration going for the older age group for Jr Bulldogs Basketball?
 - Errick Beverly responded that there have been several strategies to try to increase registration for that age group. Pat Coleman is working with the middle schools to reach interested kids as well we have tried a 3 on 3 game play, emphasizing co-ed teams and we will keep trying.

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 7:00pm

2019 Meeting Schedule: December 9, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,
Errick Beverly
Superintendent of Recreation