

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Recreation Program Advisory Committee
September 25, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a Special Meeting of the Recreation Program Advisory Committee on September 25, 2023, at the Field House Sports, Fitness, & Aquatics Center.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Errick Beverly who directed a call of the roll, introductions were made, and welcomed all.

II. Roll Call

Present: Errick Beverly, Director of Recreation; Kaitlin Fischer, Superintendent of Sports, Fitness & Aquatics; Jennifer Dumas, Manager of General & Special Recreation; Javi Martinez, Manager of Fitness & Aquatics; Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts; David Motley; Brian Cowart; Martha Padilla-Ramos; Mercedes Rivera; Christian Torres

Absent: George Bridges, Commissioner; Jacqueline Herrera Giron, Commissioner; Jay Lerner, Executive Director; Yolanda Brown; Maria Calderon; Lori Nerheim; Jo Dooley; Jack Dudley; Mark Harms; Sam Johnson; Melissa Juarez; Mary Olson; Dulce Ortiz; Odie Pahl; Rich Ribando; Roxanne Swanson; MaryFran Troha; Jane Waller; Tina Yurik

III. Review, Discuss, Divide

A. Programming Updates

1. Waukegan Symphony Orchestra & Concert Chorus 2023-24 Season is getting ready to start its 49th season on Sunday with the Young People's Family Concert, Animals in the Forest. The Waukegan Concert Chorus will begin its season in November. The Messiah concert will be held on December 9, 2023, at the Trapp Auditorium.
2. Upcoming Theatre Productions include the Young Actors Theatre performing Beauty and the Beast Jr. on October 14-15, 2023, and Teen and Adult Theatre will be performing Miracle of 34th Street on December 15-17, 2023.
3. Special Events
 - Day of the Dead Event will be held on October 21, 2023, and is an event that celebrates death, life, and rebirth where people commemorate their loved ones who have passed away. This program is organized by Sugar Skulls Xilotl and the Waukegan Park District.
 - Kids Safety Day & Bike Rodeo was funded through a grant from Target. This event was a partnership with the Waukegan Fire Department and the City of Waukegan which had 65 kids participate in various bike obstacles and activities.
 - Halloween Trick or Treat Trail will be held on October 28, 2023. This year we have upgraded the candy, extended the trail, and will offer more picture area displays.
 - Holiday Spectacular is a new event which will be held on December 16, 2023, which will celebrate winter holidays from around the world.

4. 2nd Grade Swim Lessons is a partnership with the Waukegan Parks Foundation giving students water safety lessons. Last year we had 924 students from 17 different schools participate in the program. Lessons will be starting up for the season on October 5, 2023, and we have 17 schools scheduled for this year.
5. Free fitness programming: Yoga at the Beach was a free fitness program offered in partnership with the City of Waukegan every Saturday morning from June through the end of September. This summer we have had 576 people participate in this free program. Zumba at the Parks was held once a month at Rose Park on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. There were 226 people who participated in our free Zumba at the Parks programs.

B. Facility Updates

1. Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie is currently set to open in the Spring of 2024. Exterior work to the building is coming to an end and the new addition to the building is now visible.
 - Committee member comments:
 - What is the plan for parking?
 - Ty Rohrer responded that there is an agreement with the City of Waukegan and College of Lake County to use parking spaces from their lots. There is also an ADA drop off at the front of the building and there will be a few handicap spots on the side of the building.
 - What is the estimated number of daily users?
 - Ty Rohrer responded that we expect large amounts of daily users and events to utilize this facility on a daily basis.
 - Would you possibly be holding chorus events?
 - Ty Rohrer responded that chorus events are a possibility in the future.
2. Field House Control Desk & Sound System have started undergoing updates and upgrades. The control desk is in the design phase to extend and upgrade the current desk to help enhance user experiences. The original sound system of the Field House is being upgraded to a more user-friendly system and will allow all areas of the facility to now be controlled through one system.
3. Field House Fitness Center just purchased over 65 sets for dumbbells ranging from 10-135 pounds to replace the original weights that were purchased at the opening of the Field House.
4. Jane Addams Center just finishing replacing the floors throughout the facility.
5. Adaptive Recreation Center is now being used for programming. The facility has allowed programs to run out of one location instead of four different locations. The sensory room has 16 program opportunities that will utilize the new space. The ARC will offer various programming from family socials, to pickleball to cooking classes.

C. WPD News/Updates

1. Welcomed new FT Recreation Staff
 - a. Kelsey Bension has been promoted to a FT Recreation Program Coordinator for Special Recreation.

- b. Alejandra “Lexi” Zayas has been promoted to a FT Recreation Program Coordinator for General Recreation.
- c. Asia Bush has been added as a FT Recreation Specialist for Fitness.

D. What Can We Do Better?

Committee member comments:

- When will Bevier Park construction be completed?
 - Kaitlin Fischer responded that the basketball courts were just repaved and are back open for public use. The baseball diamond renovations have started with fencing and the press box renovation will be starting soon. The playground feature should be completed by Spring 2024.
- Have you thought about offering satellite locations for fitness programs?
 - Javi Martinez responded that we have been offering various programs at local parks already.
- Where are the locations for ice rinks this season?
 - Jen Dumas responded that they will be at Victory and Arbor Parks weather permitting this year.
- Maintenance on ice rinks when weather becomes warmer, and ice gets slushy, and melts needs to be better.
 - Errick Beverly responded that the ice rinks fall under the parks department, and we will pass along this information to them.
- Can pickleball be played on tennis courts?
 - Kaitlin Fischer responded that there are many courts throughout the parks that are lined for both pickleball and tennis.
- Can you buy memberships for the SplashZone?
 - Javi Martinez responded that we have daily passes and season passes for the SplashZone and that we offer an early bird special for passes prior to the season opening each year.
- Committee member commented on how great of a job Jen Dumas has been doing with the Green House.
- Can boy scouts use the Green House?
 - Jen Dumas responded that she works with various groups at the green house.

Errick Beverly closed the meeting thanking the committee and the community for supporting all that we do.

IV. Closed Session

There was no closed session.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Errick Beverly
Director of Recreation