

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006, AT THE WILLOWBROOK VILLAGE HALL, 7760 QUINCY STREET, WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Douglas Stetina called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Those present at roll call were Commissioners Laurie Landsman, Carol Lazarski, Karin Miller, Sandra O'Connor and Vice Chairman Stetina. ABSENT: Commissioners Ronald Kanaverskis, Patricia Wagner, and Chairman Richard Cobb. Also present was Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Walter Righton.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

Chairman Cobb entered the meeting at the hour of 7:31 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 7, 2006

MOTION: Made by Chairman Cobb, seconded by Commissioner Landsman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission held on February 7, 2006.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Righton referred to two correspondence items, one was a thank you from the Maercker School District 60 P.T.O. for the \$15 Parks & Recreation gift certificate that was donated to them for their fun fair and a letter from the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Kiwanis Club to Chief Konstanty with a \$300 contribution toward the fishing pier.

5. VISITOR'S BUSINESS

There was no visitor's business.

6. REPORTS

A. Recreation Program

Superintendent Righton reported that the final 2005 Fall program enrollment total was 622 in comparison to 528 the previous year. Enrollment total in the Winter/Spring program is at 294 in comparison to 306 the previous year.

The first meeting of the Garden Club was held on February 22. The group seemed to be very interested in developing a greater level of gardening expertise. Mr. Righton reported we will try to bring in guest speakers in future meetings.

The Kite Fly is scheduled for Saturday, March 18. The next SWAC meeting will be held on March 20 at the Holiday Inn.

An organizational meeting was held for the Co-Recreational Softball Leagues was held on February 28. To date, there are 13 teams enrolled, which is one more team than last year. Games being May 9-10 and continue through August.

Superintendent Righton informed the Commission that he attended the second meeting of the forum on Sports, Athletic and Character sponsored by the DuPage Character Development Coalition.

Planning for the 2006 Summer program continues. A number of new activities are going to be offered including a kayak class at Prairie Trail Park and two Friday Movie Nights at the Community Park. The mailing date for the Fun Guide is April 28.

B. Park Maintenance

Superintendent Righton reported the following park maintenance for March:

- Goose control has begun at Prairie Trail Park. Wild Goose Chase, Inc. uses border collies and also will conduct egg shaking. Also, Mr. Righton arranged for applications of Flight Control to be completed at Prairie Trail and Willow Pond this month.
- A letter was sent to the homeowner associations in the area of Prairie Trail Park with regard to goose control. Several homeowners associations responded to the letter. Mr. Righton reported he accept an invitation to address the Lake Hinsdale Village Board regarding his letter. To date, all the associations have indicated a willingness to step up goose control measures.
- The playground equipment inspection procedure is currently being updated.
- Ball fields are scheduled to be dragged after they are topped off with new ball mix during the week of March 20.
- Two portable toilets have been ordered for Community Park in addition to the one at Willow Pond.
- A cleanup of the Hiddenbrook entrance at Creekside Park has been scheduled for the coming weeks to remove debris and overgrown branches.

Commissioner Landsman suggested that Mr. Righton contact Holmes School to determine if there was a significant goose problem on the school grounds..

C. Community Park Toilet

Superintendent Righton reported that he was given the approval to move ahead with the design phase, having received a pro bono offer from Leanne Meyer, from Newman Architects, for the

design work on the Community Park toilet project. This architectural pro bono offer resulted through Commissioner Kanaverskis. Mr. Righton met with Deb Stefaniak, president of Burr Ridge/Willowbrook Softball, and she was very pleased that the process has finally begun. Separate storage for the Parks Department and the BRW Softball as well as a concession area are planned in this building. Mr. Righton received a telephone call from the contact with the Our Lady of Peace football expressing interest in securing a storage area for their equipment. Both BRW Softball and OLOP Football appear willing to make a contribution toward the cost of the storage. Mr. Righton offered that the Village would be willing to enter into a multi-year agreement with these organizations in reimbursing the Village for upfront costs.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion – Midway Park

Superintendent Righton informed the Parks Commission that the bids with regard to the sale of Midway Park will be opened and read at the Village Board meeting of March 27.

In response to a request by Commissioner Lazarski, Mr. Righton provided information with regarding how park acreage in the Village compares to neighboring communities. The National Park and Recreation Association recommends 10 acres per 1,000 population. The Commission asked Mr. Righton to forward this information to the Village Board.

In that the Village Board did not seem to value the Parks Commission input with regard to the sale of Midway Park, Chairman Cobb suggested that the Commissioners consider performing their function as an Ad Hoc Committee that would meet as needed or meet quarterly at most. He felt that Superintendent Righton does a good job in taking care of the park issues, such as maintenance, and did not need the Commission's oversight.

Superintendent Righton recognized the Parks Commission's frustration, but indicated that there have been many projects and ideas that have received Board support only because these items had the support of the Commission. He thought that without the Parks and Recreation Commission many of the things that the parks have now would not have been obtained.

Superintendent Righton noted that for the time being, the Commission has the ability to cancel meetings with adequate public notice. Mr. Righton suggested canceling the April meeting of the Parks Commission and then come back with thoughts regarding the structure of the Commission at the next scheduled meeting. The Commission can then develop a rationale to be presented to the Village Board. The Commission decided to hold its April meeting as scheduled.

Commissioner Landsman suggested that members of the Parks Commission attend the meeting of March 27 when the Village Board is going to open the bids received with regard to the sale of Midway Park.

Superintendent Righton reminded the Commission that the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Righton presented information on a vinyl dugout cover that was being proposed by BRW Softball. The purchase and installation cost will be totally paid for by BRW Softball. The Parks Commission supported the purchase of the covers by BRW Softball. The Commission supports this initiative by BRW Softball.

Vice Chairman Stetina suggested that the Parks Commission hold the April meeting and discuss the future structure of the Commission at that time.

Commissioner Lazarski suggested that if the Village was involved in the Chamber's Home and Garden Show on May 20 and if the Village does have a booth, to hold a plant sale with the proceeds going to the parks.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lazarski, seconded by Commissioner Landsman, to adjourn the regular meeting at the hour of 9:05 p.m.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

_____, 2006

Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Mary Partyka