

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015, AT THE VILLAGE POLICE STATION BUILDING, 7760
QUINCY STREET, WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cobb called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Those present at roll call were Chairman Richard Cobb, Commissioners Lorraine Grimsby, Ronald Kanaverskis, Laurie Landsman, Robert Pionke, and Doug Stetina.

ABSENT: Commissioner Rene Schuurman and, at time of Roll Call, Commissioner Carol Lazarski.

Also present was Village Administrator Tim Halik and Temporary Interim Superintendent of Parks and Recreation John Fenske.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2015

The Commission reviewed the March 3, 2015 minutes.

MOTION: A Motion was made by Commissioner Landsman and seconded by Commissioner Grimsby to approve the March 3, 2015 minutes as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Chairman Cobb, Commissioners Grimsby, Kanaverskis, Landsman, Pionke, and Stetina. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Lazarski and Schuurman.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. REPORT – EVENT UPDATES

a. *Easter Egg Hunt – April 4, 2015*

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised there were approximately 350 people in attendance. Several positive comments were received.

b. *“Go Green” 5K Run/Walk – April 26, 2015*

Commissioner Pionke stated that 54 people finished the 5K race and 20 children participated in the children’s run. Commissioner Pionke advised that the vendors in attendance had positive remarks and would participate again in the future. Runners commented that they were very happy with the course. Commissioner Pionke related that

the numbers were a little lower than anticipated; however, with this being the first year of the event, the numbers were respectable.

Chairman Cobb questioned if the race date can be set for next year so that there are no conflicts with other races. Commissioner Pionke advised that if the race was moved away from Earth Day, the name would have to be changed.

Commissioner Pionke related that financial numbers have not yet been finalized.

c. ***Touch-A-Truck – July 10, 2015***

Interim Superintendent Fenske stated that he has five (5) confirmed participants, including TriState Fire Protection District, Gower West School, the post office, garbage truck and Oberweis Dairy. The event will be held in the parking lot at Willow Commons Shopping Center, on the west side of Ashton Place. Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that he is waiting to hear from other agencies if they will be participating.

d. ***Family Movie Night – July 17, 2015***

Interim Superintendent Fenske stated that the movie “Big Hero 6” will be shown. The event will take place in Community Park.

5. **REPORT – STATUS OF WILLOW POND PARK PROJECT**

Administrator Halik related that there was a bid opening on March 3, 2015. The bid was a little over budget however using funds from the SRA fund would adjust for the overage. The plans were to go before the Village Board on March 25th to award the project. On March 10th, the Village received a letter from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) stating that the grant has been put on hold.

Staff reached out to State Representative Patti Bellock. Representative Bellock related that she did not believe that the suspension was permanent, only that the Governor’s office was reviewing all grant applications before continuing with the funding. Administrator Halik advised that the Village is cautiously optimistic that the funds will be released.

*****NOTE: Commissioner Carol Lazarski arrived at 7:15 p.m.**

Administrator Halik stated that if the grant funds get released, the project was suppose to begin in May and completed by October. Administrator Halik offered options for the Commission. The renovations could be downscaled at this time and complete the portion of the park that has already been budgeted for. Work can be completed in two phases. Complete half of the work with Village

funds this year and then wait for the grant funds to be released and complete the second phase next year.

Another option that was discussed was to conduct a community fundraiser to raise money to complete the park in whole. Corporate sponsorship would also be included. If this option is considered, an Ad Hoc Committee would be formed.

Chairman Cobb questioned if there was a logical half way point to the project if it was decided to go with the two-phase plan. Administrator Halik advised that after speaking with Land Tech Consultants, the two most expensive components of the park project is the splash pad and the permanent restrooms, which make up approximately half of the total cost. These two components could be postponed and make up Phase Two of the project. Phase One would include the playground replacement, shelters, path lighting, landscape improvements, exercise pods, and the parking lot enhancements.

Administrator Halik stated that if no word is received by the State on the status of the grant funding by the end of May, staff will be coming back to the Commission at the June meeting with which option they would like to pursue.

Consensus of the Commission was for Administrator Halik to work with the consultant, Land Tech, and revise the plan to accommodate the \$400,000 that has been placed in the Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget and bring the revised plan to the Parks Commission meeting in June for discussion.

6. DISCUSSION – LAKE HINSDALE PARK RENOVATION

Administrator Halik reminded the Commission that the Master Plan called for Lake Hinsdale Park to be renovated into a passive park. ComEd offered a “Green Region” grant aimed at passive park improvements. The Village of Willowbrook was awarded a matching grant for \$10,000.

The existing playground equipment was donated to Kids Around the World. Since the equipment was removed, the Village began receiving complaints from residents in Lake Hinsdale Tower about the removal. Chairman Cobb reminded the Commission that during the Master Plan discussions, no residents made any comments regarding the changes to the park. Administrator Halik related that on January 29, 2015, the Lake Hinsdale Tower homeowners association had a meeting claiming that multiple residents complained about no playground equipment. Administrator Halik spoke with the property manager and advised the progression of how and why the playground equipment was removed and that no residents voiced an opinion prior to the removal. Administrator Halik advised the property manager that the issue will be looked into.

Administrator Halik contacted Tod Stanton, who had originally designed the new concept for the park for the Master Plan, to revisit the design of the park with a unique idea. Chairman Cobb related that the old equipment was never used and rusted. Administrator Halik distributed a revised concept for Lake Hinsdale Park including playground equipment. Administrator Halik

advised that the Village would still like to maintain the \$10,000 grant money. The concept of the passive recreational park will remain with the playground equipment placed in the corner.

The playground equipment that is currently located in Willow Pond park will fit into the revised plan for Lake Hinsdale park. Estimates to complete the park renovations are \$64,000. The ComEd grant and budgeted money equals \$22,000. Administrator Halik related that in 2012, the Village was awarded a grant by the State in the amount of \$60,000 to complete drainage improvements at the Knoll's Condominium complex. Preliminary engineering work was completed and it was determined that the drainage work cannot be completed. The State advised that the grant money can be transferred to another project but must be a qualifying project and within the same region of the Village. Administrator Halik stated that if the Parks Commission concurs with the approach, he will contact the State about transferring the grant to the Lake Hinsdale park project. The consensus of the Commission was to call the State about the grant and move forward with the project.

7. DISCUSSION – SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS POSITION

Administrator Halik provided a status update of the Superintendent position. Administrator Halik advised that he has received over 20 resumes of people looking for a part time position. In the meantime, John Fenske was hired to fill in. The Village Board has a standing policy that when an employee leaves, the position is reevaluated and justified. Can the position be combined with another position or outsourced. Administrator Halik met with representatives from the Burr Ridge Park District. There are some opportunities to have Burr Ridge take care of the printed park guide. The Burr Ridge park guide comes out two times per year plus a supplement. The Burr Ridge guide is full color throughout the book. The Willowbrook guide is three times a year and only has color on the cover page. Costs are nearly similar and park registrations are the same.

Administrator Halik also stated that some programming functions could also be outsourced to Burr Ridge. Administrator Halik advised that renovations on the new park building will be taking place next summer. During the renovations, no space will be available to park programs. Burr Ridge has agreed to accommodate the Bridge club, Yoga, and Chess club. Special events and athletic events will not be affected by the renovations.

Administrator Halik related that what is unknown at this time is once the park building is renovated, will that add additional responsibilities to the Parks Superintendent that would require a full time employee.

8. VISITORS' BUSINESS

There was no Visitors' Business.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Boy Scouts of America – Eagle Scout Project

Commissioner Landsman advised that she has a neighbor going for an Eagle Scout and asked if the Village had any projects. Former Parks Commissioner Ramona Weigus stated that there had been talk in the past about putting up a backboard at Waterford Park to use for tennis practice. Ms. Weigus did not know if this project would qualify for the Eagle Scout process. Administrator Halik advised that he would look into it.

Commissioners also recommended doing clean up work at several of the parks.

Administrator Halik stated that staff will do some research on what projects will qualify and bring a recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting in June.

b. Unfinished Business

None presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Landsman, seconded by Commissioner Stetina to adjourn the meeting at the hour of 8:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Chairman Cobb, Commissioners Grimsby, Kanaverskis, Landsman, Lazarski, Pionke, and Stetina. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Schuurman.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

June 2, 2015

Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Executive Secretary Cindy Stuchl.