

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016, AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 835 MIDWAY DRIVE,
WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cobb called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Those present at roll call were Chairman Richard Cobb, Commissioners Ron Kanaverskis, Laurie Landsman, Carol Lazarski, Robert Pionke, Rene Schuurman, and Doug Stetina.

ABSENT: Commissioner Lorraine Grimsby

Also present were Village Administrator Tim Halik, Temporary Interim Superintendent of Parks and Recreation John Fenske, and Administrative Intern Tiffany Kolodziej.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2016

The Commission reviewed the February 2, 2016 minutes.

MOTION: A Motion was made by Commissioner Stetina and seconded by Commissioner Lazarski to approve the February 2, 2016 minutes as presented.

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

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. DISCUSSION – SPECIAL EVENT UPDATES/PLANNING

a. Easter Egg Hunt – March 26, 2016

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that pictures will begin at 10:15 a.m. and the egg hunt will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. Interim Superintendent Fenske related that he had contacted the Hinsdale South Honor Society and they will have students volunteering for the event. He stated that he will be at the park at 8:30 a.m. to set out the eggs.

Jimmy Johns will be at the event to hand out sandwiches. Chick-fil-A will also participate in the event. The new daycare, Little Sunshine Playhouse, has donated temporary tattoos for the eggs and will also be present at the event.

Commissioner Landsman asked if there will be a box to collect the unwanted empty eggs. Interim Superintendent Fenske related that there would.

b. 2016 5K Fun Run – May 1, 2016

Commissioner Schuurman advised that approximately \$5,900 in donations/sponsorships have been received to date from 31 vendors. Some vendors are providing gift certificates and coupons instead of cash donations. A raffle will be conducted using the participants' racing numbers to give away the gift certificates.

Willowbrook Ford is the big sponsor for the inflatable arch and their logo will be prominently displayed on the legs of the arch. The arch can be used for other events and the banners on the arch can be changed. Four teardrop banners will also be ordered to be placed throughout the race course. These banners will not have a sponsor and will only have the Willowbrook logo on them. The banners also have a interchangeable base so that they can be used indoors or outdoors.

Commissioner Schuurman advised that the style of race bag has been chosen that is similar to last year's bag. The designs for the t-shirts have also been chosen. Entries were only received from the students at Gower Middle School.

Commissioner Schuurman related that postcards have been designed that will be mailed to all Willowbrook residents. The race will be advertised on the Chicago Athlete and Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) websites. The course will be measured and certified for the CARA site. The cost is approximately \$400 and as long as the course layout is not changed, the certification is good for 10 years. CARA will also promote our race at any of their upcoming races. Extra resident postcards will be provided to CARA.

Detective Tim Kobler assisted in getting the race posted on the police union website. First responders have been given a 50% discount code. The race has also been advertised through the Boy Scouts and Tri State Fire Protection District.

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that he and Trustee Sue Berglund had walked door to door at the Willowbrook Town Center to distribute sponsorship flyers. It was determined that none of the stores had received the mailing.

Commissioner Schuurman advised that Chick-fil-A, who had distributed sandwiches at last year's event, would probably not be able to pass them out again this year. There was an issue at the corporate level with the event being on a Sunday.

Sports Authority has agreed to be the site for packet pick up on the Saturday before the race. They will provide a table for the distribution. Sports Authority will be giving participants a 15% discount coupon valid for that Saturday only.

Commissioner Schuurman stated that he is working on the race day logistics and organizing volunteer duties. Commissioner Schuurman also advised that the week or two prior to the race, volunteers will need to assist in distributing flyers to the residents affected by the street closures.

Chairman Cobb suggested that raffle tickets should be sold for the gift certificate prizes to help raise additional money for the charities involved.

5. DISCUSSION – ANNUAL PARK LANDSCAPE FERTILIZATION CONTRACT: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SERVICES

Administrator Halik related that in April of 2015, the Village received contact from a resident that lives next to Waterford Park about the overuse of lawn care chemicals. The resident advised that his dog had passed away from lymphoma and attributes it to these chemicals. The resident attended a Municipal Services Committee meeting in May of 2015 and provided the Committee with information about why the reduction of the use of these chemicals is important.

The contract for the grass maintenance had already been approved by the Village Board for the fiscal year so nothing could be done at the time. The Municipal Services Committee directed Village staff to perform research on environmentally friendly options that could be considered as an alternative.

Administrator Halik related that Administrative Intern Tiffany Kolodziej was given the assignment to complete the research. Intern Kolodziej advised that the Village currently pays approximately \$20,000 to TruGreen to provide the lawncare for all public parks, medians, and roadways throughout the Village, and includes six (6) chemical applications throughout the year.

Intern Kolodziej stated that by going to a “greener” lawncare system, the grasses would not have the “golf-course” look to the grass. During the transition from chemical to organic care, it will take longer to obtain the green look of the grasses.

Commissioner Kanaverskis asked if any other park districts are using this approach. Interim Superintendent Fenske and Intern Kolodziej related that this is a new trend for municipalities and Willowbrook would be a leader.

Intern Kolodziej proposed a phase-in approach to going organic in order to test how well the system works for the Village.

Administrator Halik stated that the lawncare contracts would begin May 1st. The contractors that provided bids advised that they could come to a future Commission meeting to give additional information if requested. Chairman Cobb stated that they can come to the next meeting in April and would be in time to decide for the next fiscal year budget.

6. DISCUSSION – 2015 CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

Administrator Halik advised that he had been contacted by a resident in reference to allowing dogs in the parks. Administrator Halik related that every other year, the Village sends out surveys to random Village residents to rate various services and amenities that the Village offers. One of the questions asked was if leashed animals should be allowed in the parks. The survey results were 55% yes and 45% no.

Commissioner Kanaverskis advised that there is a health issue with those pet owners that do not pick up after their pets. He also stated that there could be liability issues with aggressive dogs.

Commissioner Stetina advised that he had contacted two neighboring communities that allow dogs in the parks. He stated that there has only been one instance in 20 years. Commissioner Kanaverskis stated that we are trying to invite people to use our parks and by allowing dogs, it will turn people away.

The consensus of the Commission was to not have dogs in the parks at this time.

7. DISCUSSION – WILLOWBROOK WEBPAGE – NEW PARKS & RECREATION BUTTON

Administrator Halik advised that during a 5K race update meeting with Commissioner Schuurman, it was requested that the Parks Department obtain their own website. Administrator Halik stated that idea was not supported; however, it was agreed to review ways of making the Parks portion of the Village website easier to view. Administrator Halik stated that a Parks button has been placed on the home page of the Village's website.

8. VISITORS' BUSINESS

There was no Visitors' Business.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Interim Superintendent Fenske related that he had received an email from Hinsdale South High School asking to book the date for Holiday Party. Consensus was to book it for Sunday, December 11, 2016.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Landsman, seconded by Commissioner Schuurman to adjourn the meeting at the hour of 8:36 p.m.

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

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

____ April 6 ____, 2016

Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Executive Secretary Cindy Stuchl.