

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017, AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 835 MIDWAY DRIVE,
WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Cobb called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Robert Pionke and at time of Roll Call: Commissioner Carol Lazarski.

Also present were Village Trustee Sue Berglund and Temporary Interim Superintendent of Parks and Recreation John Fenske.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

***NOTE: Commissioner Lazarski arrived at 7:05 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2017

The Commission reviewed the November 7, 2017 minutes.

MOTION: A Motion was made by Commissioner Landsman and seconded by Commissioner Grimsby approve the November 7, 2017 minutes as presented.

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

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. REPORTS

a. Master Plan Update

Interim Superintendent Fenske related that Design Perspectives turned in all paperwork that will need to be submitted for reimbursement under the OSLAD grant. The reimbursement money should be received by March of 2018.

b. Sponsorship Policy

Interim Superintendent Fenske reviewed the memo sent by Village Administrator Tim Halik reference the Village Board's position on the policy. He advised that the policy will not affect sponsorships that are received for the 5K race and various functions held throughout the year. Sponsorships of park amenities will be handled on a case by case basis.

Chairman Cobb asked what the Village Board's opinion of the sponsorships was. Trustee Berglund advised that the Board was not in favor of the sponsorships of park amenities but was in favor of either memorial bricks or a board at the new parks building.

Commissioner Kanaverskis recommended starting a foundation to place any donations for future use.

c. Park Maintenance Update

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that all of the parks have been winterized, picnic tables have been removed. The fountain at Prairie Trail Park has been removed by the fountain vendor, who will be storing it for the winter and reinstalling in the spring.

The power has been turned on at Willow Pond Park and the splash pad was tested and winterized.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Little Library at Lake Hinsdale Park

Interim Superintendent Fenske reviewed information pertaining to free libraries. Chairman Cobb advised that this amenity should be looked at again in the future for one of the other parks in town.

b. Survey Results – Dog in Parks

Commissioner Kanaverskis advised that he is opposed to dogs being allowed in the parks because of safety and health issues. There are responsible pet owners and there are non-responsible pet owners. Even if signs are posted to pick up after your dogs, there are people that do not follow the rules.

Commissioner Lazarski also opposes dogs in the parks for the same reasons. Commissioner Lazarski added that when this issue had been discussed in the past, there was a resident who spoke and was upset about letting dogs in the parks.

Commissioner Stetina related that several communities surrounding Willowbrook allow dogs in the parks and do not have any problems. Commissioner Stetina is in favor of allowing leashed dogs in the parks.

Commissioner Landsman is also in favor of allowing leashed dogs in the parks. Commissioner Landsman indicated that the park survey is showing that residents are also in favor of it. Commissioner Lazarski

advised that the survey is showing 50/50. Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that the 50/50 rating was in the general Willowbrook Citizen Survey, not the Parks Master Plan survey.

Commissioner Landsman stated that most pet owners are responsible. Commissioner Kanaverskis questioned then how do you handle the irresponsible ones.

Commissioner Grimsby stated that she has witnessed numerous people walking their dogs and do not pick up after them.

Commissioner Kaczmarek advised that she has also witnessed “responsible” dog owners that do not pick up after their pets. Commissioner Kaczmarek stated that she has seen people with dogs in Borse Park watching a softball game and acknowledges that it is hard to enforce. Commissioner Kaczmarek related that the people wanting dogs allowed in the parks are the ones that need to be in the park to watch a game. Commissioner Kaczmarek stated that she is in the middle on this topic.

Interim Superintendent Fenske stated that in the Parks Master Plan survey, 8.4% of the respondents are in favor of a dog park. There are random comments related to allowing leashed dogs in the parks. There are also random comments against it. Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that he notifies the softball leagues that dogs are not allowed in the parks. People still bring the dogs with. Interim Superintendent Fenske related that if the dogs are under control and are picked up after, he is ok with them in the parks. He advised that people will still bring dogs in the park whether they are allowed or not.

Commissioner Landsman related that the freedom to bring the family dog to a family event at the park is important. Commissioners Kanaverskis and Lazarski stated that there will also be families that will not take their kids to the park because there are too many dogs.

Chairman Cobb suggested that one park that has the least number of children who use the park be designated as a dog-friendly park on a trial basis. Commissioner Lazarski stated that what will work for one park might not work in another park. Chairman Cobb related that he does not want to see dogs ever allowed into Borse Park.

Chairman Cobb related that there is no consensus of the Parks Commissioners for or against allowing dogs in the parks.

Trustee Berglund stated that she has also witnessed pet owners not picking up after their dogs in Prairie Trail Park, even though there are waste bags available near by.

Interim Superintendent Fenske stated that the citizen survey has been sent to residents and there is a question reference leashed dogs in the parks. Chairman Cobb advised that he would like to see the results of the survey before making any decisions.

c. Holiday Party – December 17, 2017

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that as of today, there are 108 kids signed up. Commissioners Stetina and Landsman picked up the Santa gifts. Banners were placed in the parks on November 27th.

Chairman Cobb requested that a photo display be placed at the party to advertise the 5K Race and to highlight the renovations done at Willow Pond and the upcoming grand reopening.

d. Spring Fling 5K – May 6, 2018

Commissioner Kaczmarek reached out to Hinsdale Magazine for advertisement since the magazine is sent to Willowbrook residents. The cost for a ¼ page ad is \$600. Commissioner Kaczmarek also made a recommendation of hiring a band instead of a DJ. Commissioner Kaczmarek requested a budget for the race in order to begin planning.

e. Willow Pond Grand Opening

Chairman Cobb requested a budget for the grand opening in order to begin planning.

6. VISITORS' BUSINESS

None presented.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

February 6, 2018

Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Executive Secretary Cindy Stuchl.