

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Key called the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Palos Heights Administration Center, 7607 W. College Drive. In attendance were Aldermen Bylut and McGovern, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Leonard, LK Board President Terry Horvath, and Recording Secretary Pat Sheppard. Absent was Alderman Clifford.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT: Terry Horvath

- Summer is a very busy season for LK with lots of activities, events and visitors.
- Tree planting ended in late May but will resume in the fall.
- A very good relationship has been formed with Nicor and the grants that have been received have helped tremendously. The most recent grant provided informational signage around the lake. Nicor has also held team building events on the grounds at LK. They recently held their Annual Volunteer Day on May 19 with volunteers removing invasive species in the Children's Forest and tidying up the barefoot pathway.
- Gareth Blakesley had met with an Eagle Scout on a potential project who wants to develop an interactive sundial in the Children's Forest using natural features, but also having it accurate to time and season.
- There was a decent, but not great, turnout for Family Fishing Day on June 2.
- Canoe and kayak season started on May 22. A canoe/kayak tour was held on May 18 which was an evening tour of the lake.
- River Clean-up Day and the Native Plant Sale were held on May 12. All the plants were sold out.
- Native plantings received from a grant and ecological designated funds were finished being planted by the end of May. There will be a variety of "No Mowing" signs placed where the plants were installed.
- Gareth had secured a contract for another professional landscaping plan. These plans help organizations implement their own pollinator gardens or natural landscape beneficial to pollinators.
- The "Break for the Lake" race was held on Sunday, May 20 with approximately 70 people signed up for the event. Terry said they were re-evaluating whether or not to continue having the race or have it at a different time of the year.

- On June 13, the first of the summer series mini-fundraising events was being held, “Brews and Bullfrogs”. Tickets are \$5 and include sampling of beers and a nature walk. The other events scheduled were: “Wine and Nature” sponsored by Coopers Hawk in July, and “Sunset Sonata” with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in August. All events will be held at the Anniversary Garden (in the event of rain, in the clubhouse) from 6 to 9 p.m.
- On June 9, LK co-sponsored a shredding event at the Palos Heights Public Library.
- Several algae treatments (sprays) had already been applied to the lake by a contractor and has been costly. They are doing their best to maintain an ecologically sound lake and have been following the Lake Management Plan. She reminded the committee that the lake is a detention pond and receives a lot of run-off from fertilized lawns which feeds the algae with nitrogen.
- Gareth had been given a new title, Director and Chief Naturalist, which better fits his job description and duties.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mike Leonard

- Staff was busy planning the 3rd of July festivities (Independence Day Celebration). The Cal Sag Trail will be closed through Lake Katherine on July 3 for the fireworks. Signs will be placed along the trail alerting users a couple weeks in advance.
- The first draft of the Fall brochure had just been received and distributed for proofing.
- The outdoor cameras at the Rec Center were being installed by Tyco.
- The City Council approved the Mayor’s appointment of two (2) new Recreation Advisory Board members: Dr. Essie Harris and Timothy Cronin. Mike explained there may be another vacancy on the board soon.
- Interviews had been held for the facility technician position recently vacated with the retirement of Rich Boeschel.
- Mike hoped to have the Performance Measures for the July meeting.
- A minor 2-year fix was developed for the pool’s wood decking which included placing plywood over the existing deck and covering it with indoor-outdoor carpeting. Mike hoped funds would be in place to budget for the pool deck renovation in 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

1. OSLAD Grant Application for Palmer Park Renovations. Mike explained at the time the Palmer Park Master Plan was approved, he did not know what the status of OSLAD grants was. Since then, the State of Illinois did approve a budget which included \$29 million for OSLAD grants. Mike noted there was a strong belief that OSALD grant applications would be available which would cover 50% of all development costs. It was Mike’s recommendation to hire Upland Design to apply for the OSLAD grant when applications were made available.

Chairman Key moved to approve hiring Upland Design to prepare an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisitions and Development (OSLAD) grant application for the renovation of Palmer Park in the amount of \$3,780.00, seconded by Alderman McGovern. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. **AGENDA**

2. Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts at Palmer and Community Parks. Chairman Key moved to authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to go out for bid for the construction of new tennis and pickle ball courts at Palmer and Community Parks, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. **AGENDA**
3. Trinity Christian College Student Pool Rates. Chairman Key explained it was suggested by the TCC summer intern at City Hall to offer students who remain on campus for the summer the

resident rate at the pool. The committee all thought it was a good idea and did not believe there were many students who remained on campus.

Chairman Key moved to approve offering Trinity students the resident rate for admission to the community pool. Seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

AGENDA

4. PBO Request to Extend the Hours for the Ballfield Lights. Chairman Key noted the PBO (Palos Baseball Organization) had made a request to allow the ballfield lights to stay on until 11:00 p.m. on the Pony Field on June 26, 27, and 28, 2018 for the playoffs.

Alderman McGovern said similar requests by PBO had already been approved for their Coaches and All Star Nights on June 15 and June 22; and for the Cooperstown Home Run Derby fundraiser on June 9. In consideration of the nearby homes/neighbors, he was opposed to granting another request. Mike stated this was the most requests he had ever received in one year from PBO. Discussion ensued on the subject. Chairman Key suggested that PBO be asked to submit a list at the beginning of the season of the nights they would like permission to have the ballfield lights on later than allowed by ordinance, noting this request was made with only a two week notice. The committee concurred. No motion was made to approve the request.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Ice Rink. Mike referred to the memo in the committee's packet which was a summary of his findings on the research he had conducted on the cost to develop and maintain an outdoor ice rink (discussed at last month's meeting). With the figures he had received the Village of Mundelein's Park District Director, who was also researching an outdoor ice rink, Mike estimated the total cost of such a project to be approximately \$1,300,000.00. He noted an indoor ice rink would be significantly more. Mike had found two (2) park districts, Belvidere and Glencoe Park, who operate outdoor ice rinks. He said both park districts had indicated they had a history of operating at a significant loss, - \$71,637 to -\$110,846. The main factors in the operational loss were related to the cost to maintain the ice and weather conditions. Mike had also included an article written by Michael Komich of the Ice Skating Institute. After some discussion, the committee concluded an outdoor ice rink would be cost prohibitive.

ALDERMEN'S COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Key moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Sheppard
Recording Secretary