

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 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, Clifford, and McGovern, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Leonard, City Administrator Dan Nisavic, LK Director Gareth Blakesley, and Recording Secretary Pat Sheppard. Also present was Maria Sovan with Upland Design.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman Bylut. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT: Gareth Blakesley

- The Summer Series events had been very successful and well attended thus far. The series included Bullfrogs and Beer in June, Wine and Nature in July, and coming up on August 15 was a Sunset Sonata featuring the IPO's String Quartet. The events were held on the lawn in front of the clubhouse, which could be moved inside in case of rain. These had proved to be good fundraisers and he hoped they could expand on them next year.
- The July 3 Bash was held where people could buy tickets to view the fireworks from the clubhouse balcony.
- Several presentations had been given on a variety of subjects.
- Gareth had recently attended a 2-day leadership program in Baraboo, WI.
- Several Workdays had been held and Trinity's Cross Country Team was scheduled to come out to remove teasel from the prairie.
- Staff attended and had a table at the Classic Car Show to sell the model cars the City had declared surplus. They collected \$400 that evening.
- An Eagle Scout completed a project in the Kupchick Garden in which the existing decking over the creek was moved (relocated) and made a big improvement.
- A good working relationship with the Palos Heights Library continues with the Nature by the Book series which is aired on Ch. 4; and they co-sponsored a paper shredding and recycling event in June and another one is planned for September.
- The Monarch Butterfly Fest was being held on September 16. New for this year: an effort will be made to discourage people from using plastic and people who bring a water bottle will receive an eco-kit and there will be water stations to fill water bottles; the butterfly tent will be moved to the Butterfly Garden and an additional butterfly viewing area will be added to help shorten the long lines.

- Gareth re-visited the subject of prohibiting the release of balloons not only at Lake Katherine, but in the entire City (discussed at the June meeting). He distributed a handout which included language for the proposed ordinances, information on the negative impacts of balloons on the environment, and some statistics. The proposed language was as follows:
 City Ordinance – *“It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to intentionally release, organize the release of or intentionally cause to be released one or more balloons inflated with gas that is lighter than air within the city limits”*,
 Lake Katherine Ordinance – *“It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any and all types of balloons onto the grounds of Lake Katherine NCBG”*.
 Gareth encouraged the committee to think about moving forward with recommending the adoption of the proposed ordinances. Gareth stated he would like to get some press coverage and educate people on the negative impact balloons have on the environment.
 Alderman McGovern understood wanting an ordinance for Lake Katherine, but did not feel it would work city-wide. He felt it would be an ordinance that could not be enforced. Discussion ensued on the subject. Chairman Key asked if other communities had done this (adopted ordinances), and Gareth responded yes. Chairman Key asked Gareth to gather some ordinances and information from other nearby communities and nature centers for next month’s meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mike Leonard

- The Fitness Center would be closed August 20 at noon and on August 21 for maintenance of the gym floor.
- The Tennis Courts Renovation Project was scheduled to begin on August 16 with an anticipated completion by mid-October.
- Beginning August 20, the pool would only be open on the weekend due to the start of school. Mike noted there was an algae problem in the deep end of the pool, but it was being treated.
- The performance measure reports for the CAPRA accreditation will be ready for the September meeting.
- The Fall/Early Winter program book had been delivered the past week and registration had begun.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution of Authorization, OSLAD Grant Program. Chairman Key explained this resolution needed to be included with the application for the OSLAD Grant for the redevelopment of Palmer Park.

Chairman Key moved to approve the Resolution of Authorization for the OSLAD Grant Program application process, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

2. Recreation Center Holiday Hours of Operation. Chairman Key referred to the list of days and shortened hours in the packet, noting they were mostly all holidays.

Chairman Key moved to approve the list of Holiday Hours of Operation for the Recreation Center, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

3. Construction and Bid Documents for Pool Deck Sections. Mike Leonard explained that since the Tennis Courts Renovation Project came in substantially underbid, there were funds available in the capital fund to start replacing concrete sections of the pool deck. There was an area in front of the pump room for which they were cited by the health inspector because it held

standing water. Mike estimated the cost for replacement of this section (from the gate to the pool office) and another smaller section by the kiddie pool to be between \$70,000 - 100,000. Mike had received two proposals for developing the construction plans and bid documents and it was his recommendation to use the City's Engineer, Morris Engineering, to provide those services at a cost of \$4,000. The proposal from Upland Design was \$5,800. Chairman Key asked how many square feet that would be. Mike did not have that figure with him, but would provide it for the City Council meeting packet.

Chairman Key moved to accept the proposal from Morris Engineering to prepare construction plans and bids documents for the replacement of certain sections of the pool's concrete deck in the amount of \$4,000.00, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

4. Approval to go out for bid for above-mentioned project. Chairman Key moved to approve going out for bid for the replacement of certain sections of the pool's concrete deck.

Alderman Bylut inquired why both of these motions were being made tonight. Mike explained it was for expediency in order to get the project started by October – before winter.

Alderman McGovern seconded the motion. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

5. Presentation and Approval of the Palmer Park Master Plan. Chairman Key turned the floor over to Maria Sovan with Upland Design.

Maria gave a little background on Upland Design who were Landscape Architects and Park Planners. They had been in business for 20 years and she had been with the company for seven years. She said when Mike first approached Upland Design they discussed the potential of Palmer Park being an OSLAD project. They have reached out to the community multiple times, attended two public meetings and the Recreation Advisory Board. She noted the public meetings were held at Palmer Park to get resident/community ideas and suggestions for the park and that had worked out very well with great turnouts. Palmer Park was aging and was in need of a fresh new look. After sorting through and tallying up the data received at the public meeting, they met with the Recreation Advisory Board and presented four (4) playground equipment concepts that were handicap accessible and appropriate for sensory disabled. The concept the RAB chose was then presented at the second public meeting and the community was able to vote which accessory pieces they wanted for the park which was a zipline and an inclusive spinner. Maria then reviewed the Concept Plan for the entire park, pointing out/describing the following:

- The playground would be where the existing sand volleyball courts were (the volleyball courts were not going to be replaced).
- Next to the playground would be a 16' x 16' shade structure and a drinking fountain.
- There would be a pollinator garden near the existing park sign along 123rd Street.
- Bocce ball courts would be located between the playground and the tennis/pickle ball courts.
- Fenced in restrooms would be located across the path from the bocce ball courts near the parking lot.
- The parking lot will be moved to the west and have a handicap accessible space.

- The tennis/pickle balls courts would be on the northwest corner of the park with a north-south orientation.
- The basketball courts will be just south of the tennis/pickle ball courts and also have a north-south orientation (preferred). They will be back-to-back, two (2) half basketball courts.
- The practice soccer and ball fields will remain basically in their current area, but will have improvements made to them: new goals on the soccer field and a new backstop with a gravel-mix infield on the ball field. There would be an 8 ft. wide multi-purpose walking path around the park.

Comments made by the committee included:

- Alderman McGovern felt the basketball courts should be fenced in or there should be some kind of berm/barrier to keep balls from going into the street. After some discussion, the consensus was to move the courts to the east so they weren't so close to the walking path and street.
- Alderman Clifford suggested including benches and Mike agreed at least three (3) should be positioned along the path for rest points. Garbage cans were also mentioned.
- Chairman Key noted the 123rd Redevelopment Project included a sidewalk from Harlem Avenue to Palmer Park. The City Administrator pointed out the sidewalk on the northeast corner (beige on the Master Plan) was part of that project and would connect to the walking path. He said the spurs off the walking path on the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners should be removed because they do not lead to another sidewalk. Chairman Key agreed.
- Alderman McGovern inquired if there was going to be benches by the ball field. It was Mike's opinion that benches were not a good idea. The fields are intended for practice ONLY...no competitive games. He explained Palmer Park was neighborhood park and not a community park.

Mike noted this Master Plan for Palmer Park, which outlined the features and layout, was required for the OSLAD Grant application. After the grant is awarded, the final design and construction documents will be prepared, and minor changes could be made at that time in accordance with the grant guidelines.

Chairman Key moved to approve the Master Plan for Palmer Park as presented by Upland Design, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

AGENDA

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Sheppard
Recording Secretary