



City of Palos Heights
Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
7:00 PM
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Key called the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Palos Heights City Hall, 7607 W. College Drive. In attendance were Chairman Key, Alderman Bylut, Alderman Clifford, Alderman McGovern, Recreation Director Matt Fairbanks, Lake Katherine Representative Terry Horvath, Superintendent of Facilities Joe Smith, Superintendent of Recreation Lauren Koszola, and Recording Secretary Jessica Swiedals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman McGovern. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT

Lake Katherine Representative Terry Horvath provided the update:

- Lake Katherine held their annual volunteer appreciation event with a breakfast at the Recreation Center. This was to honor the work of the volunteers that contributed time to Lake Katherine last year. Approximately \$76,000 worth of volunteer time was contributed.
- Staff attended an IL NAI/EEAI field trip to Red Oaks Nature Center near Batavia on nature center financial sustainability.
- Winter at the Lake was held with approximately 200 attendees. There was winter themed crafts, domestic animals from The Center, face painting and Waddles from the Recreation Center made an appearance.
- 20 people attended the nighttime snow hike. It actually snowed that night so the snow shoes got use during the walk around the lake. There was also hot chocolate and a campfire.
- Staff met with Representatives from Nicor. There was talk about the upcoming Nicor volunteer day and how the \$7,210 grant will be used. They plan to use the funds for plants and arbors.
- Continued woody cleanup around the north side of the lake, along with brush mowing of buckthorn using the tractor around the lake while the ground is still frozen. This will help protect the soil and plants from the weight of the tractor.
- Baby changing stations have been installed in the bathrooms in both buildings.
- The Natural Navigation presentation was given at the Palos Heights Public Library. This detailed how to use natural cues to find your way without a map or compass.
- The preliminary Green Team met to assess what the team aims to accomplish.
- There was a business plan meeting, discussing expanding on the Lake Katherine Strategic plan, while also updating the old plan.
- There has been planning of summer programs including yoga classes, and preliminary planning for a fundraising gala.
- The Nature and Arts festival is on April 25th, there will be a presenter and a chance to participate in a group nature art project.
- Staff held a MLK day of service. Volunteers came to help with seed cleaning and buckthorn removal. There were 20 volunteers that came out to help.

- Lake Katherine was a recipient of \$7,360 from the Beautification Committee to purchase extra kayaks and equipment for the augmentation of the canoe and kayak program. Lake Katherine will be extending hours in the summer to allow for canoe and kayaking at different times.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

Recreation Director, Matt Fairbanks, provided the Parks & Recreation update:

- **OSLAD Grant/Palmer Park-** During the week of January 27th, staff received the edited version of the MWRD Watershed permit. This was signed off on by Upland Design and Adam Jasinski from Public Works. We then resubmitted the application on January 31st. This should be the last review and now we are waiting for approval. The project anticipated start date is May 1st with a completion date of August 31st.
- The Bid Let occurred on January 30th, plans became available for contractors to purchase. The invite was published on January 24th in The Daily Southtown. To date 8 companies have purchased the plans. The Bid opening will be held Tuesday February 25th at City Hall.
- **CAPRA Update-** Tuesday February 4th, spoke with assigned mentor Matt Leaver. Matt has provided information and details about being accredited and what we can do to be more successful during this time. He spoke about how to store information and data, and provided us with his department's self-evaluation to use as a reference. NRPA provided us with the new standards and those that were updated.
- **Annual Report on the pool and the fitness center presented by Joe Smith-** The fitness center has offered the AARP Medicare RENEW ACTIVE memberships, this provides members a free fitness membership that United Healthcare will then reimburse the Recreation Center. Last year there were 17 people who took advantage of this program. This year to date, there are approximately 10 people who have signed up. The fitness center's membership numbers have continued to stay consistent with there being between 530-540 memberships which equated to about 1,300 members. The biggest growth that the fitness center had was personal training which is due to our personal trainer Tyler Freitag. Tyler is an asset to the Recreation department is well liked and respected by patrons. In 2018 Tyler had 357 sessions, and last year he had over 670. Tyler is on pace to match or exceed that number this year. Twice a year a company comes out and does a complete overhaul on the fitness machines. They take them apart, clean the machines and check for any maintenance that may be needed. Overall the fitness center is doing well even with the many competitors in the area. The pool season ended well last year despite adverse weather conditions almost the entire month of June. The concession stand did well last year as well as swim lessons. The concrete project was completed and air conditioning was installed in the concession stand. There were no broken machines last season and this may be attributed to it being cooler with the new air conditioning unit.
- **Annual Report on Recreation Programming presented by Lauren Koszola-** Last year there were about 500 programs offered and 34 special events of which 23 of these events were free to the community. The youth athletics have seen growth in the past year. There are about 400 children enrolled in our youth basketball league, compared to last year's numbers which were about 277. Men's basketball, coach pitch and t-ball all went well with enrollment staying consistent with years past. Our volleyball league had about 22 participants which is average for this program however, this is a program that staff would like to see grow in the future. The Recreation Center still has a relationship with District 128 and run the afterschool program Power Play at Chippewa Elementary School. Our summer camp program continues to grow with about 488 children enrolled. Summer camp registration started in December to give patrons extra time to prepare. Little Learner's Pre-school had about 46 children enrolled last year, and for next school year the Recreation Center will offer full day as well as half day pre-school options. Surveys were sent out, and the public showed interest in full day. Room 108 has been remodeled to be utilized as an additional pre-school room. There will be 5 concerts this summer with CNB Bank sponsoring all of them. There will also be 3 movies in the park this summer, Frozen 2, The Grinch for Christmas in July and Toy Story 4.

- **Matt Fairbanks wrap-up-** Staff was able to collect \$7,000 over the expected budget for sponsorships. Eric Sloyan received his Certified Pool Operator Certificate. Lauren Koszola graduated from supervisor school and Joe Smith completed his CPRE certification.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve SWSRA's Member District Contribution payment in the amount of \$45,825.50.

Alderman Key motioned to approve SWSRA's payment in the amount of \$45,825.50 for programs and resources for our special needs population in town, seconded by Alderman Clifford. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **AGENDA**

OLD BUSINESS - none

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Swiedals
Recording Secretary