

**b.**



City of Palos Heights  
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
12:00 p.m.  
MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm. In attendance were Lisa Pesavento, Lynda Schiappa, Angie Pope, Bill Poore, Paul Hunt, Gayle Greenwald (via Zoom), Denise Hyker, Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Fairbanks, and Recording Secretary Tayler Swiedals.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Paul Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2021 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting with amendments, seconded by Denise Hyker.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **Pool Update:** The pool will open for its 50<sup>th</sup> season on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 35 certified lifeguards and 31 pool staff members, and there are 7 training dates scheduled prior to opening day. Pool passes have been on sale since February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Rec center with early bird pricing ending on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There are currently about 700 pass holders. Staff expects an uptick of pass sales when the pool opens. Staff has run into a few snags with chemicals for the pool due to supply chain issues. Staff has found comparable alternatives and does not anticipate issues related to pool chemistry. Chlorine prices are currently 8% higher than last year and staff has purchased 2 months' worth of chlorine to avoid further price increases. Concession supply prices have also increased by about 10% causing the concession menu to adjust pricing accordingly.
- **Farmer's Market:** The farmer's market had a successful opening day on May 11<sup>th</sup> with approximately 100-200 patrons attending. There are 34 vendors including coffee, empanadas, vegetables, plants, and local community groups. Staff anticipate a few additional vendors to join the market throughout the summer.
- **May Rec Programs:** The musical theater Twinkles division help their show "Bada Bing, It's Spring" on Friday, April 22 with 113 tickets being sold and Saturday, April 23 with 124 tickets being sold for a revenue of \$801. On Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> staff held a "May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You"

class with 7 participants creating light sabers, performing Jedi training, and finishing with a Star Wars themed snack. The Little Learners preschool program held their “Stepping Up” ceremony on May 19<sup>th</sup> for the 3-4 year old preschoolers. The graduation for the 4-5 year olds was held on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Orchard Room.

- Misty Meadows Update: George’s Landscaping has been on site making great progress on the park. As of last week, most of the excavation was completed and the majority of the playground equipment has been installed. In the coming weeks, the concrete for the pour-n-play surface perimeter will be poured and the concrete pads will be poured for the benches and shelter. We are still 10-12 weeks out from the delivery of the remaining equipment. Landscaping will begin in mid-July. The committee members commented on how nice the park looks so far.
- CAPRA Update: Last week, staff received the first draft review from the site review team with results that were not ideal. A number of standards require additional information or evidence to be considered met. While a number of these standards can be updated and corrected prior to the site visit in mid-June, there are enough standards that require additional work with the creation of a procedure, plan, or proof a standard is being practiced. In some cases, approval through the Recreation Committee or City Council will be required. Staff has opted to apply for an extension for 12 months in order to satisfy these standards and ensure the completion of the accreditation. Director Fairbanks will be working with staff and city departments to gather the required evidence to complete the standards. Director Fairbanks applied for the extension through the NRPA office on Monday and the review process for the extension request lasts about 2 weeks. Lisa Pesavento commented that working alongside our mentor and being in constant communication with the NRPA office will be important moving forward in this process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Amendments to Minutes: Gayle Greenwald stated that everyone is invited to attend the bench dedication ribbon cutting on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Matt has the agenda for the day to hand out to the board members. People can ride along the trail if they would like. There will be police present to help riders cross the intersection at 127<sup>th</sup> St and Route 83. The event will run from 10 am-1 pm.
- B. Design Standard Manual Update: We are still in the process of putting the manual together to be reviewed by the RAB.
- C. Recreation Advisory Board Update: A proposal has been submitted to Alderman Key and Mayor Straz. Once we hear feedback, a meeting will be set with the RAB and the Recreation Committee to discuss the proposal.
- D. Lynda Schiappa stated that she hopes moving forward the committee members can do an evaluation at the pool before opening for the season as has been procedure in the past. She states that June will not be an appropriate time for a pool site visit as it will be open, and hopes to have a meeting on site next May. Denise Hyker seconded this statement and added that the members of the RAB can contribute feedback for staff regarding the pool and parks. Director

Fairbanks will discuss with staff having RAB members visit sites prior to opening in the future. Denise Hyker and Lynda Schiappa both expressed that the committee is here to support the department in the best ways possible.

- E. Lynda Schiappa informed committee members of the Public Arts Commission installation of Jean Knap's "The Little Turtle Gets Lost" story book walk at Lake Katherine. She mentioned this could be a nice field trip idea for the summer campers. The hope is to have an unveiling in June depending on the installation schedule with Public Works.
- F. The committee discussed the issue of bike racks and Director Fairbanks explained that Alderman Begley requested any additional suggestions regarding bike racks should be discussed through the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee discussed attending the next Buildings and Grounds Meeting on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Director Fairbanks suggested having Lynda Schiappa reach out as the chairperson of RAB to the Director of Public Works, Adam Jasinski, to have the topic of bike racks added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- G. The committee members discussed distributing physical copies of the playbook to groups representing different populations. Director Fairbanks reminded the committee members of the mailing list staff has created for those patrons who request a physical copy be sent to them. This is advertised through the post cards that are mailed out before each playbook cycle to all residents. Director Fairbanks also reiterated the purpose for limiting physical copies is a financial savings for the department can access to the playbook via the department's website is available. Lisa Pesavento suggested providing playbooks to underserved populations to address the need for programming with different populations. Lisa Pesavento suggested advertising outside of the boundaries of Palos Heights as well. The committee discussed possibly handing out copies at meetings for the following groups: Garden Club, Seniors Club, Women's Club, Lyons, Kiwanis, and possibly a specialty or private school. Director Fairbanks suggested providing the playbooks at meetings for the chosen groups and for these groups to gather data on those who would like to continue receiving physical copies of the playbook for the Recreation Department's records.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Denise Hyker made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 pm, seconded by Paul Hunt. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Swiedals, Recording Secretary