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City of Palos Heights
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 29, 2022
12:00 p.m.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. In attendance were Lisa Pesavento (via Zoom), Bill Poore, Paul Hunt (via Zoom), Gayle Greenwald, Denise Hyker, Tim Cronin, Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Fairbanks, and Recording Secretary Tayler Swiedals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gayle Greenwald made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting with amendments, seconded by Tim Cronin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- National Trails Day: Saturday, June 4th was National Trails Day, and the Friends of Cal-Sag Trail hosted bench dedication ceremonies along the trail. There were 5 benches dedicated with ribbon cuttings and speeches from those who donated the benches. The bench in Palos Heights was dedicated by Bill Poore and is located on the East side of the Harlem overpass facing the off-stream aeration pool in Worth. Both Bill and Mayor Straz spoke at the bench dedication touching on the work on the Cal-Sag trail project and the importance of the benches. The Friends of Cal-Sag Trail are hoping this will lead to additional donors to add more benches in the future. Denise Hyker added that the event was wonderful, and the location for Bill's bench is ideal.
- Community Events Manager: Nikki Gotsch is our new Community Events Manager. The position will be responsible for the coordination of various City events, marketing for those events, sponsorship, advertising, and additional programming needs. Nikki most recently worked for Lockport Township Park District. She started as the part time marketing and public relations assistant, moving into the full time Recreation Supervisor, and, most recently, the Facilities Manager. She has experience with sponsorships and marketing. Nikki has been involved in the South Suburban Parks and Recreation Association and is familiar with our Department's staff. She is also a resident of Palos Heights. Nikki had her first day this past Monday, June 27th. Lisa

Pesavento suggested adding a bio-sketch for our full time staff members on our website in the future.

- July 3rd/4th Events: The last committee meeting for the 3rd and 4th events was held on Tuesday to finalize preparation for both. This year, July 3rd will start with inflatables in the morning at Community Park from 10-1 with carnival games followed by the event starting at 5 pm. There will be a live dj, a band, and food vendors including: Bojo's, Rainbow Cone, Aurelio's, Taco Burrito King, Tropical Sno, and Rooftop Tap providing the beer sales. The fireworks will begin around 9:15 pm, and the event will conclude at the end of the fireworks. The parade will take place on July 4th along Harlem Avenue with 45 entries this year. The grand marshal will be the Palos Pool in celebration of their 50th anniversary. Our mascot, Waddles, will be riding in the parade with pool staff giving away rubber ducks and beach balls. The Recreation Department partnered with SWSRA once again to provide a sensory friendly zone at the end of the parade.
- June Rec Programs: Summer Camp is in full-swing with 52 staff members, 165 campers enrolled in the first session that ended last Friday, and second session in its first week with 190 campers. There will be themed weeks this session for campers to participate in. Denise Hyker inquired whether there was any problem staffing for the summer, and Director Fairbanks explained that both camp and the pool are fully staffed with little to no issue. The goal for staff is to have 200 campers in the third session. The summer session of youth athletics began June 6th with contractual classes with All Star Sports and Sports Kids including: basketball, soccer, tee ball, volleyball, track and field, and golf. A majority of these classes are at full capacity, and our youth athletics have been trending upwards since 2021. Our youth volleyball league ended June 5th with 99 participants compared to 71 in 2021. The league was run by Trinity College student athletes. Lisa Pesavento asked how the department is collecting equity data for programming, and specifically, surveying girls on their interest at the end of programs and events. Director Fairbanks explained that the evaluations sent out at the end of programs include questions that can help gather this specific data, and staff will evaluate this data before the new brochures are put together. Gayle Greenwald asked what age ranges our youth athletics are serving and how the programs are marketed. Director Fairbanks explained the youth athletic programs are marketed for recreational leagues versus competitive leagues. Our before and after care program, Power Play, concluded June 2nd with a great turnout for the year and will begin again in the fall. Miss Angie's music classes have been running well with 39 participants in total. Voice Lessons, piano lessons, and dance classes are running for the summer with great enrollment.
- Pool Update: Attendance has been strong due to the hot weather with 10,000 people in the month of June. Season passes have reached over \$100,000.00 exceeding pre-pandemic numbers, daily admissions are at \$45,000.00, and concession sales are at \$21,000.00. Swim lessons began on June 11th with 98 participants enrolled in the Saturday sessions and 80 participants in the weekday lessons.
- Misty Meadows Update: The concrete work was completed June 16th and 17th with Kendall and Michael on site to put their hand prints in one of the concrete pads where the swing bench, which was donated by their foundation, is located. There will be a plaque for the foundation and

one for a biopic for Kendall with information and pictures she provided. The pour-n-play surface is in the process of being completed. We are still waiting on the delivery of the shelter and table. There will be a soft opening at the end of the summer, and in coordination with Kendall and Michael's schedules, staff is looking to have a grand opening closer to September. Landscaping will start at the end of this month.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. CAPRA Update: Staff was granted the 12 month extension from NRPA on May 25th. Director Fairbanks and staff will continue to work with city departments to get the required evidence to complete the handful of standards outlined pre-review. There was a staff meeting yesterday, and staff discussed a plan to tackle the outstanding standards. Lisa Pesavento requested that CAPRA be included in the monthly report again with minutes from staff meetings regarding CAPRA. Lisa Pesavento also requested that the confirmation letter from NRPA for the extension be included in the packet for the next RAB meeting.
- B. RAB Update: Director Fairbanks worked with City Administrator David Strohl on a proposal that was reviewed by Alderman Key. The Recreation Committee members suggested inviting the RAB members to the July Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the proposal. Director Fairbanks will be sending out the proposal at the end of the week for review to prepare for discussion at the July meeting. Denise Hyker asked that City Administrator David Strohl be present at the meeting.
- C. Bill Poore asked Director Fairbanks how the department is looking now that we are 6 months into the budget. Director Fairbanks is confident with where the department is at regarding the budget.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Gayle Greenwald made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 pm, seconded by Tim Cronin. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tayler Swiedals, Recording Secretary