



City of Palos Heights
Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2020
3:00 PM
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Key called the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee to order at 3:03 p.m. at the Palos Heights City Hall, 7607 W. College Drive. In attendance were Chairman Key, Alderman Bylut, Alderman McGovern, City Administrator Dan Nisavic, Recreation Director Matt Fairbanks, Lake Katherine Operations Director Gareth Blakesley, Superintendent of Recreation Lauren Koszola, Superintendent of Facilities Joe Smith and Recording Secretary Jessica Swiedals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday June 9, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT-

Lake Katherine Operations Director Gareth Blakesley provided the update:

- Lake Katherine has moved into phase 4 with the first facility rental last weekend at just under 50% capacity which allowed for the tables to be socially distanced.
- Staff researched through IDPH and DCEO guidelines to create their own protocols. These protocols have been shared with clients and vendors to assure all know what is expected from them.
- Rental staff had training on updated protocols.
- The clubhouse had been professionally sanitized a few days before the first event.
- DCEO has provided worksheets for the different phases from offices, to museums and events.
- Evening programs such as canoeing and kayaking, the night hike, and family campout have been filling up and have proved to be popular. In addition, there will be 4 fishing events this summer with the first having over 30 participants.
- Education programs have been ongoing with the elements of camp, broken down into per family individualized programs. The programs are booking up and are being held outside.
- Canoe and kayak hours have been extended on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sunday nights.
- Staff have finished install and landscaping around new arbors near the waterfall. This area is now larger which will fit a larger wedding group and will be a popular site.
- The Eagle Scout Bridge has been repaired near the back of the children's forest.
- Volunteers have been busy in the gardens and on the grounds, clearing teasel and woody material, weeding and pruning.
- The Heritage Garden that is mainly run by U of I volunteers has not been worked on due to volunteers not being cleared to come back yet. There are hopes they will be back next week. Staff hopes to have a fall crop in that area which will be donated to a local food pantry.
- Lake Katherine will hold a meeting for those who wish to dedicate a tree or bench.
- Due to the high temperatures and little rainfall, staff will begin watering smaller trees and bushes. This will become an ongoing activity as the summer progresses.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

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

- **Pool re-opening plan-** There will be three swim groups per day. Lap/adult swim will be held in the morning along with a limited number of baby pool guests. There will be open swim limited to fifty people per session with social distancing required. There will be no slides available and reservations will need to be made to gain entrance. Swim lessons will not be offered this season. Temperature checks will be performed before entrance. Locker rooms will be available for use, however, entrance and exit will be near the concession area. Locker rooms and showers will be available for use but lockers are not available. Concessions will be grab and go to limit contact. Pool staff have hand held sprayers with no wipe solution to clean and sanitize all areas of the pool.
- **Summer Care-** Summer care is a five week program to offer childcare as well as an opportunity for children to interact. There are 36 participants with smaller groups to socially distance. Summer care started July 6th. Counselors are doing hand washing breaks and each group has their own home base. Campers and parents are adapting and seem happy.
- **Recreation Center-** The Recreation Center is now open for reserved fitness appointments as well as for registration for programming. Staff are encouraging patrons to use online registration. One on one personal training is still being offered. Rentals groups such as church groups and AA will slowly be welcomed back soon as staff will be able to ask for each group's protocols. Recreation staff created a virtual brochure for programming that proved to work well. Staff is hopeful this can be something that is done in the future to allow changes to be made more easily and also saves a significant amount of money in printing and mailing.
- **Fitness Center-** The fitness center is up and running upon reservation. Twelve patrons can be in the fitness center at one time. This will ensure the space can stay clean and not overcrowded. Registrations for the fitness center have been going well.
- **Outdoor Events-** Staff are planning an outdoor movie for July 30th. This event will require pre-registration. Staff are hopeful to be able to accommodate 200-250 people. Staff is looking into holding concerts later in the summer. Staff was planning an event for October as a thank you and are still working out details for this. Ideas include, movies, concerts and possibly a fireworks show.
- **Farmer's Market-**The Farmer's Market has been going well. There are about twenty vendors. Each week the market is getting better with patrons following protocols and socially distancing.
- **Palmer Park-** A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week. Contractors will finish demolition this week.
- **Feldner Property-**The Mayor has spoken with Dan and Matt regarding the name for the newly acquired property. The idea for the new name is Orchard Park.
- **Playgrounds-** The playgrounds in Palos Heights have all been re-opened. The snow fencing has been taken down and signage has been placed at each park.
- **Pickleball Courts-** To replace the pickleball courts at Palmer Park, temporary courts have been set up at Passarelli Park for patrons to use.

NEW BUSINESS- Pool and summer care protocols. **See Recreation Director's Report.**

ALDERMAN COMMENT- Alderman Key is requesting that plans start for signage as well as a dedication for the newly acquired Feldner property which has been named Orchard Park. Director Fairbanks has a meeting scheduled at the end of the week with the architect and landscape architect.

OLD BUSINESS - none

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Swiedals
Recording Secretary