



CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS
Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
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 McGovern, Recreation Director Matt Fairbanks, Lake Katherine Operations Director Gareth Blakesley, and Recording Secretary Margaret Carey. Absent was Alderman Clifford. Also in attendance: Mary Lynn Duffy, Jim Duffy, and Denise Hyker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman Bylut. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents Mary Lynn and Jim Duffy were present to bring the Committees attention to a situation that occurred at the pool. The Duffys have observed on 2 occasions that a group of men, ages approximately 18-24, were rough housing and not responding to lifeguards and pool staff instructions to stop. It was the same group of men on both occasions. The most recent occurred on July 4th. The main concern is that lifeguards are distracted from their primary duty of ensuring safety for pool patrons. The Duffys said the situation was such that the police should have been called to assist. They questioned staff procedures.

Alderman McGovern said that he will speak to the Police Chief. Recreation Director Fairbanks added that he will speak to his staff and remind them about procedures. He will also discuss shortening time for tolerance of such behavior, before calling police for assistance.

Resident Denise Hyker spoke on behalf of the Beautification Committee regarding the Classic Car Event. This is their #1 fundraiser and proceeds are used to beautify the City and donate items where needed – such as kayaks to Lake Katherine. Unfortunately, this year the Classic Car event is scheduled on the same day as the Wine & Nature Event at Lake Katherine. This is a problem because it takes attendance away from the Classic Car event. Ms. Hyker was wondering how we can avoid this situation in the future. The Committee discussed a central calendar for the City. Margaret Carey, Assistant to the Mayor, offered to be the point of contact for a central calendar. She already maintains the calendar for the City's website.

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT

Lake Katherine Operations Director, Gareth Blakesley provided the update:

- The July 3rd fireworks show went well. There were people in attendance on the clubhouse lawn and balcony.
- The Brews & Bullfrogs event had a good turnout, despite the rain.
- Had a strategic planning meeting to update the mission statement.
- Summer camp has been ongoing – with crafts, fire making, tree climbing, canoeing.

- Met with the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers to explore restoration opportunities.
- 15 Stagg High School volunteers came out to assist with removal of invasive plants.
- Upcoming events include: Nature by the “Book, Wine & Nature event, and “All things Folk.”

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

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

- Update on new property purchased – we are still working on gathering proposals for the barn structure.
- Legacy Basketball – staff met with this travel basketball organization to schedule court time for them, without disrupting availability to our regular programs.
- Cal-Sag Trail Update – The Recreation Advisory Board said a bench will be donated along the trail at Harlem Avenue or Ridgeland. Director Fairbanks is currently working with PW Director Jasinski on the project.
- Pool – For the 1st 30 days of being open this season, the pool was closed 11 times due to rain or temperature. However, we are still just under 85% of revenue as compared to last year.
- Independence Day Events – There was a lot going on during the July 4th week; a movie, a concert, a fest, and a parade. Everything worked out very well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to approve the quote to install playground safety mulch via blower truck by Three Oaks Ground Cover at the cost of \$7,150.00 for Community Park, Passerelli Park, and Walsh-Westgate Park.

Chairman Key motioned to approve the purchase of safety mulch from Three Oaks Ground Cover at a cost of \$7,150.00, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS – none.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Carey
Recording Secretary