



City of Palos Heights  
Recreation Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 McGovern, Facilities Superintendent of Facilities Joe Smith, Lake Katherine Director Gareth Blakesley, and Recording Secretary Jessica Swiedals. Alderman Clifford was absent for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as written, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - none

**LAKE KATHERINE REPORT**

Lake Katherine Director Gareth Blakesley provided the update:

- In response to the increased use of the grounds, Lake Katherine has increased their trash pickup. The number of trash cans has been increased in key areas. There has been additional signage posted to discourage people from feeding the wildlife and also to discourage people from wading in the waterfall. Grounds supervision has been increased on the weekend evenings which has been provided by a community service officer courtesy of the Police Department.
- The first Lake Katherine Campout will be held Friday night August 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday morning August 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is filled and will take place in the children's forest.
- Lake Katherine's Sunset Sonata will be held next week on the clubhouse lawn. This event will be rescheduled if there is rain as there is not enough capacity due to COVID restrictions, to allow a group of this size inside the building.
- The third fishing day will be held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The last fishing day had forty participants, so staff is anticipating a good turnout for this event.
- Lake Katherine was not greatly affected by Monday's storm. There was one tree that had to be removed however, this tree was already dead before the storm.
- Staff cleaned out a good amount around the waterfall and opened up views of the waterfall by removing brush and buckthorn.
- An Eagle Scout is constructing a large sun dial in the children's forest. This sundial also helps with showing the seasons. This is a great way to make a connection with the seasons, time and sunlight.
- The University of Illinois volunteers will be returning next week to begin work in the Heritage Garden. They were finally granted approval to resume volunteering from the University.
- Lake Katherine will be extending their canoe and kayak extended hours and will be evaluating their popularity as the season continues.
- Volunteers are continuing to clear major invasive species including teasel, loosestrife and phragmites.

**PARKS & RECREATION REPORT**

Facilities Superintendent Joe Smith, provided the Parks & Recreation update:

- The pool opened on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Due to guidelines and restrictions, capacity was limited to fifty people per swim session. These sessions were broken up into two hour blocks of time that were available

through reservation only. Patrons were able to reserve time for the pool online or in person at the Recreation Center. This allowed staff to safely distance patrons and allotted extra time for cleaning and sanitizing. The pool only had to close due to weather a few days and there have been many nice comments from residents about their experience at the pool this season. Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> is due to be the last day the pool will be open for the season. Staff are looking into opening a few more sessions the following weekend if staffing allows. The revenue for the pool this season is approximately \$21,000.

- The fitness center is open upon reservation. This process has been running smoothly with patrons registering online, in person or over the phone for gym time. The walking track is due to re-open in September with registration required for track time and limited capacity. Staff have been doing a great job keeping the facility clean and sanitized.
- Fun Day Care or FDC, is a childcare program being offered by the Recreation Center. This program is open to half day kindergarten students, pre-school students and the children of teachers who work for district 128. The Recreation staff will provide games, crafts and assist with schoolwork.
- Powerplay will be offered at each school this year, not at one location unlike in the past, to limit travel and group size. Each school will have staff there to assist with homework, play games and do crafts.
- On July 30<sup>th</sup> the Recreation Department held a movie at Meyer's Park. They showed Space Jam and approximately forty people attended. This was a pre-registration event and patrons were easily able to social distance. The Recreation Department held a concert on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park. Rosie and the Rivets came out to play for about one hundred and fifty pre-registered guests. Public Works placed a small event fence around the perimeter of the entire park to control the amount of people attending the event. Staff will be hosting an additional concert on August 20<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park with the band The Chicago Experience performing.
- Staff are continuing to research and plan for the October three day special event. The three days would consist of a movie in the park with the Kiwanis selling pre-packaged snacks on Thursday. Friday there would be a fireworks show with a DJ and Saturday would be a modified Farmer's Market the Recreation Department is calling a "Community Market" in the pool parking lot. This will allow local businesses to sell products and goods with a band that will play in the middle of the parking lot. There will be a "kid zone" area in Memorial Park with carnival games. Each of these areas will be roped off and have a similar entrance and exit pattern to the farmer's market model and the concert in the park.
- Staff are working to finalize the fall playbook which will be available online August 31<sup>st</sup>. A postcard was sent out late last week to all residents about accessing the playbook on the website. Fall registration will begin the first week of September and open registration to non-residents will begin the following week.
- Demolition at Palmer Park is completed. The majority of the earth work is completed and last week the crew continued to work on the excavation. The infield mix was brought onsite last week as well as work on the backstop. This week they will pour the concrete flatwork around the backstop, concrete bench pads around the walking path and they will start forming the playground curb and laying under drains at the playground. There will be an onsite meeting Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff continues to work on self-evaluation assessment documents that are due to the CAPRA committee in 2021. Staff met on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to resume monthly meetings on the completion of the required standards. Last week Matt was part of a virtual on-site visit to gain a better understanding as to what to expect when we host visitors in the spring of 2022. This on-site visit consisted of a three member team that divide up ten chapters of standards. The standards are reviewed per what the agency submitted versus what the standard requires and meetings are held with staff regarding questions and items to be updated prior to official commission review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion to approve \$44,299.00 for the first installment for 2020-21 membership contribution to the South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA).

Alderman Key motioned to approve the payment of the first installment for the 2020-21 membership contribution to SWSRA. Alderman Bylut seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **AGENDA**

2. Motion to approve the updated hours of operation for the Recreation Center in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan beginning after Labor Day.

Alderman Key motioned to approve the updated hours of operation for the Recreation Center starting after Labor Day. Alderman McGovern seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**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 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Swiedals  
Recording Secretary