



City of Palos Heights  
Recreation Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 8<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, Lake Katherine Director Gareth Blakesley, Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Fairbanks and Recording Secretary Jessica Swiedals. Alderman Clifford and Alderman McGovern were absent for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the August 11<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:

- Lake Katherine hosted their first Family Campout. This event was held in the children's forest with families enjoying camping, nature activities and a night hike. This event was held from Friday night to Saturday night.
- Staff conducted a site visit to a nearby homeowner's residence who were asking advice on habitat restoration on their extensive grounds.
- The Sunset Sonata was a sold out event. People enjoyed a sunset sonata with classical music provided by the Ostrega Uhl Project and two cocktails made with herbs from the herb garden.
- The third fishing event was held with forty seven people attending. The next fishing event will be the Fall Fishing Fundraiser and will be held in October.
- Trail maintenance has been ongoing with trash removal, site inspections, mowing, weed removal and watering.
- Brush has been cleared along the south lake shore in key visible areas.
- Temporary signs have been put up around the grounds where people can scan a code and it will take them to the Lake Katherine donation page.
- Volunteers have been working in the Heritage Garden with a planting of a fall crop and placing weed barriers down. Volunteers have also been busy in other gardens watering and doing weed removal to get through the drought conditions.
- The Lake Katherine Educator has been creating programs for homeschool groups, family programs and the Little Explorers. September and October programs are set and ready to go and will be on the website and Facebook during the current week. The educator's summer programs have filled up and she has been having scout programs and tying the fall programs to include elements from the school curriculum. Almost all of the Lake Katherine Educator's programs fill after they are posted.
- Little Explorers has four sessions and three of them ran. There were four homeschool programs and one of them ran. With the challenges of E-learning Lake Katherine programs are filling up steadily.
- Canoe and kayak hours will continue to be extended as they are still popular.
- Tree and bench dedications are popular with a variety of trees scheduled to be put in the ground this fall.

## **PARKS & RECREATION REPORT**

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

- The pool closed August 23<sup>rd</sup> after staff extended the season by one additional weekend. There were no COVID cases reported and out of one hundred and four days that were available to be open, the pool only closed thirteen days due to low enrollment or bad weather. The total revenue for the pool this season was \$31,000. Joe Smith is working with the contractor at the pool to fix areas with cracked concrete as well as working with IDPH to obtain permits for drainage repair. There will be a wrap-up report available for the committee soon.
- Work at Palmer Park is continuing. Homer Tree Service trimmed trees and brush near the walking path. The concrete has been set for the playground curb, pavilion pad, fountain and flag pole pads as well as pads for the benches and behind the baseball diamond. The drainage has been dug under the playground and the asphalt has been laid. There is a delay on the delivery of the playground due to COVID, however it looks as though the timeline will still be met with that being late October.
- Staff have continued to work on the self-assessment document for CAPRA. Matt has been working on chapter one. A timeline and to-do list has been created. After Matt's virtual site visit, knowledge was gained that can help when the Recreation Department has a site visit in 2022.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion to approve Upland Design's payment in the amount of \$ 3,471.92 for professional services completed on the Palmer Park project.

Alderman Key motioned to approve the payment to Upland Design in the amount of \$3,471.92 for professional services completed on the Palmer Park project. Alderman Bylut seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion to approve the Integral Construction payment in the amount of \$ 75,364.47 for work completed on the Palmer Park project.

Alderman Key motioned to approve the Integral Construction payment in the amount of \$75,364.47 for work completed on the Palmer Park project. Alderman Bylut seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **AGENDA**

3. Motion to approve Charles Vincent George's (CVG) payment #1 in the amount of \$5,280.94 for professional services completed on the Orchard Park project.

Alderman Key motioned to approve Charles Vincent George's first payment in the amount of \$5,280.94 for professional services completed on the Orchard Park project. Alderman Bylut seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously. **AGENDA**

**OLD BUSINESS** – There is an update on the October special event. There will be a movie held Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Meyer's park, the movie shown will be Onward and this will require pre-registration. On Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a concert and a community market held at Memorial Park.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Swiedals  
Recording Secretary