

VILLAGE OF LIBERTYVILLE
Meeting Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee
Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Chairman Todd Gaines called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Parks and Recreation Committee members in attendance included Chairman Todd Gaines, Trustee Rich Moras and Trustee Pete Garrity. Recreation and Sports Complex staff included Director of Recreation and Sports Complex Connie Kowal, Recreation Manager Julie Ludwig and Administrative Secretary Julie Fanning. Parks Division staff included Superintendent of Parks, Forestry and Grounds Jim Barlow. Also in attendance included Mayor Terry Weppler, Village Administrator Kevin Bowens and Trustee Scott Adams.

1) Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee

Chairman Todd Gaines motioned to approve the Tuesday, December 1, 2015 meeting minutes. Trustee Pete Garrity seconded. Minutes approved.

2) Hockey Rink Relocation Update

Trustee Gaines noted that the discussion is about the location of a hockey rink and it is not a discussion if whether the Committee is committed to the project. As Chairman Gaines reiterated the Committee is 100% committed to relocating the hockey rink from the former Bolander site. Trustee Gaines and Mayor Weppler met with the surrounding Butler Lake residents in December and received multiple emails regarding their concerns for the option of the hockey rink at Butler Lake Park. Chairman Gaines explained that through discussions with Trustee Moras and Trustee Garrity that a more suitable location would be the Adler Park location. Chairman Gaines reiterated that the Committee based the decision on the number of comments by the residents and explained to the hockey supporters that the Committee is committed to the project. Trustee Moras thanked the residents in attendance. Trustee Moras explained that no final decisions has been made for the project and no vote by the Village Board and explained that this is a process and the reason Butler Lake Park was discussed was due in part of the other activities that are currently within the Park and the visibility would be a positive aspect to inform the public regarding the hockey rink. Trustee Garrity reiterated that the Committee reviewed six possible locations for the hockey rink, two at Butler Lake and four at Adler Park. Based upon the criteria including a central location in town and individuals using the rink in the summer or winter could ride bikes or walk to the rink. Trustee Garrity reiterated that it the intention is to get input and the residents have been giving good input regarding the hockey rink. Mayor Weppler apologized if the information was not easily assessable but noted that the information was in the Village views and newspapers.

Village Resident Tom

Tom explained that in the early 70's through the early 90's hockey was played on Butler Lake and there were night lights that did shut off at 9pm. He noted that there are seven homes that only back up to the park and the rest of the area is surrounded by Lake Street as well as the cemetery. He also questioned that there are currently multiple lights on at the Butler Lake Park as well as the street lights. He explained that Mr. Crawford donated the land for winter activities and that is why there is still a warming house with a red/green light and railings to the lake. He asked the audience to reconsider Butler Lake as an option for current and future generations to enjoy.

Village Resident Dann Hansen (Stonegate Road)

Mr. Hansen clarified that the former skating facility located at Butler Lake was seasonal. Mr. Hansen explained that the issue is not hockey, it is the facility. For example, the baseball season

comes and goes, and this is the same as football and softball and the hockey rink is a 12 month facility.

Village Resident Joan Sayre (Stonegate Road)

Ms. Sayre asked the Committee to clarify that indeed the hockey will be moved to Adler Park.

Chairman Gaines clarified that the consensus he gathered is that the hockey rink would be more suitable at Adler Park based on the feedback of multiple residents at the December meeting and a very large number of emails stressing the concerns of aesthetics, lighting and people in and out of the park.

Mayor Wepler clarified to the public that this issue is currently at Committee level made up of three trustees. The Committee will then would make a recommendation to the Village Board as a whole. Mayor Wepler reiterated that this subject has never left the Committee level. Trustee Moras also noted that there was never a formal recommendation to put the hockey rink at Butler Lake Park and have been meeting for well over a year and there is no vote scheduled for the meeting and it is still in discussion.

Ms. Sayre summarized that in December the surrounding resident voiced their concerns regarding the relocation of the Bolander Hockey Rink. Many residents are concerned with the dramatic impact of the aesthetics, eco-systems and wildlife including safety issues with foot and car traffic and flying hockey pucks. Ms. Sayre emphasized that no one objects to the concept of the hockey rink and are all in favor of a hockey rink with a more suitable location. Ms. Sayre also noted that several years ago the Army Corp of Engineers spent millions of dollars cleaning Butler Lake, stabilizing the shorelines in both the lake and lagoon and planting wildflowers as well as beautified the Lake Street Bridge. Ms. Sayre noted mostly recently that the Village incurred a \$26,000 expense of power washing and stabilization of the Butler Lake Sunken Garden including a prescribed burn that cost several thousand dollars. Ms. Sayre noted that from an environmental review the Village is doing everything right and the residents appreciate it. Ms. Sayre questions why the Village would consider defacing the most beautiful park in Libertyville as the Village has made such a considerable investment in the one of a kind property. Ms. Sayre thanked Jim Barlow and the Parks Division staff on doing an outstanding job of maintaining the park and keeping it in pristine condition. The Villages dedication to the environment has caused a proliferation of wild flowers, birds and butterflies including the endangered monarchs returned in 2015. Lastly, Ms. Sayre asked that the Village honor the tradition of keeping Butler Lake Beautiful but making it a priority to protect the southern half of Butler Park in its natural state as a habitat corridor for wildlife and respectfully ask that the Village give serious thought to relocation the proposed hockey rink to another location.

Village Resident-Anonymous

Explained that most of the public in attendance are affected by the project as most live on Lake Street and that is their neighborhood that is very close to the residents and that is why they feel so strongly with leaving it the way it is.

Trustee Moras explained that in the dozen or so meetings regarding this subject in the past with little to no attendance. One of the main reasons most of the Parks in Libertyville were not considered was the affect on the neighbors. That is why Butler Park and Adler Park were considered through the process.

Village Resident Maggie Donovan (Off of Lake Street)

Ms. Donovan expressed that the park is not walkable for some residents and the parking created concerns with crossing the Lake Street Road.

Village Resident Jim Hahmer (W. Cook)

Mr. Hahmer asked the Committee with the Libertyville Sports Complex was not taken into consideration for the hockey rink as there is no neighborhood to worry about and there is ample parking with the miniature golf area.

Chairman Gaines corrected that Aloha Falls is currently being leased.

Mr. Hahmer noted that with Hockey being a sport that it would work with the Sports Complex purpose and the hockey rink would feed each other and possibly offer programs for hockey that would be a better blend of activities.

Chairman Gaines reiterated that the Committee considered multiple locations and a centralized and safe location from kids to go to and from therefore not making the Sports Complex a practical location.

Trustee Moras added to Chairman Gaines comments that the Sports Complex was considered but the overall objective of the Village is to find a buyer for the corner and golf property. Additionally it would not be responsible to spend a couple hundred thousand dollars on a property that will be eventually sold.

Village Resident Dann Hansen (Stonegate Road)

Mr. Hansen suggested the northside of the Sports Complex is a softball/baseball field and immediately west of the area is a flat piece of ground 230ft by 120ft. There is water, indoor facilities, heat in the winter, cooling in the summer and plenty of parking.

Mayor Weppler responded that when the Sports Complex was built, the area was listed as overflow parking. If the Golf Learning Center and the corner property sell that will have to be parking because currently for event the overflow parking is at the Golf Learning Center.

Mr. Hansen asked if the Golf Learning Center is on the market. Mayor Weppler noted that the Village Realtor advised to remove the listing until the market improved. The Village has advised realtors that the Village will consider offers. Offers have been made but the offer would keep the tax payers in debt for the amount of bonds.

Village Resident Sue Mulligan (Sherborne Court)

Ms. Mulligan explained that her 13 year old son spent every moment at the Bolander Park rink and is concerned with the isolation of Adler Park. Ms. Mulligan noted that she bikes by Adler Park on a daily basis and there are many beer bottles and evidence of illegal substances within the park and is concerned, so she suggests that Butler would be a better location.

Village Resident Laurie Kaya (Young Drive)

Ms. Kaya asked the Committee what would be the contingency plan be if the Village were to receive similar undercurrent from residents by Adler Parks. Chairman Gaines explained that in terms of a visibility there is a buffer and this is an ongoing discussion on location of the rink. Ms. Kaya asked when the decision will be made. Chairman Gaines said that once they have gathered enough information and can make the best decision on the proper amount of input. Ms. Kaya asked the timeline and the Committee committed for the next winter season.

Chairman Gaines added there are three parts to the hockey rink 1) location of the hockey rink, 2) how the hockey rink is constructed, 3) how to improve the rink regarding maintenance and can the rink be better quality. The history was the rink was originally a grant from the State and then when the Bolander property was sold, multiple residents voiced their concerns for the future of the hockey rink.

Trustee Garrity explained that there are six locations including two areas at Butler Park and four areas at Adler Park.

Village Resident Barry Baker (Elm Court)

Mr. Baker asked what were the two locations in Butler Lake. Chairman Gaines explained that there was a north and south location. Mayor Weppler clarified the location that have Illinois Department of Natural Resources was the first location located on the left hand side when you turn on Ray Peterson Drive. Chairman Gaines noted that there were no plans for south of Lake Street, only within the park grounds the north of Lake Street.

Village Resident Matt Gonring (Stonegate)

Mr. Gonring noted they are 25 year residents and the closest residents to the proposed hockey rink at Butler Lake Park. Mr. Gonring acknowledged that he appreciates that the Village is listening to the residents who are very passionate about the park. Mr. Gonring said that there may be opportunity going forward to consider regarding the residents support. Additionally, there was some usage data and noted that the Bolander hockey rink may have had some limited use and may not have been maintained. Mr. Gonring noted that he is not sure that the user data warrants a year round rink. Mr. Gonring also noted that past history is that Butler Lake was a popular and used facility and enough flexibility to bring back the ice skating on Butler because of the inconsistent weather.

Mayor Weppler commented that several of the Libertyville Car Dealers grew up within Libertyville and skated on Butler Lake and suggested a while back that it would be a good idea to bring ice skating back to Butler Lake. In planning for ice skating, they had come to the conclusion that with the inconsistent weather and the staffing struggle to staff the ice skating based on the inconsistent weather, that the idea was tabled.

Village Resident Kris Hopkins (Stonegate)

Ms. Hopkins noted the April 1 memo that 50 percent of the user are from inside the Village and 50 percent outside of the Village. Suggested that this should not be first priority given the data of non-resident users.

Village Resident Jacki Pytel (Jeremy Lane)

Ms. Pytel asked the Committee if the hockey rink would be year round. Secondly, she noted that there could be issues with the public parking on the roadway and crossing the lake street roadway is not safe. Lastly, how many matures trees would be removed and the status of the proposed retention basin.

Chairman Gaines noted that the facility would be a year facility based on the roller hockey usage.

Chairman Gaines noted that the healthy trees would be moved to a new location and the trees deemed unhealthy would be removed under the discretion of the Superintendent of Parks, Forestry and Grounds Jim Barlow.

Village Engineer Fred Chung noted that there is a need for a retention area but have not confirmed the location so that would have to set before the retention area would be further discussed.

Superintendent Barlow noted that the Village is committed to saving as many trees as possible.

Trustee Moras added that no decision has been made.

Trustee Garrity noted that the Village takes trees very seriously and always review the impact of the trees prior to moving forward with a project.

Village Resident John McWilliams (Hillcrest)

Mr. McWilliams has lived in the Village for over 30 years and liked the ice skating and warming house option for Butler Lake. Relative to the year round idea and bicycle and walking the whole park is busy and overflow parking as is with the various activities within the park. Noticed that it is reckless currently with games letting out on the public turning onto Lake Street. Mr. Williams added that he supports a “Norman Rockwell” atmosphere with skating on Butler Lake.

Village Resident Scott Nelson (7th Avenue)

Mr. Nelson explained that he was with the original group that was interested in having a year round rink in place and they loved the Bolander. Consider an option of installing boards just in the winter time.

Village Resident Mike Novak (Innsbruck Court)

Mr. Novak has lived in the Village for 29 years and feels strongly both ways that his family has skated at Butler Lake and the Bolander Property. During the baseball season there wouldn't be enough parking and there would be a puck noise annoyance.

Village Resident Wendy Vieth (Juliet Lane)

Ms. Vieth said she has three kids that played baseball and the usage at Bolander is during the week not the weekends and party would not be an issue. The parking issue at Butler is during the day. The hockey rink should be used year round like it was at Bolander.

Village Resident Jill Sackett (Stonegate)

Ms. Sackett said she is 20 year resident of Libertyville. Ms. Sackett is all in favor of hockey and concerned about the southern end being used as a hockey rink. The park has evolved with people living around the perimeter of the lake and many residents have invested in the park with benches and maintaining the sunken garden area. Ms. Sackett said that drivers do not yield at the cross walks and she would be very concerned for the youth and public crossing Lake Street. Ms. Sackett said from a practical standpoint for Libertyville the leverage the current infrastructures that are currently in place and the Butler Lake South location is not the best option when Adler Park already has the infrastructure in place to warrant a hockey rink. Ms. Sackett also suggested that the Sports Complex as an option even though it may be a longer distance to travel.

Village Resident Laurie Kaya (Young Drive)

Ms. Kaya wanted to confirm that the Hockey Rink will be a year round facility as discussed in past meetings.

Chairman Gaines reiterated that the Committee is 100% committed to relocating the rink. The rink will be of the same quality and hopefully improved from the former Bolander location.

Additionally, Chairman Gaines added that the discussion is where to put the hockey rink, not if the hockey rink will be installed.

Trustee Moras added that once the Committee makes the decision, it is not the final decision. There are many processes that have to occur before the project is confirmed.

Anonymous Village Resident

Thanked the Committee on taking all of the suggestions into consideration. The Resident noted that various meeting in the past and is very impressed of the Committee respect to take the public's suggestions into consideration and has every confidence that the Village will make the right decision. Additionally, it was added that Butler Lake was location based on other sport activities.

Anonymous Village Resident

The Resident asked Committee to outline some options in going forward for future discussion.

Village Resident Ms. Hawes (Dawes)

Ms. Hawes explained that there is currently a bike path with a crosswalk for Lake Street. Ms. Hawes added that in her opinion the Sports Complex is mostly used for travel sports and people pay for space and currently there is no real hockey sport available so it should be considered for a year round facility.

Anonymous Village Resident

The resident explained she is walker around Butler Lake and there is always trash at any parks and asked how the rinks would be financed.

Trustee Rich Moras explained that the Village of Libertyville taxing includes Recreation and is not a part of a Park District. Currently the rink is maintained by the Village Parks Division by installing the liner, maintaining the rink with snow removal and electricity which is already an annual expense and the hope is to decrease the maintenance if possible. Trustee Moras clarified that the Villages goal is to maintain the amenity that the Village has and possibly improve the amenity if needed and to provide a year round hockey facility based off of the past resident feedback. Trustee Moras added that the Committee continues to request the resident feedback including the hockey group to ensure a successful project and ensure that resident money is well spent. Trustee Moras explained that most of the financing would come from the proceeds of the Bolander Building sale.

Chairman Gaines added that the hockey support group has said that they want to reduce the maintenance of the hockey rink by volunteer and possibly fundraising. The rink was obtained originally by a grant from the State of Illinois.

Mayor Weppler noted that the hockey supporter group made a commitment to help with the project and hockey rink. Currently, Libertyville Little League Baseball, Libertyville Boys Club Football and Libertyville Girls Softball help maintain the fields and in turn save the tax payers money with their support. The hockey group asked to help and have been involved to make sure it is designed correctly for their own use.

Chairman Gaines added that the hockey support group has put effort into the amenity with doing weekend cleaning of the rink when staff is off.

Village Resident Alane Wanda (Stonegate)

Ms. Wanda asked who would be the contact if there is an issue, who to contact for information. Additionally what is the next step to this project for better communication.

Trustee Gaines noted that there are minutes on the website and Resident Joan Sayre will keep in contact and her email provided is jesayre@sbcglobal.net.

Village Resident Mr. Sayre (Stonegate)

Mr. Sayre two children ice skated on Butler Lake. Additionally the family never participated in hockey activities but welcome the idea of a hockey/skating rink. Reiterated the aesthetics of the park and is the current crown jewel park in the area including the nice road and bridge and would like it to stay that way. By adding the hockey rink to the southern section of Butler made set a precedent to other intrusive activities within the park.

Mayor Weppler clarified that there has never been any discussion to have the hockey rink south of Lake Street.

Village Resident Ms. Kick (Brainard)

Ms. Kick has lived in Libertyville for 86 years and thanked the Committee for all of the effort and appreciates what Butler Lake is as her husband father participated in skating and fishing on Butler Lake.

Mr. Bradley (Innsbruck)

Mr. Bradley commented on the outstanding recreation program and thanked the Committee and staff for their efforts. Mr. Bradley noted that he grew up in the city and Libertyville has an outstanding recreation program and is the envy of many surrounding programs in the area that do not match Libertyville. Additionally any addition to the recreation program will only enhance the recreation in Libertyville. Mr. Bradley added that if skating on Butler Lake was a reasonable option that ice density can be monitored and tracked on a seasonal basis. Mr. Bradley asked if there could be an intergovernmental agreement with Lake County for north side of Winchester on the Lake County property for a period of time and brings in the Township resources so that it is beneficial for everyone.

Chairman Gaines noted that it was not viable because Lake County completed a master plan and from memory believed that every portion of that land was accounted for a future project.

Trustee Garrity added that with the plans for the rink in the next year it may be too short of a time range to work on an intergovernmental agreement.

Mayor Weppler said it would also include updating the Lake County Plan which could be longer than a year for the process.

Trustee Moras explained that the next steps is that the expectation is to get more information on the other locations including a possible roof option as it would help in the overall maintenance and lights in the roofing area. The hockey rink is a work in progress and there is not a timeframe of the final decision and the goal is to have a rink for next season. Trustee Moras thanked the audience for their attendance.

Resident Joan Sayre provided her email of jesayre@sbcglobal.net for the public to contact for updates on the hockey rink project.

Trustee Adams asked how busy the Adler lot was during the day. Recreation Manger Julie Ludwig commented that it can get busy due to the Adler Camp pick up and drop off and rentals during the week and weekend also fill the lot based on the size of the rental and the frisbee golf.

Trustee Garrity asked that staff update the locations at Adler for a future meeting.

Superintendent Barlow added that the trees at Adler will not be too impacted.

Director Kowal added that the Committee needs the feedback from Engineer Fred Chung and possibly Gewalt Hamilton. Engineer Fred Chung recommended soil boring of the area to see the impact.

Superintendent Barlow said that a potential roof could aid in an additional shade area.

3. Dog Days of Summer

Director Kowal explained that Bill Kaiser has been the promoter of Dog Days of Summer in the downtown area for 7 years. Mr. Kaiser has sold his previous Pampered Pupz business in Libertyville and now owns the Lee Donuts in Libertyville. Mr. Kaiser approached the Village as how the event can continue. Mayor Wepler explained that he would be an independent contractor to the Village. The Village would potentially pay the insurance fee to cover the cost since that is paid currently by Mr. Kaiser. Mr. Kaiser asked several groups were asked if they would like to take over the event but there was no interest. Village Attorney Dave Pardys added that Mr. Kaiser would be hired as a consultant to obtain Insurance and the compensation would be the reimbursement of the insurance cost. Trustee Garrity asked in the Village could be at a break even or net zero for the event. Mayor Wepler added that there is a cost of approximately \$15,000 for the event with the Dock Dogs show but Mr. Kaiser obtains sponsor for the cost. Mayor Wepler added that the Village has only provided water in the past. Trustee Moras added that the event has grown substantially. Chairman Gaines added that the event is good and a great turn out for 7 years with the intentions to hand this off to bridge to another non for profit group as in his opinion does not want the Village running these events and hopefully there will be some additional tax revenue with the downtown traffic. Chairman Gaines added that if this was a new request he would not support the idea but since Mr. Kaiser has produced a good event for the last 7 years that he will support this request. Trustee Garrity would like to see the plan on paper where the revenue and the sponsors supporting the event. Mayor Wepler added that he received that information regarding the revenues and will forward it to the Committee. The Parks and Recreation Committee made a motion to recommend to support Mr. Kaiser in the transitioning period and that the Village will run the Dog Days of Summer event with the stipulation that it will be contracted to another not for profit organization in the future.

Chairman Gaines also reiterated that there should be no more staff involvement than in previous years with the event. Mayor Wepler added that the only additional staff involvement would be on the financial side administratively only.

4. Libertyville Golf Course

Counselor Dave Pardys updated the Committee on the litigation and the Village reached an agreed order with Mr. Subry to finalize some improvements to the the golf course property and to catch up on past payments and that time period expired the first part of November. With the expiration of the order the Village enforced a judgement to Blair Subry and BCS Golf for a citation to discover assets. During the discovery of assets process it was determined that there were no assets. During the interim process the Village has changed the locks to the golf course proshop area. Counselor Pardys added that there is some property within the proshop which Director Kowal has taken inventory and is of questionable value. Once there is a turnover order the Sheriff would ultimately sell the items of value in a sheriff sale or be considered abandoned which could be Village property. Counselor Pardys noted that a letter was sent offering the

option to remove the items from the proshop. Administrator Bowens noted that the Village will be refiling annually to discover any assets. The Village will move forward with a new tenant but the Village is still invoicing Mr. Subry for the rent.

Village Resident Mr. Bannock (Springhaven)

Mr. Bannock asked if the golf course would be maintained as a golf course. Chairman Gaines said it would be opened as a green space and be mowed until a possible tenant is discovered. Mayor Wepler added that there was a large cost of \$80,000 a year to maintain the golf course. Trustee Moras added that when the golf course was leased to Mr. Subry he was going to maintain the golf course, teach lessons and introducing the turf aspect to the golf course to extend the playability.

Other

A. Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Nick Berklan continues to plan for his project and will work with Jim Barlow on any developments with his Eagle Scout Project.

B. EAB

Superintendent Barlow noted that one tree was removed in the month of December. The storm damaged many trees that had to be trimmed or removed.

C. Libertyville Recreation and Sports Complex Event Schedule

Many activities including Breakfast with Santa was sold out with two settings. House league basketball began and many night and weekend activities at the Sports Complex including two corporate holiday parties were hosted.

D. Recreation and Sports Complex Marketing and Publicity

Director Kowal attached several newspaper articles of programs and events that took place at the Libertyville Sports Complex or other recreation facilities.

E. Other Item Added-Libertyville Senior Center

Trustee Moras asked Recreation Manager Julie Ludwig how the Senior Center was in regard to the letter sent to Mayor Wepler requesting additional staffing. Ms. Ludwig noted that two seniors were present to discuss. The letter was received after the agenda was finalized and will be deferred to the February agenda so the Committee can fully review the letter request. The Committee thanked the resident seniors for their attendance.

Trustee Garrity thanked Kyle Copeland for attending the meeting; he is currently an undergrad at Illinois and interested in government policies.

A motion to adjourn by Chairman Todd Gaines and seconded by Trustee Garrity at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Fanning, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Sports Complex Department
Village of Libertyville