

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

Chairman Todd Gaines called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Parks and Recreation Committee members in attendance included Chairman Todd Gaines, Trustees Pete Garrity and Rich Moras. Recreation and Sports Complex staff included Director of Recreation and Sports Complex Connie Kowal and Administrative Secretary Julie Fanning. Also in attendance included Mayor Terry Weppler, Village Administrator Kevin Bowens, Village Engineer Fred Chung and Superintendent of Parks, Forestry and Grounds Jim Barlow.

1) Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee

Chairman Todd Gaines motioned to approve the Tuesday, February 2, 2016 meeting minutes. Trustee Pete Garrity seconded. Minutes approved.

2) Dog Days of Summer

Event Organizer Bill Kaiser was present to update the Village on the progression of the Dog Days of Summer event. The 2016 events will include a Libertyville Big Air Competition, Sheriff K-9 Demonstrations and Pet Blessings in the Park. Additionally, there will not be a Dog Days of Summer website but a strong social media campaign for the event. The Committee asked Mr. Kaiser if there were any interested parties to take over the event. Mr. Kaiser has not received any interest. Chairman Gaines suggested an e-blast to gain interest.

3) Cook Park Buy-A-Brick

Administrator Bowens addressed the Committee that the Village will be looking to re-launch the Cook Park Buy-A-Brick program. The Village is currently working with Impressions in Stone that was responsible for the engraving for the first Cook Park Buy-A-Brick program and is gathering pricing. The representative from Impressions in Stone suggested that the Village may be able to use the existing bricks. Mayor Weppler noted that the money generated should be allocated to the Park Development Fund. Administrator Bowens suggested a portion of the funds could be allocated to the Libertyville Foundation. Chairman Gaines concurred with the request. Additionally all icons will be available to place on the brick.

4) Bolander Hockey Rink Update

Discussion continued with moving the Hockey Rink to the northwest section of Adler Park. The tentative location will be subject to soil testing and various testing to confirm if the hockey rink is a suitable location in Adler Park.

Mr. Blythe, Village Resident

Mr. Blythe, President of the Carriage Hill Homeowners Association was present to discuss the request by the Village for input regarding the hockey location in Adler Park. Mr. Blythe asked if the structure would include a roof and lights and the hours of operation. Chairman Gaines noted that there is not a clearly defined plan for the hockey rink and that roof option would be an item to consider based on the cost and a structure of that size. Chairman Gaines confirmed that there will be lighting due to the shortened day in the wintertime and to extend the hockey playing time. Superintendent Barlow confirmed that Adler Park closes at 9:30pm; usually the public has until 10:00pm to vacate. Trustee Moras added that there was a misconception that there was a plan established but the Village is still forming the overall plan.

Trustee Garrity added that at minimum the Village will move the rink to the location as it was at the Bolander property but the hockey enthusiasts have suggested various options to improve the overall facility from the previous Bolander property location. Mr. Blythe asked how the hockey rink fit with the overall landscape appearance and paint. Chairman Gaines noted that due to safety reasons, the Village does not want to over screen the area so that the hockey rink is visible but the exterior painting may be possible.

Mrs. Blythe, Village Resident

Mrs. Blythe asked if the hockey rink project would affect Libertyville High Schools Cross Country course. Director Kowal will consult with Libertyville High Schools Athletic Director Briant Kelly and District 70 to discuss the plans. Director Kowal also noted that the northwest quadrant was the best location based on various recreational events within the park.

Mr. Diambri, Village Resident

Mr. Diambri asked if the hockey rink would be opened year round and available to residents only or would non-residents be allowed to utilize the area. Chairman Gaines added that the hockey rink will be opened year round to accommodate for ice and roller hockey and will be available for Village residents and non-residents as all of the parks are open to the public. Mr. Diambri was in favor of the hockey rink but expressed his concerns with the noise travel of the hockey rink. Chairman Gaines noted that during the summer, activity and noise happen well into the night based on the pool activities and due to the winter skating being weather dependent we may see up to 60 nights of rink playability.

Mr. Del Prato, Village Resident

Mr. Del Prato noted that aesthetically the hockey rink is ugly, does not fit the park as Adler Park is already overused. Additionally with the landscape expansion of David Adler Cultural Center, the hockey rink appearance would not fit aesthetically. Mr. Del Prato noted that there are other parks including Charles Brown, Nicholas Dowden which is twice the size with enough parking and additionally the former golf course that has no use could be an option.

Chairman Gaines asked Superintendent Barlow to summarize the trees that will be affected at Adler. Superintendent Barlow noted that the trees in consideration are already in decline and has reviewed the area with the Village Arborist and due to the current compaction of the area the aging trees are in decline and are not specimen trees.

Trustee Rich Moras added that water resources, storage and various other issues go into site selections. Based on those criteria, Butler Lake and Adler were the two locations to focus the project on and with an overwhelming resident response regarding Butler Lake; the option is now Adler Park.

Mr. Del Prato noted that based on previous discussions that the hockey rink would need to be centrally located but the public would still have to drive to the park. Chairman Gaines added that he was personally a proponent of Butler Lake Park but several parents approached him and explained that many children are driven and do not walk. Additionally regarding the placement of the hockey rink, the same argument would be from Nicholas Dowden residents but the main difference is that Adler is a screened area and Nicholas Dowden is wide open. Mr. Del Prato added that Nicholas Dowden is a perfect area because it is wide open and Adler just does not fit. Mr. Del Prato added that the history of Adler was to have an open space to look out to the river.

Mr. Slade, Village Resident

Mr. Slade noted that he is part of the Hockey Enthusiast Group and did a thorough evaluation of the various park and the issue was the proximately to homes which at Nicholas Dowden and other parks could be several feet away from residents property. With Adler offering the sledding hill and the Adler Lodge it would be a natural fit. Mr. Slade noted the Village is very fortunate to have parks for aesthetics but parks are also meant for use.

Mr. Del Prato, Village Resident

Mr. Del Prato added that the Sports Complex would be a good location. Trustee Moras explained that the Village plans are to sell the driving range as well as the miniature golf land. If the land would be sold, parking with would be very limited and additional parking will have to be utilized on the current open green space areas to accommodate the occupancy capacity of the building. Trustee Moras reiterated that the Hockey rink discussion has been ongoing and the Committee has reviewed different locations. Mr. Del Prato added that it is not the best use for Adler Park and will cause conflicts.

Trustee Garrity added that the Village will try to reduce the impact on the trees as well as the various activities within Adler Park.

Mrs. Blythe, Village Resident

Mrs. Blythe suggested an area by the bus turnaround or the current playground area that can be moved to accommodate the hockey rink. Village Engineer Fred Chung noted that the green space by the bus turnaround is a flood plain area. Director Kowal noted that the options included the bus turnaround. Chairman Gaines added that there would be an additional cost to move the playground. Chairman Gaines noted that anywhere the rink will go it will still be a hockey rink with boards and from a surveying and engineering standpoint that the northwest quadrant would be the best location. Mrs. Blythe concluded that she would like a hockey rink in the park but not out in the open area that is very beautiful and will take away from the look. Trustee Moras that there is not final plan as the Village has to pick a spot and then do core samples to see if the location is even possible and the most efficient location to maintain the amenity.

Mrs. Sackett, Village Resident

Mrs. Sackett explained that her children participated in various sports and used many of the parks. She suggested a better description of the hockey rink analysis at the Sports Complex as a hockey rink location. Specifically the possibility of relocating the current softball field and placing the hockey rink in that location. Chairman Gaines added that the softball field does generate revenue for the Sports Complex.

Trustee Moras added that the Village has been transparent in offering hockey rink information in the agendas on the website and meeting minutes for well over a year.

Chairman Gaines explained that the responsibility of the Committee is to gather information, decipher the best location and then present that information to the Village Board to make a final decision. Chairman Gaines noted that Staff will include the summary that was presented at previous meetings regarding the hockey locations on the next agenda. Chairman Gaines concluded that the Committee is 100% committed to relocating the hockey rink.

Mrs. Sayre, Village Resident

Mrs. Sayre asked the percentage of users of the Bolander facility. Chairman Gaines explained that the winter rink usage is very weather dependent.

Village Administrative Staff will generate a proposal for soil samples to submit to the Village Board.

5) Other Updates

A) Protective Netting

Director Kowal spoke with Tom McClure of McScot Golf and the driving range protective netting should be installed in April.

B) Golf Course Update

Director Kowal noted that litigation is pending regarding BCS Golf.

C) EAB Update

Superintendent Barlow noted that they have met their goal and there has been good progress. The Purple ash trees are looking great.

D) SWALCO-Reuse-A-Shoe

Director Kowal explained that three shoe gathering receptacles were placed within the Sports Complex on October 19, 2015. To date 322 pairs of shoes have been recycled.

E) Use of Village Property: Cook Library

Mayor Weppler asked if the Car Fun on 21 conflicted with the requested date. Staff confirmed no conflicts. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Village Board to approve the use of Cook Park on Wednesday, July 27 from 6:30 to 7:30pm for the Ralphs World Concert.

F) Use of Village Property: Adler School Family Association

Adler Family Association submitted the annual request for use of Adler Park on Sunday, September 18, 2016 (rain date Sunday, September 25th) from Noon-5:00pm for the Gator Gallup Walk. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Village Board to approve the use of Adler Park on Sunday, September 18, 2016 (rain date Sunday, September 25th) from Noon-5:00pm for the Gator Gallup Walk.

G) Libertyville Senior Center Update

Members from the Senior Council including Joyce Quilty, Norma Kick and Bonne Cerveny were present to distribute the tentative duties for the new staff position and follow-up with the status of the new staff request at the Libertyville Senior Center. Joyce Quilty noted some tasks for the new position would include improving the lending closet program and offer additional reception for the Senior Center. The Committee noted that the Village Board was supportive to vote in favor to allocate additional funds to the Senior Center staffing.

A motion to adjourn by Chairman Todd Gaines and seconded by Trustee Pete Garrity.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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