

VILLAGE OF LIBERTYVILLE
Meeting Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee
Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Chairman Todd Gaines called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 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, Recreation Manager Julie Ludwig and Recreation Supervisor Gina Brown. Also in attendance included Mayor Terry Weppler, Village Administrator Kevin Bowens 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, April 5, 2016 meeting minutes.

Trustee Pete Garrity seconded. Minutes approved.

2) Hockey Rink Relocation Update

Director Kowal explained that companies Rabino and Jorgenson submitted proposals for the testing.

Anna Draa, 1020 Ashley Lane, expressed that she is glad the hockey rink will not be at Butler Lake and questioned how many of the children that are interested in the hockey rink live in the Village of Libertyville as the Village is about to spend a quarter million dollars to move the rink and that is concerning just for a small group of interested hockey parties. Ms. Draa suggested that the Sports Complex be an option or another consideration would be sharing the project with the County to find a land spot. Chairman Gaines explained that Village of Libertyville Parks are used by the public and not restricted for use of just Village residents and noted that the hockey rink could potentially be used for other revenue generating activities. Chairman Gaines added that when the 30 acres at the Sports Complex sells, a considerable amount of parking will be lost and the facility would be challenged for parking and the current vacant green space to the west of the softball field would have to be utilized for additional parking. Trustee Moras added that the Libertyville Sports Complex has a zoning legal parking requirement for the Sports Complex building size. Trustee Garrity stated that the Libertyville based hockey group has stayed the course through the process and their commitments to volunteer with the hockey rink has been positive. Ms. Draa suggested that each person speaking should state their names and address to confirm their residency. Trustee Moras noted that the Village is aware that they are residents and has a high confidence level that they are Village residents. Trustee Moras added that the Village does not have a separate Park District so the Village offers parks and amenities for the public to use and there are some instances that there are resident and non-resident rates but the park amenities are for all residents and non-residents to utilize. Trustee Moras continued to explain that the Village of Libertyville continues to try to maintain the spirit of the Parks and Recreation. He gave an example of lifelong Village residents that utilize the Senior Center may now be non-residents due to moving elsewhere but are always welcome to use the facility. Ms. Draa added she was concerned that with the 1% tax increase to restaurants and the possibility of spending a quarter of a million dollars on the hockey project was concerning. Trustee Moras clarified as Chairman of the Finance Committee that there will be discussion regarding the tax but it has not been enacted. Trustee Moras added that in his opinion, due to the financial shape of the Village it would be nice to have kept the Bolander property but unfortunately due to the excess office space and overall usage, the best option was for the Department to relocate the staff and activities to the Sports Complex. Trustee Moras gave an example that Libertyville Recreation Department Dance Program is a very important community program previously held at the Bolander Building and although there are many private dance programs in Libertyville, the a community based dance program is utilized by community families, so the Village is committed to maintaining that amenity as well as the current hockey rink amenity. He added that with the sale of the Bolander Property, a portion of the funds will go to maintain the amenity. Chairman Gaines explained that the hockey rink was historically obtained by a grant. Administrator Bowens added that the Bolander Property was the first hockey rink except Butler Lake ice skating.

Chairman Gaines noted that Committee no longer feels that Butler Lake is a viable option at the current point and time and is currently reviewing the Northwest section of Adler Park. An audience member asked if the soil samples come back negatively, would the Committee consider a separate site. Chairman Gaines noted that is his opinion that he would not look at Butler Lake again as an option.

Tom Conomy, 1480 North Milwaukee Avenue, explained that he has resided in Libertyville since 1975 and owns David Adler's mother's home which is a national historic home. Mr. Conomy explained that Adler Park was a deed of gift to the Village of Libertyville for two purposes 1) for Recreation, 2) for Cultural. Mr. Conomy is concerned that the Village focuses on recreation at the expense of what happens culturally. He reviewed the survey and noticed that recreation is essentially least important. He noted that the study did not focus on culture and in conclusion it is time to look at the study in new light and get some input based on the 10/10/10 rule which he explained as reviewing the project ten minutes, ten months and ten years from now, which is the type of thinking to have as a community. Mr. Conomy researched the hockey rinks and in Vernon Hills there are two beautiful NHL hockey rinks that are within 20 minutes of Libertyville. He also explained that based on the hockey rink usage over a year's time, the average of 28 days of hockey play based off of fifty percent of Village of Libertyville resident usage is 14 days. Mr. Conomy questioned that why for 14 days would the Village make an investment for \$22,357 a day. Mr. Conomy proposed a review of the survey to find out what is important. Mr. Conomy concluded that being a resident of 32 years, he has seen myriad of activities in the park including drugs, lights in the park and a sled hill that took away from Adler Parks historical vista.

3) Libertyville Senior Center Update

Director Kowal briefed the Committee on the ongoing staffing needs for the Senior Center. Trustee Moras reiterated the importance of making the lending closet as accessible as possible including more operational hours to provide the best service. Staff will look to include a request for additional volunteers into the Village Views.

4) Butler Lake Sunken Garden Dedication

Superintendent Barlow confirmed that friends of Valerie Carlson will be dedicating a tree and plaque for her efforts with the Butler Lake Sunken Garden. Staff will move forward with rebuilding the current fountain and plaque in her honor.

5) Other Updates

A) Dog Days of Summer

Director Kowal briefed the Committee that the Dog Days of Summer Festival is going as planned.

B) Cook Park Buy-A-Brick

Administrative Staff is still working with the engraving company and will have additional plans sometime in the fall.

C) Driving Range Protective Netting

Director Kowal updated the Committee that the Driving Range protective netting has been installed and it was a team effort.

D) Driving Range Landscaping

Director Kowal noted that the Driving Range landscaping began April 18th.

E) Golf Course Update

No report

F) Paradise Bridge Update

Superintendent Barlow explained that the bridge updates are completed and bridge is open and safe.

G) EAB Progress Update and Tree Removal

No report

H) Use of Village Property: St. Joseph Church

The Committee moved to recommend to the Village Board the approval of Sunrise Rotary Park for the Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 20, 2016 to Friday, July 1, 2016 and the Mass in the Park Event on Saturday, August 20, 2016.

I) Use of Village Property: YNOT Project

The Committee moved to recommend to the Village Board the approval of Jo Ann Eckmann Park for the YNOT Project Whiffleball Tournament from Saturday, August 13th to Sunday, August 14th.

J) Use of Village Property: Libertyville High School Band Department

The Committee moved to recommend to the Village Board the approval of Cook Park for the Libertyville High School Band Department 'Pops Concert' on Thursday, June 2 from 5-7pm.

K) Libertyville Recreation and Sport Complex Event Schedule

Director Kowal summarized the upcoming schedule of events for the Recreation and Sports Complex Department.

L) Recreation & Sports Complex Marketing & Publicity

Director Kowal highlighted the various marketing and publicity efforts for the department.

M) June Committee Meeting

Director Kowal stated that the June Parks and Recreation Committee on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 6:00pm will be held at the Libertyville Sports Complex Meeting located on the second level of the facility.

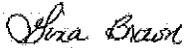
O) Other

Trustee Moras noted that there was a resident request for a serenity garden area and he will not be in attendance for the June Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Director Kowal added that there was a recent boxing event held at the Sports Complex.

A motion to adjourn by Chairman Todd Gaines and seconded by Trustee Pete Garrity.
Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina Brown, Recreation Supervisor
Recreation and Sports Complex Department
Village of Libertyville