

**Village of Antioch
Park Commission Meeting
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, Illinois
Wednesday September 17, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Park Board Chairman Gina Wolf called the September 17, 2014 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 6:42 pm in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Antioch Park Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Commissioners were present: Ron Horton, Will Martino, Cedric Johnson, Jen Dosch and Acting Chairman Gina Wolf. Others present were: Parks and Recreation Special Event Coordinator Shawn Roby, Program Supervisor Mary Quilty, Program Recording Secretary Toni Galster. Absent: Angela Brooks. Chairman Jim Weber arrived at 6:45 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Ron Horton moved, seconded by Member Cedric Johnson to approve the August 20, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected. Upon voice vote: **Yes:** 5: Ron Horton, Gina Wolf, Will Martino, Cedric Johnson and Jen Dosch. **No:** 0. **Absent:** Angela Brooks THE MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTS

Chairman Weber: Jim wanted to know why there is such conflicts with the Chambers events and the Parks Special Events Department. Shawn explained that he would like to see our department and the Chamber work together, unfortunately success on this front has been less than good. Shawn indicated that the Chamber has met with the village staff annually to go over calendars for the upcoming year but reluctant to change the dates of events when conflicts might arise.

Director of Parks & Recreation / Special Events Coordinator: Shawn Roby

2015 Calendar of Events: Shawn gave each commissioner a copy of the 2015 Calendar of Events. He explained that the highlighted events he has not pinned down the date. Shawn indicated that the village board was curious about the recent event formally run by the parks department "Fall Fest". Due to how tight things the budget as a whole parks removed that event to cut expenses. The village board indicated concern about the proximity of events to one another especially when they are so similar. Conducting a beer and chili walk within weeks of wine walks is not extremely beneficial for either event.

Pride in Antioch Day: The next Pride in Antioch Day will be on September 27th, not the 20th as advertised. Shawn has requested the National Honor Society from Antioch High School to help with the October Pride in Antioch Day. The NHS has over 110 members. Annually the NHS group looks to conduct a group community project. Shawn is planning on sending groups of 20-25 to each of the parks for a final cleaning before winter if they commit to this event.

Homecoming Parade Reminder: Just a reminder, the homecoming parade is on Thursday, September 25th, kickoff is at 6:45 pm. The game is planned for Friday, September 26th and the dance is planned for Saturday, September 27th. The same day as the Village Wine Walk. Shawn is looking for volunteers for the parade. Anyone interested should meet Shawn behind the Bandshell at 5:00 pm.

Centennial Park Basketball Hoop Update: The Village Board decided to keep the basketball hoop down in Centennial Park after it was discovered that it is the sound of the basketball bouncing that is really bothering the residents, not the sound of the children. Shawn explained to the board that no matter where they install the basket in the park there will be problems. Shawn suggested putting the basketball hoop across the street from the backside of the Village Hall on Toft Street. Shawn also commented that there are 9 courts throughout the Village of Antioch that already has concrete pads installed for basketball pole and & nets. Trustee Mary Dominiak suggested taking one of the Volleyball courts out of Williams Parks and replacing it with a basketball court. Tim Osmond Sports Complex would not be a good choice Shawn explained, since there is no one around to keep an eye on the kids, the park is hidden away. Decisions will be made after the election.

Park Rental and Pricing Discussion: Shawn asked the Park Board to consider changing the rental fees to a 2-tier system. Shawn explained that the bigger parks such as Williams and Centennial would rent for more than the small parks such as Pedersen and Tim Osmond Sports Complex. Williams and Centennial both have water, electric and bathrooms. Whereas Pedersen and Tim Osmond only have pavilions and port-a-lets. Shawn feels that the bigger parks should be charged more. He is suggesting \$75.00 for up to 100 people with a deposit of \$75.00 and \$100.00 rental fee with a \$100 deposit fee for the larger parks, and keeping the fees the same for the smaller parks. After a verbal vote, the Park Board agreed to switch Shawn would like to see the water fountain that is at Centennial Park be converted into a water fountain for people as well as dogs.

4th of July Idea Collection: Shawn would like to put together an event committee to discuss upcoming events and getting volunteers. Ron Horton mentions that the 4th of July softball tournaments are not like they use to be. When they first started, businesses in town all got teams together that included their employees and some customers. The tournament usually took a few days to complete and it ended on the 4th. Now the teams are made up of softball ringers and they are not coming from any of the businesses in town. Ron would like to see the tournament go back to the way it was. He believes that more families would stay at the park longer if they had family and friends in the tournaments. Jerry Johnson told the board that he does run the tournaments, and that they are having a hard time getting teams together to play. He agreed that we should be approaching the businesses in town to get more teams together for the tournament. Perhaps having poster made and distributed around town. Jerry also mentioned that the way the bands are playing with their backs toward the softball fields, the players cannot hear the music. Jerry suggested that somehow the bands could be set up somewhere between the pavilion and the field. May-be in the parking lot in front of the pool. We need to fill the time gaps with more activities for the kids and adults.

Upcoming Events: Shawn reminded the Park Board of the upcoming events, and that we need volunteers at each event. New this year is the addition to the Treat the Street, the Parks and Recreation Department will be adding a Monster Mash Bash on Saturday, October 25th starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 4:00 pm. The Monster Mash Bash will have a bouncy house, games, food, prizes, balloon artist and a costume contest. Volunteers will be needed for this event. North Pole Express tickets go on sale Thursday, October 16th at 6:00 pm. Shawn explained that this year tickets will be sold to residents first. Residents will be allowed to purchase 6 tickets per person and they must have proof of residency with them. Non-residents will be able to purchase tickets on Monday, October 20th at 9:00 am. This year tickets will be \$22.00 for residents and \$25.00 for non-residents.

Program Supervisor Report

Mary told the Park Board that our new lead teacher Kelly Polark is doing very well. The transition between Carol and Kelly has been easy. The parents and children really like Kelly. Mary explained why some of the numbers have changed on the class count. Hillcrest does not tell the parents if their child has been accepted into their program until a week before the class starts. So the parents are forced to register with Camp Crayon to assure that they have a class for the fall and winter sessions. Mary explained that she has one parent in our system that registered her child in our 4 year program, they got accepted in Hillcrest but she was worried that she wouldn't have priority registration in the spring for her other child so has decided to continue paying for her child to be registered in our Camp Crayon program even though her child goes to Hillcrest, this way she will get priority registration in the spring for her younger child.

Financial Reports

Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2014 were reviewed. The budget this year is going in the right direction. The Village has found ways to cut the budget.

Next Meeting: Set for Wednesday, October 22, 2014 time has been changed to 6:30 pm

Other Business

Shawn told the Park Board about a phone call that he received from a disabled resident. The resident has requested that the Village install automatic door openers at the Tim Osmond Sports Complex. The resident would also like to see adult changing table system to be install in the bathrooms at the Tim Osmond Sports Complex, Shawn explained to the resident that he will speak to the Viking Football coaches to see if he would be able to use the storage room for this resident to change in, just in case he has an accident. In Shawn's opinion he believes if the Village has the funds then we should be doing everything we possibly can to make our residents life a little easier. Shawn also said that the Village should be looking into grants for any buildings in the future that will need to be in compliance with the ADA.

Ron Horton questioned the upcoming referendum that the Village is facing on November 4th. Shawn explained to the Park Board that there are three town hall meetings that they should try

to attend. At these meetings there will be people at these meeting talking to the residents about what the referendum is all about, and what the Village stands to lose if it doesn't.

Will Martino questioned Shawn about the swing set that will be going up in Sprenger Park. Shawn told Will that Public Works has all the parts for the swing set, and will be installing it shortly. Will told the Park Board that the Village has air raided and seeded Sprenger Park, but the paths still have crack willows growing on them. Will is worried that these willows need to be cut back before they cause more damage to the paths. Will would also like to see the Village bag all the grass clippings from Sprenger Park and Mary's Park. When the Public Works crew is cutting the grass they are leaving long cut grass in its path, making the park look bad. Will also added that the grass clippings are now filling the storm grates which will cause problems if we were to have a flash flood again. Will asked Shawn if they could get a better source of labor, and perhaps a compose dumpster for all the debris that the Village cuts down.

Will spoke about the fact that we offer painting classes, which are great... But the building that the classes are taught in are dirty, and that we should be checking out the places that we are sending people too before we offer these classes. Shawn plans on contacting teachers that use to teach art classes at the local schools, but are no longer teaching and see if they would be interested in teaching art through the Parks Department.

Cedric Johnson asked about the Chess Club, if the Parks Department still hosts them. Shawn told Cedric and the Park Board, that no one has signed up for any of the Chess Clubs or class in the past few years.

Jen Dosch wanted to know who maintains Tim Osmond Sports Complex. Whenever she is there, she has noticed the full garbage cans and garbage all over.

Shawn told the Park Board that the new signs are up at the Wetlands, and they should all take a walk on the boardwalk and check them out.

Toni told the Park Board and idea about widening the walking path at Pedersen Park, then in the fall before Halloween have hay rides through the park and a bonfire and roast marshmallows. She continue to tell the board that if the park could be decorated in a Halloween theme, this could be considered the new Halloween howl. Ron Horton added that whenever anyone has trees that need to be cut down then the mulch that is created from the debris should be kept and brought to the park to widen the paths.

There being no further discussion, Member Ron Horton moved, seconded by Member Cedric Johnson to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Chairman Jim Weber

Toni Galster, Secretary