

**Village of Antioch
Park Commission Meeting
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, Illinois
Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the September 12, 2017 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 7:00 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: Paul Hettich, Gina Wolf, Mark Tarkowski, and Cedric Johnson. Park Board Chairman Jim Weber. Others present were: Parks & Recreation Director Robbie Spencer, Program Supervisor Mary Quilty, Recording Secretary Toni Galster. Absent: Ron Horton, Jeff Rosenthal and Jen Dosch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Mark Tarkowski moved, seconded by Member Gina Wolf to approve the August 16, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected. Upon voice vote: **Yes:** 4: **No:** 0. THE MOTION CARRIED. Absent: Ron Horton, Jeff Rosenthal and Jen Dosch

COMMUNICATIONS –

None

REPORTS

Chairman Weber:

Jim questioned Robbie if he had received any of the emails that he responded too. Robbie was looking into it for him.

Director Report:

Homecoming and Christmas Parade

Robbie told the Park Board that Chief Hoffman is assembling a committee to help put the special event parades together. Robbie also questioned the Board if there are any changes they would like to see at the homecoming parade. Paul Hettich told Robbie that last year he attended the parade and felt it was very short. He asked if there was any way to make it longer.

Jim Weber suggested making the Christmas parade route longer by changing the route. May-be it should go, Skidmore to Main, South on Main to Lake Street, West on Lake Street to Toft, North on Toft to Orchard, West on Orchard letting Santa off at the Village Hall and continue West back to Skidmore. Robbie also asked the Board if they had any other ideas for our up and coming Christmas season. He told the Board that in Tennessee they had Santa visit 5 different neighborhoods. Mark asked if we could have a Christmas Light competition. Robbie suggested a Trolley Bus tour. Toni will look into the cost of renting a trolley.

Life Jackets at the Pool:

Robbie told the Board that he will be reaching out to other communities regarding how they handle the life jacket situation. But for now, Robbie has suggested that the pool will purchase additional life jackets in a variety of sizes. The Aqua Center will require either \$2.00 or \$3.00 rental fee and a driver's license for each vest rented. It has been suggested to write large - VOA on all the life jackets.

Jim inquired about the additional slide that was supposed to be going in at the Aqua Center. Robbie will be inquiring about it.

Robbie told the Board that Toni had approached him with the idea of having a party deck built inside the pool area for daytime parties. Mary suggested that Summer Day Camp could use it while they are there then the parties could take over when they leave.

Parks Department Organization Chart:

Robbie told the Board, for the department to be successful he regards a few things. One he needs a Parks Maintenance and Aquatic Supervisor. He would like to either make Bernadette full time or hire and additional part timer. Make Toni the Special Event Coordinator, and have Mary oversee all the sports activities, Summer Day Camp and Camp Crayon. Robbie believes with these positions filled it will raise the level of service we can offer our residents, in return they will support the Park District idea that we will be introducing to them in the Spring and Summer brochure.

Future Youth Sporting Program

Robbie approached the Board with a new idea that he has for the Parks & Recreation Department that will help him when he introduces the idea of having a Park District to the Residents of Antioch.

His idea is to bring all the sports programs that we offer, in house, which means getting rid of 5-Star Sports that we have had for the past 13 years. The numbers don't lie, our registration numbers have been down for a few years now. Robbie added that no one wants to be in a learning class the entire time they are registered with the Parks Department. Unfortunately, that's all 5-Star Sports offers our children. Robbie believes a child can definitely can use 1 or 2 classes to learn the basics but he believes a child will learn even more when they are actually playing the game. Robbie proposes that we bring these and other sports related classes in, and have parents volunteer to teach these classes. We will be offering classes to parents on how to teach each class, that way they will not feel intimidated when it comes to teaching that class. Jim Weber asked Robbie if he had reached out to the local organizations yet to see how they feel about the Parks Department starting their own leagues. Robbie told the Board he hasn't gotten that far yet.

Robbie also told the Board that he plans on starting Adult sports leagues.

Upcoming Events:

Toni told the Board that the Fall Wine Walk will be on Saturday, September 30th. She is looking for volunteers to help. She asked if you are planning on helping, please be at the Bandshell at 11:15 am the latest. Paul, Gina and Jim offered their help. Toni also told the Board about the possible Window Art Competition, she has 20 businesses already signed up for the use of their windows, but only 1 student signed up. If we don't get at least 10 students we will have to cancel this year's competition. Toni also told the Board about the Treat the Streets and Monster Mash that will be on October 21st, volunteers are always needed for this day.

Program Supervisor Report:

Mary told the Board that Camp Crayon has just begun. Classes are full, except for the 4-year-old afternoon class. Mary had to cancel this class due to low enrollment. With the afternoon class cancelled Mary is considering having either cooking classes, art classes or even reading classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays as an extended class for the 4-year-old AM class.

Mary told the Board that Yoga in the Park/Dark is Saturday, September 16th at the Bandshell starting at 7:15 pm, if anyone is interested they should check it out. The next sunrise yoga will be on Saturday, September 30th at 8:00 am

Mary spoke briefly about 5-Star-Sports and the enrollment status. She explained that she is even working with the Lindenhurst Park District so our classes wouldn't cancel if our numbers were low. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel many of our fall classes already. Hotshots is not doing as well as Mary expected. The only class that is going is the All-Star Dribblers. Jim asked Mary "What about Bubble Soccer"? Mary told the Board that last summer we offered Bubble Soccer and 1 person signed up. We even had Dodge Ball classes and no one signs up, but at Summer Day Camp it's a big hit, Mary just doesn't understand the lack of interest our classes have. Robbie told the Board again that people do not want to be in classes, they want to be playing. This is why the Parks Department must change how we how our class/league play.

Financial Reports:

Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2017 were reviewed. The Village will be working on ways to cut the Budget.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Other Business:

Gina Wolf asked why doesn't the school paint the business windows, Toni told her it's not the businesses, she got almost every business to agree to let the kids paint their windows, it must be the schools, Gina plans on inquiring about this.

Mark inquired about the Firemen's Dance, why was it cancelled? Jim explained that the Fire Department didn't have the money to pay pre-pay the bands and beer vendors.

Mark also asked the Board "why is Halloween trick or treating always on that day and not the weekend like other committees. Robbie told the Board that the Village Board just passed it last night at the Village Board meeting that trick or treating will be on Halloween. So, if we want to change it, the Board meeting needs to approach them before next summer.

There being no further discussion, Member Cedric Johnson moved, seconded by Member Paul Hettich to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 8:16 pm.

Chairman Jim Weber

Toni Galster, Secretary