

**Village of Antioch
Park Commission Meeting
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting
Call in #1-312-626-6799 Public Access Code: 851-3454-4573**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the June 17, 2020 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 7:05 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Commissioners were present: Rentner, Hettich, Rosenthal, Johnson, Flade and Chairman Weber, Others present were: Parks & Recreation Director Lauren Kabrick, and Program Supervisor Mary Quilty, Absent: Commissioner Johnson and, Park Board Secretary Toni Galster, Absent: Commissioner Wolf.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Antioch Park Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 19, 2020

Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Hettich to approve the February 19, 2020 minutes.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

Yes: 5: Rentner, Hettich, Rosenthal, Johnson, Flade

No: 0.

Absent: 1 Wolf

THE MOTION CARRIED.

4.1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 20, 2020

Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Hettich to approve the May 20, 2020 minutes.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

Yes: 5: Rentner, Hettich, Rosenthal, Johnson, Flade

No: 0.

Absent: 1 Wolf

THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim ask Lauren about the Osmond Park Trail, and if this project will be started after all the Covid 19 situation is done the kids will be able ride their bikes on the trail. Jim also inquired about the Antioch Garden, the last that he heard, was at the February 10th Village Board meeting. It was discussed that the Garden would be dissolved, there were people at the meeting asking that the garden continue. Lauren was told to come back with a plan for the garden, may-be move it to another location. Since that meeting Lauren has had the Public Works Department and a

Community Service worker weed the garden. There are pictures of before and after the garden was weed wiped. There were no strawberries and any plants growing anywhere in the garden. At this point we only have 4 people signed up to be gardeners, and of the 4 only 1 has done any planting in their plot. And that was not touched. Lauren also mentioned we did not want anyone to go into the garden until we could make it safe for the gardeners. At that point the weeds were so high that you couldn't see where you walked, there was chicken wire from previous gardeners laying down, we needed to clean up the garden before allowing anyone in it. It was a safety issue. Jim also noted that on Social Media Absolute Antioch has been brutal about the garden, over 30 comments. Lauren also mentioned that when the Covid 19 started all events including the Antioch Garden was stopped. We had no answers until the Governor said we could reopen. Lauren and Jim both commented that Bill answered the comments on Social Media regarding how someone went out to the garden and weed wiping everything down, correctly. Bill said, "before you post something, you should make some phone calls first. Jim's last commented was for all the Commissioners to go out to their parks and please evaluate them and report back to Lauren and items that need to be fixed or replaced.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

i. Phase 3 and Phase 4 Restore IL Plan as it relates to Parks and Recreation operations.

In Phase 3, parks will re-open. At this point the police have not enforced kids on the play structures. We have posted that the Parks are closed still on Social Media, and they will open in Phase 4. As we moved in Phase 4 our Summer Day Camp will be opening on July 6th a modified program. As for July events, with the limit of only 50 people, Lauren as submitted memo with regards to the Summer Concerts, Lauren believes that there is no possible way to hold any summer event with the guidelines of only allowing 50 people at these events. Being that they are public events, safety is our number one priority. We will still be putting on the Street Market following the Farmers Market Guidelines, we will also be holding the Camping Under the Stars Event at the end of July, we will modify the activities. Jim commented that these are all baby steps, we can only follow the rules.

Jeff commented that in his park they had caution tape torn down and the kids are playing on the equipment. Lauren just hopes that everyone continues to be safe. All the information that she has received from the police department she believes this will be the longest phase.

ii. Virtual Fall Program Guide

Lauren has been looking in areas that she can cut in the budget. The Village Budget has not passed yet. Mary and Lauren have been working on the Program guide. Lauren would like a virtual program guide that will be on our website. A guide that can be updated when needed. The cost for printing the current programs guide is right around \$18,000 to print and be mailed. Lauren believes it is important that we have a working changeable online guide that we can make the necessary changes as they come up. Cedric asked what the cost difference would be. Lauren explained that the Village would only be paying Impressions Count for the setting up of the Virtual Guide. Jim inquired about Financial Report and since the Budget has not passed, then

when they are reading on the report is basically the salary's reports and insurance. Lauren explained to the Commissioners that the reports is from the past month and how the month ended and moving forward we don't have a passed budget. Jim and Joy are both working on the budget, Lauren believe they will finish the budget soon. Saving \$18,000.00 on not printing and mailing the Fall Program Guide will save our department a lot of money.

iii. Centennial park Holes - Update

There are 2 holes at Centennial Park, Public works is in the middle of investigating it. Dennis is working on a solution. Lauren hopes to have more information at the next Park Board Meeting. Jim told Lauren that the park is sitting 20 feet higher now from when it was first built, so there could be another potential sink hole starting at the park.

iv. Peterson Park Benches – Update

Lauren explained to the Park Board that with the amount of rain we have had the past few weeks, the land is so soft, Lauren doesn't believe we will be able to install the benches yet, she is not sure how far down they will have to dig to install the benches. Lauren told the Board that she welcomes anyone of them to come with her to go to the Park and explain how and where these benches will go. Lauren agrees that this Park needs the benches. Lauren mentioned that the Osmond Park project has not been touched, so it is still in the budget.

Lauren told the Board that Mary and herself did an informercial today, Courtney came out with a camera crew and recorded the two of them talking about the positive things happening in Antioch as far as the Parks, Toni will be doing the Saw Mill Tours in July. Summer Day Camp. The Pool has been closed and the Board has officially decided to keep the pool closed. Jeff ask if everyone voted to keep it closed. Unfortunately, Lauren told the Board that it wasn't, but it did pass that it will stay closed for the 2020 season.

c) Program Supervisor Report:

i. Summer Day Camp - Update

Camp starts on July 6th; this will be a modified camp. 8-10 kids for every 2 counselors. Numbers are low right now; parents want to know what the kids will be doing since the pool is closed. We will have 3 groups at the Scout House and 4 Groups at the Parks department. Right now, we have 22 kids signed up for Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 33/34 kids signed up for Tuesday and Thursday. Once the staff get together, they will be working on plans on what they will be doing. The staff wants more hours, so they need to come up with fun activities for the camp kids. Mary hopes that parents will be going back to work and will need the camp for the kids. Mary will be promoting more each day for the camps

ii. **Hot Shots – Update**

The specialty camps do not have the numbers yet. The only sports that are running is the Hot Shots sports. Mary asked the Board to keep promoting us. Jim told Mary they need to paint rocks and place them all over town. Mary agrees they need to do a lot of fun activities. Jeff mentioned the Olympics, they kids could start their own. Mary hopes that after the first week, parent will see that the kids are having fun, and they will sign up for the remainder of the summer. Jim added that after the parents go back to work, they will need to have the kids somewhere to have fun. The kids will want to be with their friends. Mary is hoping with Phase 4 it will allow our camp counselors to do more with the Campers. Lauren did mention that kids are not supposed to do any water activities, Lauren doesn't see the harm of the kids running through sprinklers, that is social distancing. We won't bend the rules but modify them only. Mary mentioned that the number one question that is asked from parents is are their children required to wear a mask all day. Mary tells the parents NO not when they are outside. But once they go inside due to weather, we will ask the campers to wear them, they don't have to, but our counselors will be wearing them indoors. Mary mentioned that parents have been calling about Camp Crayon. Mary said that if district 34 cancels school then we will have to cancel Camp Crayon, we follow their rules. The schools have not made a decision yet if they will open.

Financial Reports:

Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2020 and May 31, 2020 were reviewed. Nothing that is standing out on this report. The money is there, but there is no Budget yet.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2020 – hoping it will be a regular meeting at the Village Hall.

Other Business:

Paul had a quick announcement; the Antioch VFW and Legion Hall are now open for meetings. The Queen of Hearts will start June 26th, Bingo will not start until the end of August, the bar will open in July. Both VFW and the Legion had their election recently, Paul is on both boards now. Paul believes that they are both looking forward to participating more with the Village and upcoming events. Jeff mentioned the 4th of July situation, Jeff appreciates the Parks & Recreation is doing the best job possible. Cedric requested additional tape for the playground. He also agreed with Jeff regarding what is happening in town regarding the 4th of July and cancelling the festivities and parade. Lori wanted to know what the Village will be doing regarding the peaceful demonstration (parade) that is plastered all over Facebook regarding the for the 4th of July, Lauren told the Board that she has spoken to the Chief regarding the protest. Lori wants to know if we will be shutting down the roads. The police department and organizers have been talking about the protest. Jeff asked if they are following the same guidelines as everyone else would have to do like getting permits? The Police Chief will be handling it just

like the BLM protest. They are trying to keep them on Lake Street. We must trust the Police Department they will use their resources and keep it safe; we cannot stop the protest. Jim mentioned that there is no good answer, if someone goes to this protest and is sick and other people get sick, people will blame us for having the protest. We can not stop it. Cedric mentioned that there are Vitamins that people can take to help in the preventions of this virus. Jim mentioned that if you have people on the side of the road to watch the parade/protest and someone have the virus, you can stop the virus from spreading, the people who get sick will blame the Village for having the parade and not stopping it. There is no good that can come from this protest. Jeff explained the difference between a sponsored parade and a protest. Who is responsible for the safety of the residents? The Village cannot stop anyone from protesting, it's their constitutional right. Jeff made the comment about doing a video and explaining everything online to the residents, Lauren told him that she had in writing exactly what Jeff said in a graphic form, but it never made it to the post. What was posted was too wordy not a easy to read graph. Lauren trusts our police department and they will be able to handle what happens on the 4th. Jim wish everyone a safe 4th of July holiday.

There being no further discussion, Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Hettich to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 7:49 pm

Chairman Jim Weber

Toni Galster, Secretary