

Village of Antioch Park Commission- 7:00 P.M.
Antioch Senior Center – 817 Holbek Drive Antioch

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the March 17, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 7:02 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Antioch Park Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Wolf moved, seconded by Member Hettich to approve the February 17, 2021 minutes with corrections. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Yes: 6:

No: 0.

Absent:

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Cody Scott - Life Scout, Boy Scout Troop 190 along with his parents approached the Park Board with ideas for his Eagle Scout project. Cody would like to recondition all the tree plaques that are in the Hiram Buttrick Saw Mill. He would like to make them himself. Cody would also like to replace the trees that are missing. Jim questioned Cody how he plans on doing, where the money will come from? Cody explained that once his plan is finalized, he will have fundraisers and talk to other organizations, VFW, about sponsoring it. Jim suggested possibly having bricks instead of wood, they would last longer. Jim told Cody that there is a map of all the plaques and trees with the donor's names Mary told Cody she will have to talk to Public Works about the Tree Replacement, she will need more information on this project. The entire Board agrees that this is a great project, they just need more details on how, when, and cost.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim told Mary that the bike path in Osmond Brothers Park is flooded again. The snow melted and flooded the trail in a different spot. Mary told the Board that Jim Keim, who is an engineer has been in touch with the person in charge of this project to find out what will be done to correct this problem. Jim asked if the Village plans on doing anything this year at the William E. Brook Wetlands? Jim said it was in desperate need of trimming and garbage pickup. Mary told the Board that she will write a work order on it and get it to Sherry. Paul told the Board he thought this would be a perfect project for the Northbridge Church.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

i). Introducing Dawn Johnson new Aquatic Manager

Mary introduced Dawn to the Board, Dawn told the Board that she is a Certified Pool Operator. She has managed 5 facilities in her career. Dawn's main goal is to focus on educating the new lifeguards and concessions staff. Dawn's background is Red Cross so she will be certifying the lifeguards herself instead of sending them elsewhere to learn, saving the Village money. The Lifeguards will also be taught how to teach swim lessons.

Dawn has already started interviewing new hires. Dawn has already been meeting with Bob Rentner on the maintenance of the pool. Jeff asked Dawn "what will you be bringing to the operation that the Village hasn't already have? Dawn told the Board she will have Diving Lessons to start with, Lori asked what other changes will you be making? Listening to the kids, Dawn said, Expectations and Communication between management and staff. Swim Lessons are now 2 weeks of 4 days, Monday -Thursday, using Fridays as a makeup day or in-service training for the lifeguards. Jeff wanted to know if the additional training has been budgeted for.

Lori asked if there will be any evening swim lessons, Dawn replied, not yet, she wants to get the morning classes started and go from there, she is looking at possibly Saturday morning classes. Gina would like to see the Vortex used more. Jeff asked what the Covid policy will be for the pool this year? Dawn told the Board that every day things are changing with polices for the Covid 19. The closer we get to opening the doors she will have a better idea what restrictions and policies will be. Right now, she knows that the lifeguards in the chairs will not be required to wear masks, only the lifeguards that walk the deck will. Mary told the Board that we will not have our residents make reservations, we will be on a click it system. Jeff also asked if the guards will be using whistles or air horns. Dawn told the Board, probably whistles.

ii). Easter, and 4th of July

The Parades have been approved for 2021. The Parks Department will be requiring all parade participants to wear masks and gloves. And requiring anyone Watching the parade to wear masks and stay within their family unit.

The Easter Parade will start at the Bandshell and go to Williams Street.

New this year, the Egg Hunt will be in front of the Bandshell. We will only be selling 50 wristbands per age group. The Easter Bunny will be in her own area where parents can stand near the bunny but not on her lap to take pictures. The Flashlight Egg Hunt will now be at the Saw Mill. We have split the Flashlight Egg Hunt into 2 separate groups. 50 kids at 7:00 pm and 50 kids at 8:00 pm for safety reasons.

Mary and Toni have been discussing the 4th of July parade with Sergeant Aron Fendel regarding the distance of the parade. It was brought to the attention of the Park Board in February by Mary Pedersen that in the past the 4th of July Parade would go down to North Ave. Aron feels that this is a huge safety concern, and

the manpower would be unbelievable. All the apartments, streets between the Library and North Ave is about 1.3 miles We just don't have the manpower to cover all the entrances to Main Street during the parade. Plus if the parade did go to North Ave, the only logical place for the parade participants to go and get picked up would be the VFW, but there are train tracks between Main and the VFW and we never know when a train will pass through Antioch, which could hold up the parade. If the parade takes a left at North Ave, where would the kids get picked up. The distance between Poplar and North Ave is farther than anyone realizes. With all the restrictions lifting we may not have to worry about changing the end of the parade.

iii). **Northbridge Church seeking projects**

Northbridge Church is looking for their next project. They do not want anything with park clean up, no tree or bush trimming. After no one kept up with Pedersen Park after all they did, they don't want to have that happen again. Paul mentioned the Wetlands project, fixing the Board Walks and maybe adding on to the Board Walk would be a great project, or build another classroom at the Wetlands, this way the kids from AES could walk over to the park for a class. Paul mentioned that he was at the Mayors Fundraiser and they publicly thanked Northbridge Church for all they did for this community. Lori mentioned to the Board that while working at AES the school does not allow children to walk across the street. Lori is also worried about building a classroom in the wetlands, she is afraid the homeless people that live back in the wetlands would only destroy it.

iv). **Park Walks will begin in April**

Mary sent everyone the email she received from a resident regarding Centennial Park. Mary told the Board that Tanner and Scott have started working on Park, fixing the items that are on the list and stuff that were not on the list but needed fixing. The chains will need to be moved from the swing; the wood is rotting from the foundation up. The fiberglass is wearing out and causing splinters which can and will be dangerous. Some of the tires are rotting. This park is wearing out and Gina told Mary she would like to see a major inspection done on the entire park. Before the next Park Board meeting, Mary suggested to the Board that she would like the park walk through's to start, and Centennial Park should be the first park to have the walk through. Mary told the Board that she will be meeting with Dennis and Jim at Centennial Park to inspect it and create a plan on how to change it. It was mentioned that we will need to include Handicap accessible equipment to the Park. Mary will need to find out how much upgrading the park needs and what the cost will be before we say enough is enough and replace the entire park. Jeff inquired about Laurens salary, what happened to it if it was already budgeted? Can we use what would have been her pay to purchase playground equipment? Mary told the Board that this year the Capital improvement money is going to Mary's Park to replace the fence.

8. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT

i. Camp Crayon Preschool Update

Mary explained the Camp Crayon Registration, and how many are already signed up for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Its still slow on the registration. Mary is happy to report that all the Camp Crayon teachers are now all Vaccinated.

ii. Summer Day Camp

Mary has 12 returning Camp Counselors coming back this year. She will need to hire at least 20 new counselors. Athletes are the best to hire, they engage with the campers so much better when it comes to outside sports. The campers will still be going to the pool from 11:00 am – 12:30 PM each day. And they will only be allowed to take swim lessons at the 10:10 – 10:55 sessions, the counselors walk the campers to the pool for lessons each day.

iii. Bike Resale

The Bike Resale is set again for April 17th. Mary will be calling her contact from Lake Bluff to see if he will bring his bikes again, he has tons of bikes for sale. Mary asked each of the Board members to put up the signs in their subdivisions.

9. SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT

1. Mother Son Bowling Update

Toni went over the numbers from the Mother Son Bowling, 61 tickets sold for the 11:30 am and 62 sold for the 1:30 pm. This event was a huge success. Profit was \$569.00

2. Community Garden

At this point only 2 people have signed up for plots. The same 2 people we had last year. Public Works has been contacted to make sure the garden is mowed and ready to go for the gardeners.

3. Upcoming Events

Mother Daughter Bingo tickets are on sale, the 11:30 is sold out.

Toni explained that the Daddy Daughter Date Night has been changed to Bowling like the Mother Son, its safer then trying to have a dance under the pavilion. We never know what the weather will be like and how many people will sign up for it. The bowling event was a huge success, so this was the best solution for this event. Toni told the Board that all the concerts that were booked for last year have all been rebooked for this year, with one add on, we have extended the Its Thursday Concerts to 10 dates by adding Peter Oprisko to the lineup. The Street Market and Kids Flea Market will be back this year, starting the last Sunday of June we will have this

market once a month until September. 4th of July will be back this year. The parade will start at 10:30 am at the high school. We have booked only 1 band for the festivities at Williams Parks. Blooze Brothers will begin playing at 7:00 pm and play until the fireworks start. We have asked the Lions Club to serve food and beer. They will let us know if they can.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Reports for the period ending February 28, 2021 Nothing that is standing out on this report.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 Park Walk will be at Centennial Park at 6:30 pm

Other Business:

Bill Renter asked if the Village plans on adding onto the Skate Park, Mary said not at this time. Paul told the Board that he is working to fine tune the plan with Matt Stanek on his Eagle Project. Paul also added that the Antioch VFW is planning a Memorial Day Service. Lori asked Mary about the phone bill at the Aqua Center and why it was so high. Mary explained that the bill is for the emergency phone that is outside the lifeguard shack and it must remain hooked and can not be disconnected. The invoice was an annual billing, not a monthly billing.

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

Chairman Jim Weber

Toni Galster, Secretary