

Village of Antioch Park Commission

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

7:00 p.m. Village Hall 874 Main Street Antioch, IL 60002

1. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the October 20, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 7:00 p.m..

2. ROLL CALL

Rentner	<u> X </u>	Hettich	<u> X </u>	Sural	<u> X </u>
Rosenthal	<u>Absent</u>	DiBenedetto	<u>X Arrived at 7:01</u>	Parks Director	<u> X </u>
Flade	<u> X </u>	Weber	<u> X </u>	Program Supervisor	<u> X </u>
Hartman	<u> X </u>	Commission Secretary	<u> X </u>		

Member Rosenthal was absent, so alternate Chris Hartman joined the meeting in his place.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Antioch Park Commissioner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Rentner to approve the August 18, 2021 minutes. All in favor?

YES: 6

No:

Absent: 1

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Matias a young man from Troop 92 was present with his mother. Matias is a Boy Scout tenderfoot, and as a requirement of his Citizenship in the community merit badge, was attending our meeting. The Commission welcomed them both.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** N/A

7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Weber said that he hopes everyone can make it to Harvest Fest this weekend. He said he went out and walked the Bike Path. Everything seems to be draining fine, so he was very happy with it. He would like to see some flowers at Pederson Park along the sidewalk on the right side. There is a memorial marker there, and he feels there should be some flowers.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Park Commission Alternates – Director Quilty introduced Chris Hartman who will be serving as a park board alternate, she also let the Commission know that the second alternate is Sam Misch. Member Misch was not present at the meeting.
- B. Harvest Fest – Director Quilty said that Harvest fest is this weekend, October 23rd. Treat the Streets will be from 12-2, and Harvest Fest will be from 12-4. She said that if any of the commission members were going to Volunteer, they should be at the Bandshell by 11:00. She is looking for Adult Volunteers. She has a group of National Honor Society students, and she is very grateful, however, she needs adults to help also. It appears that it is going to be a great event. There are more businesses participating this year, and several businesses have donated gift cards and prizes, so she is really excited.
- C. Santa Events – Director Quilty said that our Santa Home Visits are already full. We will not be adding more. Our Story time with Santa registration is lagging, however Director Quilty believes that will pick up as Christmas gets closer. We will not be doing Polar Express this year, so this is the event in place of that. New this year, will be Santa at the Sawmill. The Village will be adding more electric to the Sawmill, to accommodate Christmas lights, and heaters. Santa at the Sawmill will be Fridays from 5:30 – 8:00, Saturdays Noon – 3:00, and then on the weekend before Christmas, December 16, 17, & 18 it will be open. There are 3 Santa's this year, Santa Leo, Santa Joe, and Santa Mike. Director Quilty said that if any of the Commission members would like to help, that would be great. There needs to be a staff member present, and we have not hired a Special Events person, so director Quilty would need to be there every day it is open, which is a lot of time.
- D. Budget 2023 – Director Quilty said that the Village has started working on Budgets, so she asked Commission members to think about large items that they would want to include, and it would be discussed further at the November meeting. She did mention large items such as Centennial Park.

8. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT

- a. Camp Crayon – Supervisor Johnson said that things were going well with Camp Crayon. She said that she lost one teacher, so she would need to look at replacing her.
- b. Discussion about fee increase for Camp Crayon – Supervisor Johnson explained that she did a comparison of other communities, and what they offer along with pricing, and the cost of Camp Crayon is below most other surrounding communities. This is great for our enrollment; however, it hinders the Village for what they can pay teachers. She

proposed that an increase in fees, by 5% would help offset that cost. Member DiBenedetto asked if we could possibly do an all-day pre-school. Director Quilty said that we currently only do half days, 2 ½ hours, then Lunch Bunch, and then a second group for 2 ½ hours. She explained that Preschool is typically only a few hours. If you decided to do all day, it would then be more of a daycare. For the Village to run a daycare, they would need different accreditation. Member DiBenedetto said that we are losing students to the Methodist Church because they offer all day. Member Hettich said that the comparable towns listed on Supervisor Johnson's spread sheet have Park Districts not parks departments, therefore they have more funding, and can offer more. Chairman Weber asked if we should conduct a Survey first, or just go to the Village Board and ask for an increase? Director Quilty suggested that she just needs the Commission to support going to the Board in order to get the increase in time for next school year. Member Weber suggested that we get a breakdown of teacher Salaries to take to the Village Board when we ask for the increase. Member Flade then asked Director Quilty how do we ask the Board? Does a member of the commission go before them? Director Quilty said no. She would go before the Board to request the increase in fees with Commission recommendation. All members agreed that fees should be increased to help pay teachers and be competitive with other communities.

9. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – Chairman Weber asked if anyone had any questions on this item, or if Director Quilty noticed anything that was “off”? Director Quilty just explained that the Parks Budget might look off because, it was created before Director Johnson was hired, and there have been some things that she has needed to upgrade, that were not included in last years budget, however, they have also increase revenue, due to offering new classes such as Kids in the Kitchen, and adult exercise class, and the new Santa events. Member DiBenedetto asked about the Budget for next year, and the process. How is the Budget determined? Director Quilty explained that she puts together a proposed budget for the Parks Department, then she sits down with the Village Administrator, and the Finance Director, to go over that budget. They make cuts, or changes, dependent on funds available. After that first meeting, they then have a meeting with Director Quilty, Village Administrator, Finance Director, and Board Liaison. At that point, they decide final cuts, and expenses. Member DiBenedetto asked if Director Quilty needs to provide department goals for the year? Director Quilty said no, that department goals would be discussed during her employee review for the year. Member DiBenedetto then asked if All together has given the Parks Department any suggestions, or had Director Quilty seen any results from any of the surveys that they conducted of the community? Director Quilty explained that at this point, she has not. The information was still being put together, and she was hoping to see those results soon. Member Hettich said he would like to see Professionalization of our park properties. There is a lack of maintenance. Our parks are in need of a lot. We currently do not have matching signage; we have no safety signs. The Sawmill needs work. It has deteriorated, and it is sad for everyone who helped build the Sawmill.

10. **Next Meeting** – November 17, 2021.

Other Business: Chairman Weber asked the Commission members if they had any questions or comments?

Rentner – The Pickleball courts all need work. The Court at Centennial Park has a lot of cracks. The Court at Jensen is way worse and is dangerous for people to use. Director Quilty said that she would put a work order in for Public Works to look at it.

Hettich – Member Hettich wanted to let everyone know that the Antioch American Legion Post 748 and the Antioch VFW Post 4551 are hosting a Veterans Day Ceremony, Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Antioch VFW. Member Hettich said that he would like to see a coordination of different organizations for events. He would like the Parks Department to coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Library. We have a Wine Walk; the chamber does Champaign and Chocolate walk. We offer a Babysitting class (which we charge for), the Library offers a babysitting class, and its free. We need to coordinate with these other groups, so we are not offering the same things. Director Quilty explained that Chamber events are paid for by Chamber of Commerce members. Library programs are free at the Library, because they are their own taxing body.

Hartman – Nothing at this time.

DiBenedetto – Member DiBenedetto said that he Hillcrest Boosters will be doing a Trunk or Treat event, and they will be having a food truck at the event. She asked if, with the new Village procedures for food trucks, if the Parks Department was going to reach out to the food trucks they have worked with in the past to encourage them to complete the new process. She shared that it could take the trucks some time to complete the process, so it might be good to let them know now to be prepared for events next spring. Chairman Weber brought up the 4th of July, and how there were long lines for the food trucks, and that made a lot of people unhappy. Director Quilty explained that the Food Trucks for the 4th of July were brought in by the Lions club. Alternate Hartman, who is a member of the Lions Club explained that they had no idea the crowds would be so large at that event. Due to Covid, it could have gone either way. The Lions club also had one truck that did not show up due to the fact that their truck broke down. Chairman Weber asked if they could have sold tickets for the food trucks, and that might have saved time? Then settle up after the event. Member Sural said that during one of the Fireman's Dances, they tried to sell tickets for people to use with the food vendors, and it did not work out that well. It was a disaster to divide that money after the event. It was a huge turn off to vendors, and some said they would not participate if it was done that way. He does feel that a preferred vendor list is a great idea. Chairman Weber said that things would get a little dicey with who decides what a preferred vendor is? Member DiBenedetto then moved on to her next item of Park Maintenance. Does the Village have a dedicated staff to park maintenance? Director Quilty explained that Public Works has two members who maintain the parks weekly, and that the Village contracts for grass cutting. She explained that each commission member has an assigned park. They go out and inspect their park before they meet to request things to be done. Both member DiBenedetto, and member Sural did not know this, and asked which parks they were supposed to be inspecting? Director Quilty said she would update the list and distribute it to everyone.

Flade – Member Flade said that she loves seeing the new logo. It looks great. She also wanted to know if there was ever anything done for Gina Wolf? Director Quilty said that she was recognized by the Village Board for her service, and that Member Johnson was going to be recognized at the meeting on October 27th. Member Flade said she was glad they were both recognized by the board, but she would like to do something for them as a commission. Get them a gift and have cupcakes or something at a future meeting. Director Quilty said she would work on it.

Sural – Member sural said that he really didn't have anything. He said he would love to see the list of parks that members are supposed to be inspecting, and he would love to have the wetlands if possible.

There being no further discussion, Member Flade, moved, seconded by Member Hettich to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 8:04p.m.

Chairman Jim Weber

Rachel Alcozer, Secretary