

Village of Antioch Park Commission

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

6:30 p.m. Village Hall 874 Main Street Antioch, IL 60002

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the February 16, 2022, regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 6:29pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Hettich	<u> x </u>	Sural	<u> x </u>		
Hartman	<u> x </u>	DiBenedetto	<u> x </u>	Parks Director	<u> x </u>
Flade	<u> x </u>	Weber	<u> x </u>	Program Supervisor	<u> x </u>
Misch	<u> x </u>	Rosenthal	<u> </u>	Commission Secretary (Bluma)	<u> x </u>

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Antioch Park Commissioner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Hartman to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes.

All in favor?

YES: x

No:

Absent:

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Richard Schlake of 185 Deport St. – presented to the Commissioner and the Board his concern regarding the rockets, explosives, debris and noise level, product of the 4th of July fireworks. He is asking the Board to consider greener and quieter alternatives. Mr. Schalke’s suggestions included greener and quieter alternatives such as a drone show, laser show and quiet fireworks. He emphasized on the “Authentic by Nature” slogan and how he feels that the fireworks impact it. Mr. Schlake also suggested bringing back the Municipal Band. Members agreed and empathized with Mr. Schlake’s concerns and will follow up on these suggestions. Commissioner Weber mentioned the possibility of launching fireworks from Tim Osmond Park.

Director Quilty inquired regarding the logistics, visibility and noise levels if moved, to which Commissioner Weber responded positively.

Member Hettich validated Mr. Schlake’s opinion and offered to take a close look at the options. However, as a combat veteran, Mr. Hettich presented how the people that are hesitant towards fireworks prepare themselves to be able to endure them, realizing the overall tradition that the 4th of July fireworks represent. Commissioner Weber suggested having smaller rounds and Director Quilty indicated that no rounds over 5” are even ordered.

Member Sural also validated Mr. Schlake’s points from a safety perspective.

Member DiBenedetto appreciated Mr. Schlake’s proposal as it brings up some options that could replace fireworks in the event these would be suspended due to drought any given year.

Stuart Malsch, of 76 Netherlands Drive – addressed the Board looking to get an update from the Bittner property situation he discussed with the Board on the December 15th, 2021. Commissioner Weber assured Mr. Malsch that he is still looking into the specifics of the situation and thanked Mr. Malsch for his concern.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Commissioner Weber was glad to inform that the budget increase was approved on January 12. Commissioner Weber thanked Director Quilty and Program Supervisor, as well as encourage all attendees to please continue to communicate any additional input and ideas.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Parks Masterplan - After expressing the concern that parks-related requests seem to be a bit pushed down in the scope of the Village's bigger plans, Director Quilty presented the Parks Masterplan. Member Hettich mentioned that he recalls a Parks Masterplan presented by the Director in 2014. Director Quilty will attempt to locate said masterplan.

The first section presented was the need to update various parks, the repurposing and re-evaluation of parks green areas and what else can be done in addition to playground equipment. Director Quilty encouraged the Board to provide her with any additional ideas and suggestions by April. Director Quilty also expressed that focusing on a facility, will certainly help the Parks Department as a whole.

Member DiBenedetto would like to see more consistent and branded signage across all venues, as well as standard opening and closing times throughout.

Director Quilty will create a working document including a checklist that all members could collaborate and add to. The proposal for the Sawmill goes alongside within the masterplan.

Member Hettich proposed that all the leagues, teams and groups that use the park spaces with no rental fees, either continue to contribute or get involved in activities that help to maintain these spaces.

Foundation initiative - Director Quilty shared her current interest in creating a "Friends of the Parks" type Foundation. As people are eager to contribute, unquestionably they would be more willing to contribute if it was directly to a foundation. Member Hettich mentioned that the County and Forest Preserve Foundations he is familiar with, are very successful and that communication is key to their success. Additionally, Member DiBenedetto will be providing Director Quilty the contact info for a member of the National Association of Park Foundations that could be a good first steps guide.

4th of July – A few parade theme options were presented and "United We Stand" seemed to be the favorite. Commissioner Weber wanted to discuss ideas on how to enforce rules and regulations for parade entries to avoid last minute changes and undecorated floats, which impact the overall look of the Parade. It was proposed that the float contest is reinstated to motivate people to decorate their floats. Parks office will look for a prize sponsor. The Parade entry fee will be presented on a per car basis to encourage more accountability from applicant regarding the max number of vehicles allowed. Director Quilty mentioned that we are actively looking for a couple parade entries to enhance the parade such as professionally decorated floats, bands, stilts, etc.

Q&A

Member Sural – mentioned that even though many enjoyed the Daddy Daughter bowling event, it appears that many would like to go back to the traditional dance event. Director Quilty indicated that the bowling idea was due to not being able to use the school gym but will go back to the dance if possible.

Member DiBenedetto - suggested the "Daddy-Daughter" and "Mother-Son" names be revisited to widen the range of people that could accompany a child, but the discussion led to the conclusion that it won't be necessary as people know they are welcome to bring a grandfather, uncle, cousin or even a friend.

8. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT

Camp Crayon- In-House recurring Student Registration started on 2/7
Resident registration opens 2/21 and Non-resident Registration opens on 3/14
Registration numbers are looking good. Open house is happening on 2/17

Recruiting - has started. Dawn has visited Grant High School, Lake Villa Job Fair, ACHS and Central High School in WI. Several applications were given out, but so far only 2 interviews.

Pool plans- Moving the cashier out of the building is a big step as the space was too small. This would help with the concessions and line management. The 8ft turn style entry will also help with managing the flow and foot traffic. ADA access thru gates will remain in place. A new air conditioning unit has been installed which will help with maintaining the product. Dawn is actively looking for the ideal shade structures and the possible reuse of existing tarp ones. A future goal is to extend fence to the end of the building to keep food further away from deck.

Member Hartman - brought up an inquiry that compared Camp Crayon's yearly prices to a provider in proximity. Dawn explained that a 5% increase was the approved increase, and that there are also add-on options available.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT – Report is looking favorable. The additional expense was due to the new equipment acquired for new programs.

Concessions actual revenue was 34K, forecasted 25K.

Total revenue forecasted 129K, actualized at 165K.

10. Next Meeting – March 16, 2022, at **6:30** p.m.

Other Business:

Hartman - confirmed exclusivity for Lions regarding food and drinks offering for the 4th of July Party at the Park. Director Quilty confirmed exclusivity. Mr. Hartman also presented some specific tent needs, which he will be sending on a work order form directly to Director Quilty.

Hartman - presented inquiry directed to Camp Crayon. Are we informing the parents of when and who is the volunteer parent is when a sub parent is called in? Dawn responded that these substitutions happen last minute and very quickly but reassured that all parent volunteers are screened and background checked. Member Hartman also inquired about Covid tracing procedures. Dawn replied that Camp Crayon follows D34 COVID guidelines and that communication lines are always open between parents and teachers, especially regarding close contact, when and if, a positive case arises.

Weber - will be sharing a 4th of July Rules and Regulation document with Director Quilty and called to schedule a pre-parade meet approx. a week prior to parade.

Adjournment:

There being no further discussion, Member Flade moved, seconded by Member Hartman to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Chairman James A. Weber

Maritza Bluma - Minutes