

Village of Antioch Park Commission

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the, February 15, 2023, regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 6:30pm.

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> </u>
Misch	<u> x </u>	Commission Secretary	<u> x </u>		

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Antioch Park Commissioner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Hartman moved, seconded by Member Flade to approve the Wednesday January 18th, 2023, minutes. All in favor?

YES: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

6. COMMUNICATIONS: none

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: none

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT Tom Shaughnessy from the township started off the meeting discussing Thelen Park. After 20 years and with the help of a Osland grant the township has hired Pamela Self as the architect. Weber asked if the park would be locked at night. Tom informed him yes there will be a light system and it will be locked with a gate at the end of the night. Hettich wondered if Shaughnessy could describe how the plans to make the park came about. Shaughnessy stated that local kids were using the vacant land as a dirt bike course by making mounds and hills. At first it was local people who were polite and respectful of the area. As more and more people found out about it the new people ended up being rude and inconsiderate of the homes nearby. Hettich then asked how they came up with the concept of the park. Shaughnessy stated he surveyed 20-30 families who lived nearby. At first the idea of an off road vehicle park was mentioned but was denied. Most families was an area that 13-20

year old kids could go and hang out. Hettich wanted to state he commended Shaughnessy for doing all he did. Shaughnessy hoped for walking trails from the school and neighborhoods to the park through the wetlands in between. Sural asked if the road had been fixed remembering that it floods a lot. Shaughnessy explained that a house was torn down and it no longer floods there. Shaughnessy moved onto the park coop agreement written in 2003 was a 25 year agreement and needs to be redone. Vikings football was taking care of the football field maintenance at Osmond. The Township is trying to figure out the best way to have affiliated users to help pay for maintaining all the fields and how to charge them. They aren't sure if they should charge an annual fee, percentage of upkeep or hourly fee. Sural expressed that Vikings will probably push back on being asked to pay more. He suggested sponsoring the field with their name on it. Shaughnessy said that a sponsorship has been discussed along with splitting the cost four ways between the parks department, the township, Vikings football and little league baseball. The township has started discussions with Vikings and AYLL. Shaughnessy they brought up the grant money from Blue Cross to build an outdoor exercise center at Osmond. A \$50,000 grant was applied for and approved by Blue Cross for the project. The total amount for the outdoor fitness center is \$155,000. So, \$105,000 would be needed to have built. The township has reached out to many organizations in town to see if possible. With 118 unique ways to exercise that 28 people could use at once. A QR code would be on the different stations to show different ways to exercise and track workouts. After much discussion and a vote by the parks board members it was decided that money would be better spent on existing parks and to recommend it to the village board if the remaining money came from the general fund. Jim Keim was next to discuss the new park in town which name is still to be determined. Hettich asked how everything was decided without the parks board being involved. Keim explained hired Dicoda group in 2021 to get community input. Based on communities help they came up with plans to include the elements the towns people wanted. Weber asked why no one approached the board for their input. Keim explained that timing was an issue with getting the park planned and started but in retrospect he completely understands how the parks board feels not being involved. Hettich asked why a veteran memorial was not added to the plans? Keim explained conversations were had but it was vetoed. Hettich asked who made that decision. Keim answered that it was the village board who ultimately decided not to have one. Hettich requested a meeting with the village board to include one since the new park is still on paper and not even started. Keim agreed that it can be put on the agenda. Sural expressed his frustration in not having updates or information when towns people inquire about the new park. Hartman asked about the concessions building. Keim explained it will not be competing with local restaurants. Sural asked if 3rd party vendors would be used to staff. Keim explained the village will not be staffing it. DiBenedetto wondered about shade in the park. Keim explained there will be some shade structures and trees. Weber questioned the parking. Keim explained that since there is no longer bus loading on depot that there will be about 30 parking spots on depot street lining the park. Sural asked about the soil being clean. Keim explained \$30,000 of soil was removed. There is a plan in place if the soil is tested and comes back bad. Hartman wondered if there is an erosion plan. Keim informed him with damming and other methods it will be controlled. Sural asked about the kind of water flow in the creek. Keim answered there will be a lot of hydraulic work and the splash pad will also help with flow.

8. **PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT** Quilty started with preschool early registration went well. 4-year-old classis already full. Disc golf and pickle ball lessons in the brochure. One special event will be held at the pool every month during the summer. The events will cost members \$5 and still looking for sponsors. Hartman asked why the 4-year-old class is not 5 days next year. Quilty explained that parents were surveyed, and a majority did not want it. Flade asked why sponsors were needed for the pool events. Quilty explained that DJs and event entertainers' cost would not be covered by the \$5 for members entrance fee.
9. **Special Events** The daddy/daughter dance had 270 tickets sold. Next year hoping to have a coat rack so that people don't dump their coats at tables and instead only use the limited tables when sitting down and eating ice cream so more room for dance floor. Sural said he enjoyed the DJ but that the venue was not to his liking. He thought too many fathers were drinking and some even were drunk. He thought the VFW was too small of a venue and wondered why it was not held at AUGS like previous years. Quilty explained that the gym at AUGS was too open and cold. Sural replied all dances are held in school gymnasiums. That way next year the dance would not sell out like it did. Quilty explained people asked to change the venue elsewhere. Hartman wondered if they usually sell 400 plus tickets why they would lower it to 200 plus. Sural expressed he thought it was untasteful to have alcohol with little children involved. He stated he thinks the VFW is a great venue just not for that event. Flade agreed and said live and learn. Weber suggested having it at the VFW next year and just not having the bar open. Sural again expressed that it should be at AUGS in coming years. Quilty moved onto Earth Day being Saturday April 22nd. DiBenedetto asked about St. Patrick's Day run. Quilty explained not this year but hopefully next year.
10. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – For periods Ending.

11. **Next Meeting** –March 15, 2023, at **6:30** p.m.

Other Business: Hartman started by asking if Vikings and AYLL got to use the fields without fees why does the swim team get to use the Antioch aqua center for a fee? Quilty explained that those organizations maintain the fields they use. Sural backed her up on that statement that they pay to maintain the fields. DiBenedetto asked what the latest on painting musical notes and such on the bandshell. Keim answered it was on the agenda for the village meeting the following week. Sural asked if there was any truth on the rumors of the 4th of July 5k run being moved to 9/11. Quilty answered no, that tradition has always been 4th of July. Sural wondered why both the village and chamber had a tree decorating contest and if there is any way to the control the chamber from having the same events as the village. Keim answered no but there are ways to control that in the future. Sural started that everyone is supposed to be on the same team and the chamber just isn't. Quilty said they met with the chamber and questioned them, and they aren't willing to change. Hartman asked what if the village and library has a meeting and invited the chamber and if they don't show everyone else will be on the same page without them. Keim agreed that was a great idea because they have tried to get the chamber to meet and they just wont budge. Expressing that basically everyone is frustrated with the chamber of commerce. Hettich explained that the library met and voted and agreed they want to do whatever they

can to support the community. Misch asked if Maritza can create an excel for volunteers for the spring events.

Adjournment:

There being no further discussion, Member Hartman moved, seconded by Member Hettich to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 9:21p.m.

Chairman James A. Weber

, Secretary