

# Village of Antioch Park Commission

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the, Wednesday June 21, 2023, regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 7pm.

**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>      </u>	Weber	<u>      </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 Sural to approve the April 19th, 2023, minutes. All in favor?

**YES: 5**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 1**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Libby Dieschel started off the meeting discussing making the town more wheelchair assessable. This topic is very near and dear to her heart. Libby offered herself to the parks board to have conversations on how more accessibility would be possible. She also brought up the possibility of making events more family assessable and financially easy. Hettich thanked Libby for attending the meeting and discussed the parks in town that are already handicap assessable. He also mentioned that the new park being built in town will be ADF assessable. Quilty mentioned that the parks department has been working on making events more family assessable. The daddy-daughter dance has been changed to the sweetheart dance. She also mentioned the parks department offers scholarships for certain programs and camp and pool passes. Libby mentioned that parks with wood chips and grass make it hard for not only wheelchairs but walkers as well. Sural spoke of the building of the new north bridge park being fully assessable with foam. Libby discussed how it is very hard in town to go from store to store during events like the wine walk and treat the streets because of all the stairs. Sural stated that historical towns tend to have buildings that are not assessable. DiBenedetto stated she knows Libby very well and is great. She recommended sitting down with Maritza and going over

events and how they could be more assessable. DiBenedetto agreed with Sural that the buildings in town are difficult to access Libby has great ideas for small changes. Sural suggested for the wine walk figuring out easier assessable places. Hettich suggested Libby attend meetings quarterly to help. Hartman asked if there are park department programs for children with disabilities. Quilty stated no. Hartman stated he has a family member that is in an organization that does programs like wheelchair basketball. Sural asked if there was a way to reach out to families. Libby stated that there are people to reach out to from different groups. She explained not everyone has Facebook, so word of mouth and invitations are important. Hettich ended with thanking Libby for being at the meeting.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** none

7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** none

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Quilty started with saying the new park has moved into the envision phase. Sural asked how many surveys were completed. Quilty answered with 483. Quilty explained that the envision phase is to make more plans of all the things that are most important or top priorities taken from surveys. Hitchcock will come back and present their findings. Joe Prindle from Northern Lights Special Olympics spoke next. Their facility in Round Lake recently dissolved and are looking for more spaces to hold events such as bowling, basketball and botchy ball. Shining Abilities is a program that launched in September that helps people with disabilities acquire jobs and help live alone. Joe is looking for a new place to facilitate all his amazing programs and has come to the board to help answer any questions. Hettich thanked Joe for being there and asked how often his organization meets and how large of a space they would need? Joe replied with it depending on the activity. For example, he explained bowling would need the use of a bowling alley. Sural asked how bowling has worked in the past. Joe explained they would pay for lanes at a bowling alley. Sural then questioned how they paid for the bowling alley. Joe explained through fundraising and explained that there was to be a pool party at the Antioch Aqua Center to fundraise later in the summer. Sural asked what it was from the parks board Joe was looking for. Quilty answered by giving locations and requesting gym space for said activities. She explained that the schools don't charge for using their gyms during the week but do get charged on the weekends. Hettich stated he would speak with the library board about meeting space. He also said there was possible meeting space at the Antioch VFW, and they would never charge. Joe stated he has been running meetings out of the Lake Villa library lately. Sural suggested reaching out in 2 months and giving the board an update. Sural stated the board cares about the community and is always looking for ways to help. Joes ended with thanking the board and would absolutely love to come back and bring other members of his organization. Quilty moved on with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and needing volunteers. New this year was the golf cart competition and best decorated bicycle. Antioch Cycle will be providing a reward. Misch asked how many bike entries and Quilty replied none yet. The discussion of the quiet zone for the parade was discussed. After much debate from all board members the decision was made to make the quiet zone from Bishop to Orchard Street. Quilty then spoke of the Williams Park food trucks and Lions Club selling drinks at the pavilion by the pool in the late afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The Rotary club would be holding a rubber ducky race down the slide of the Antioch Aqua Center. A bags tournament would be held as well. Bands were to start at 4pm. Mayor Scott Gartner spoke next to express his understanding that after 2 years in office he understands the Parks Board feels the communication with the Board of trustees needs tweaking. He agrees with Parks board members that communication is crucial and is not where it should be. He understands the frustration of the Parks board and values everyone's time and knows every Parks board member is valuable. Gartner stated that he wants to make a plan and come up with alternative ideas. Gartner wants to improve the conditions of parks and programs. Also add bike paths throughout town and encourage future suggestions for improvements. Gartner stated he is listening to the Parks board and wants to improve communication. Hettich thanked Gartner for being there and stated that as the longest Parks board member he knows that the parks have improved since Gartner has become mayor. His #1 concern is communication. Hettich explained while serving in Iraq he had Colonels in each province that would communicate both ways with him. He suggested for better communication having set people at all meetings to communicate all knowledge to Gartner. Misch asked if Gartner was planning on filling the open spots on the Parks board. Gartner stated he wanted to finish with the 501c3 before filling empty Parks board seats. Gartner stated that some things will be changing, for example how come events will be run in the future. Misch asked if Parks board recommendations will be tabled. Gartner stated that they will still be considered. Sural expressed that everyone wants to make the community better. Gartner stated there will be a round table to hear everyone's thoughts and get ideas on how best to move on. He ended by thanking the Parks board for their time.

8. **PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT** Quilty started with stating there was a swim meet that evening and that a new change was the Antioch Aqua Center now sells concessions instead of swim team. Quilty wanted to then express how well Dawn Johnson trains her staff after an incident at the pool when a 22-year-old man went unconscious, and lifeguards jumped in to save the mans life. Johnsons intense training paid off and the Antioch Police Department and Fire Department was impressed by the staff. Quilty then expressed his concern on multiple occasions of patrons at the pool acting entitled and speaking down to the young staff at the pool. There have been multiple occasions of police being called because of unruly patrons being asked to leave after staff requested basic regulations be followed. Swimming lessons are filled with weight lists. The pool party on July 20<sup>th</sup> is the 70s,80s,90s themed. Pickle ball will be starting soon, and all classes are filled. Sural asked why all the tables at the pool are now for concession eating only and what about people with back problems? Quilty explained it was to keep food in one area and not to have spilled food all over the deck. He then asked why children were not allowed to have their own chaise lounge and explained that it was because of the lack of chairs for adults at the facility. It was discussed that more chairs would be obtained after hearing his concerns. Quilty then expressed the farmers market is going well. The food truck FESTAVLE is also going well with more and more trucks. Misch and DiBenedetto helped set up the last truck festival and there ended up with a lot of people.

9. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – For periods Ending.

10. **Next Meeting** Wednesday July 19, 2023 –at **6:30** p.m.

**Other Business:** Gartner discussed the newly purchased land near Peterson and what the board would like to do with it. DiBenedetto wished to say Goodbye and thank the board for her time with them. She stated she appreciated getting to know everyone and was excited to see what great things the board accomplished from afar. Quilty thanked DiBenedetto for everything she did the whole time she has done. Misch wanted to state she wants something in the books about the outcome of the board’s future. Hettich stated he thought the food truck FESTIVAL was excellent. He didn’t hear a single complaint during the summer wine walk. The Rodney Atkins concert went well. Once again Hettich wanted to thank DiBenedetto for doing an amazing job and wished her well. He also thanked Libby and Joe for speaking with the board that evening.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further discussion, Member DiBenedetto moved, seconded by Member Misch to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 8:22p.m.

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Chairman James A. Weber

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