

Village of Antioch Park Commission

Wednesday, February 21st

6:30 p.m. Village Senior Center, 817 Holbek Drive

1. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber called the, February 21st 2024 regular meeting of the Park Board to order at 6:32pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Hettich	<u> x </u>	Klemm	<u> x </u>		
Hartman	<u> </u>	Olufs	<u> x </u>	Parks Director	<u> x </u>
Deichsel	<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 Hettich moved, seconded by Member Misch to approve the January 17th, 2024, minutes. All in favor?

YES: 5

No: 0

Absent: 1

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

6. COMMUNICATIONS: none

- 7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Weber started the meeting discussing how the Hitchcock presentation was being pushed to the March meeting, but the Village Board would be meeting for the budget before that. Quilty explained Hitchcock will present next month and if the parks board approves it will be then presented to the Village board for approval. Weber asked how much it would cost to redo the tennis courts and make pickleball courts. Quilty stated they were quoted 200,000. Weber asked how much for Centennial to be fixed. Quilty explained that was part of the parks master plan. Weber questioned if the budget would be able to cover all the expenses at Centennial. Quilty explained the playground wouldn't be as large as it was. Fixing Centennial would consist of pickleball courts, tennis courts, walking paths and baseball fields. Hettich asked about the Williams Park Pavilion. He stated the Lions Club would not be paying anymore for it and it's an important matter. Deichsel agreed it was important to fix the pavilion first. Quilty explained that the gutters were being fixed on it. Olufs explained that if the gutters

are fixed but not anything else it will still end up falling apart. Hettich explained the pavilion should be red flagged. Olufs asked if a structural engineer had been brought in to look at the pavilion. Quilty stated the village and the Lions Club had yet to agree. Hettich and Olufs both stated again that a structural engineer should be called in. Deichsel asked what needs to be done to fix the pavilion. Quilty explained it involved the mayor and fire chief. Quilty stated the Lions Club stated in 2023 that they would take over the pavilion. They had someone look at it and came back to the village. The village does not have the funds to fix it. Quilty stated she would bring all of that up with the trustees during the budget meeting. Quilty moved the conversation to Centennial Park asking the board members what they think should be priority. Olufs suggested just tearing down the playground. Quilty explained that with the new parks playground it would make it easier. Hettich brought up the history of the park. While redoing the library there was a question on the bricks outside being taken out. Technically it would have been financially easier but with the amount of outcry they decided to save the bricks. Weber mentioned that the bricks at Centennial are unreadable. Deichsel mentioned bringing it to the public and asking how they would like to go forward. She mentioned an event where people could come and have a photo op before the structure was torn down. Olufs suggested having something with a plaque built in its place. Deichsel suggested building something from the wood like park benches. Weber really liked that idea explaining he was there when the park was originally built. Weber stated it was a great park in 1992 but that it's been 40 years. Quilty noted it was thanks to Tanner Dowell from public works checking the structure every week. Quilty explained that Centennial is a destination park that people come from all over to see. The new park's million-dollar playground will hopefully be the new destination. Weber stated that the village needs to start prioritizing the parks more. Quilty explained Mayor Gartner has already stated that and the future budget should be \$400,000 for parks.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Quilty started with stating that Hitchcock will be at the next board. Olufs asked if they had a presentation to give. Quilty suggested having next month's meeting at the village hall. Olufs suggested the presentation being printed out for each member. He explained it would be nice to have something to look at before the presentation. Quilty went on to inform the board that Dawn Johnson was retiring March 8th. Quilty expressed being sad losing Johnson with all her certifications and hard work she's done for the village. The retirement luncheon will be held March 8th at 12:30pm at the parks building. Weber then asked about the Sawmill. Quilty stated it would take \$20,000 to fix the Sawmill. Misch commented that when she works Santa at the Sawmill, she always thinks she's going to see a wild animal inside.

8. **PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REPORT** Quilty started with saying the 3- and 4-year-old programs are filling up. The 2-year-old program is doing well and the Time for 2 program is doing so well thinking of having a second-class next year at the Senior Center. Quilty stated that registration just opened for next year on Monday. The Sweetheart dance was held at North Bridge Church and was an awesome location. This year's theme was Hawaiian Luau. Next year will be a princess theme. The hot chocolate walk was sold out. Quilty hopes the stores give out fun treats. The Easter parade still needs volunteers and so does the egg hunt. Weber suggested having volunteers help keep parents back at the end of each hunt. The exit becomes too congested for parents attempting to enter and find their children. Quilty explained that the high

school will be under construction during the summer and the 4th of July parade cannot start at the high school this year. Misch asked where the parade was set to be staged then. Quilty answered that only the activity entrance of the school could be used but it would be a smaller parade. Misch suggested the Senior Center and church parking lot. Klemm asked if Mark Sural oversaw the parade. Quilty answered that Sural oversees the party at Williams Park and fireworks. The Miss Antioch pageant will be held on the 2nd Saturday in August.

9. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – For periods Ending March 31st, 2024.

10. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday March 20th at **6:30** p.m.

Other Business: Olufs started by saying he noticed the tennis courts weren't dug deep enough. He questioned how often the tennis courts are used. Weber stated that the baseball fields are used more than the tennis courts. Olufs suggested turning them all the pickleball. Hettich started by saying he thought the Winter wine walk went well. Comments he heard from people were that there were surges of people and then dead. Also, too many sweet wines. Hettich then expressed concern for the Williams Park pavilion. He started its dangerous and people could get hurt. He asked when this safety issue would be addressed. He explained other towns have found grant money for libraries and walking trails. He questioned if Antioch had a grant person looking for money. Quilty explained there was miss communication at village hall with an employee and now Jim Moran is looking for grants. Hettich expressed his concern for the lack of grants being found. While redoing the library the bathrooms needed more money and found a grant for it. Hettich changed gears and expressed his feelings about the Scout House. Since 1971 the Scouts have had a lock in over night at the Scout house. Since 2017 Hettich himself has been involved in overnight sleep overs taking the time to certify the scouts in first aid and CPR. This year the scouts were blindsided and told they can't without a million-dollar insurance policy. Quilty explained everyone must have this insurance policy. Hettich explained that it's not needed at the library. Quilty explained it was how the village protects itself. Hettich asked why he had never heard of or had to do this in the years before. Hettich expressed his issues with the Scout House for the last few years having plaques and memorabilia taken down or moved. Hettich feels insulted and disgraced having items removed and placed on the floor. He feels that a lot of the names on that plaque have done so much for the town to be thrown on the floor. Misch stated that her husband was at the Sweetheart dance and the line for pictures was excessive. Her family spent close to 45 minutes waiting to have a picture taken and it ate up a lot of time. Quilty agreed and said next year it will only be 1 picture and not 4. Spring brochure will come out March 1st.

Adjournment:

There being no further discussion, Member Hettich moved, seconded by Member Misch to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 7:43p.m.

Chairman James A. Weber

, Secretary