



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT Centennial Committee Meeting Minutes

*Monday, June 14, 2021
6:30 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room*

Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair Mike Murdock, Patrick Duffy, Allison Frazier
Staff: Emily Guynn, Kristi Solberg

Additional Staff: Director Steve Wilson, Sheila Foy, and Jason Stanislaw

Visitors: Jeanne Wakenight, Piper Rothschild, Alan Golden, Tanja Chevalier

Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Communications and Correspondence

Commissioner Murdock noted he had some comments he wanted to make regarding this Committee. However, he was going to start the meeting off by receiving public comment first (see below).

Commissioner Murdock acknowledged correspondence from Jeremy Hollis in regards to the Little Puckers hockey camp and Mike Melnick with respect to lap swim capacity.

Commissioner Murdock also noted an e-mail that did not make it into the packet at time of publication from Dave Mitchell with respect to early morning lap pool times.

Director Wilson stated that he had received another piece of correspondence around 5 o'clock from someone seeking increased main pool hours.

III. Committee Scope and Responsibilities

Commissioner Murdock started the discussion by noting that the Facilities Committee is in the Park Board's organization document where it is referred to as the Centennial Committee. Historically, it was a standing Committee and was disbanded at some point throughout the years. He acknowledged that there have been questions as to whether this Committee should be brought back and that the Park Board's attorney will be at the full Board meeting tonight to answer any questions regarding that as well full Board discussion around the Facilities Committee. Commissioner Murdock stated that he had found the Parks and Recreation Committee to be cumbersome while he was the chair and felt it made sense to split that Committee by bringing back the Facilities Committee. He noted that this Committee is still subject to full Board approval at tonight's regular Board meeting. He also acknowledged a different practice this year in which the President

of the Board is also a Committee member. He advised that technically, the President is an ex officio member of each Committee and is entitled to vote and speak even though the Board has not always followed that practice.

Commissioner Murdock stated that this Committee will be responsible for oversight of the pool, ice and paddle facilities. Conversations surrounding a potential pickleball court will be moved to this Committee as well.

Commissioner Murdock then opened the floor up for Commissioner Duffy and Commissioner Frazier to highlight any goals they may want to implement for this Committee. Commissioner Frazier stated one of the Committee's goals should be establishing policies and procedures around setting criteria for community input.

Commissioner Duffy stated more deck space at Centennial pool should be a Committee priority. There are very few chairs to sit at and it is an inconvenience. Commissioner Murdock agreed and stated there has always been a capacity constraint. Commissioner Duffy also would like to establish a goal around grant writing. He stated that the Park Board should take advantage of some of the grant money out there, whether it be state or federally funded. Commissioner Murdock agreed and asked if this was something staff would look into or if this was best directed towards the Financial Planning and Policy Committee. Director Wilson advised that most of the grants readily available to the Park District come through the state and that they have a requirement of being "shovel ready" – meaning, fully Board approved but not out to bid. This would require a longer outlook in the Park District's capital planning. He stated that if the Board can align with staff and have some "shovel ready" projects; together they can pursue grant funding. Commissioner Duffy noted this may be an overall goal for the Board.

Commissioner Murdock suggested that this Committee strive to keep pickleball court planning moving forward throughout the year. He also suggested financial oversight and reporting standards.

Commissioner Frazier noted beautification and upkeep of Centennial as well as a potential vendor relationship there.

IV. Managers' Reports

Jason Stanislaw, the Centennial Recreation Complex General Manager, Reported:

- Wilmette Hockey extended their spring schedule through Memorial Day this year.
- Staff is working with Wilmette Hockey on the contract for the upcoming fall season. Wilmette Hockey is trying to get into the Central States Hockey Division, which is a more competitive division. As such, they are looking for more players and intend to rent more ice time.
- In the learn-to-skate wing, staff will be transitioning from ISI (Ice Sports Industry) to US Figure Skating as a curriculum basis. It is a pretty significant change as US Figure Skating curriculum is a more current and dynamic

approach to teaching. He stated this change will inject more energy into the Park District's ice skating programs.

- In regards to tennis, Pirate Camp and Outside the Lines started today. Staff has started to stack camps – one being where the child learns how to hit, one where the child learns how to play and lastly, a camp where the child learns how to become a player. There is a progression to tennis camp programming now. There are 8 children per court and 65 children per camp. They intend to add 15 spots to each camp in the future. The Junior Excellence Camp is preregistered for about 30 children per session. There is also a new camp called Topspin Tykes, which is an introductory tennis camp for younger children – 36 spots are filled. Overall, there is very strong camp start up for tennis.
- This is the first year staff has implemented a permanent outdoor court time for a fee. Staff remains mindful while taking reservations so that it will not interfere with camps. It is \$150.00 for an hour in the summer season to rent an outdoor court. The Park District has earned around \$1,600.00 so far.
- Manager Stanislaw advised that some courts are in rough shape and will need repairs in the future.
- Saturday night the Park District hosted an event at Gillson in collaboration with the Todd Martin Youth Leadership Foundation.
- There is a full-time paddle professional with the Park District now.
- There are new paddle camps, which incorporate some pickleball.
- Staff is adding 2 more women's paddle leagues due to high demand.
- In regards to the pool, the facility is averaging about 51 people per day with dedicated lap swim times. There was a very early morning lap swim time; however, it was only averaging about 3 people. Staff is evaluating and closely monitoring where staff may be able to open more public swim time if needed.

Commissioner Duffy advised against a reservation system for lap swimmers, as he believes it is a disservice to the residents. Commissioner Frazier suggested obtaining more user data and advertising open swim hours via social media.

Commissioner Murdock asked if Little Puckers Hockey Camp could be brought back this summer. Manager Stanislaw advised that it would hard to put everything together so late in the season and that staff can definitely work on a hockey camp for future seasons.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Director Wilson facilitated public comment. The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Jeanne Wakenight – She noted that Centennial Community Garden spots are in high demand. She knows from personal experience because she has been on the

waiting list for eight years. She advised that there are plots there that have gone unplanted there for more than two years, households that have as many as four plots, nonresidents that utilize the plots, minimal monitoring and an increase in theft. She noted that neighboring communities such as Evanston or Arlington Heights only offer garden plots to their own residents. They also require proof of residency and they do not allow multiple plots per household. She requested that the Committee make the necessary changes to make the garden plots fair and accessible for Wilmette taxpaying residents.

Commissioner Duffy asked how important the geographical location of the garden plot was to Mrs. Wakenight and asked if she would accept a garden plot closer to her house near Sheridan Road. She replied she has waited too long for a garden plot at Centennial and there is a social aspect involved there. She wants the garden plots to be fair and would not accept anything else at this point.

Commissioner Murdock stated he is not sure that this is a topic for the Facilities Committee and asked Director Wilson for guidance. Director Wilson stated that when an e-mail comes in from the public, staff directs it to the most appropriate Committee or the full Board. If the Committee is in agreement that a topic belongs elsewhere, it can be redirected. Thereafter, Commissioner Murdock advised this topic would be directed back to the Parks and Recreation Committee where it was previously. He thanked Mrs. Wakenight for her comments and the dialogue.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Duffy moved and Commissioner Frazier seconded a motion to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

By voice vote; **motion carried.**

Minutes Approved on: July 12, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Serbin

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Executive Administrative Assistant