



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom/Mallinckrodt Community Center

Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair, Mike Murdock in person, Cecilia Clarke and Amy Wolfe via Zoom

Staff: Steve, Wilson, Emily Guynn and Kristi Solberg via Zoom

Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Communications and Correspondence

Commissioner Murdock acknowledged the many emails in the packet regarding the staffing changes made at the platform tennis facility.

III. Public Comment

The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

A. Public Input Process for Community Playfield Amenities

Staff outlined a process that would start with a digital community-wide survey seeking input on the items outlined in the intergovernmental agreement with the Village that are up for further discussion. The next step would be in-person meetings in Community Playfields across two weeks either late in the month of August or early September. Then, the Parks and Recreation Committee would review the input and then discuss the items from the intergovernmental agreement before making any final decisions with the Board of Park Commissioners. The Committee voiced their collective approval for the plan as outlined.

B. Pool Pricing Analysis

Staff reviewed with the Committee the usage statistics of the reservations for lap lanes to date. Overall, the usage has been in excess of 80% with the only soft times being either late evening or early morning on the weekend. The Committee discussed whether or not alternative pricing should be considered, either in a reduction in fees or to employ flex pricing for the less consumed time slots. Ultimately, the Committee asked staff to continue to think about it and make adjustments as needed into the future.

C. Survey of Surrounding Communities' Public Pool Operations

Staff walked the Committee through what other communities were doing in regard to their pool operations in the wake of the guidelines from the state making it feasible to open pools. Staff noted that Wilmette was the first to open lap swimming, but at this time, the only facility that had not opened for public swim, or at least have plans to open soon for public swim. The Committee asked questions about capacity of the facility to which staff said could be as many as two groups of fifty in the activity pool. The Committee voiced concern that one hundred people seemed high and encouraged staff as it made its decision to consider a smaller amount of people at any one time in the interest of safety. Ultimately, the Committee directed staff to open the pool for public swim in addition to lap swimming but to do so in a conservatively safe manner.

D. Platform Tennis Staffing Update

Director Wilson was asked to update the Committee about the upcoming platform tennis season and what the plan is for the paddle professional position. He outlined that different models on how to compensate the position are under review as a matter of saving money due to the financial impact the pandemic has had on the District. He reminded the Committee that the prior pros of the facility were compensated with a base salary and then 80% of the revenue received for lessons. He stated that this has resulted in the pro being very highly compensated as the lesson program had been successful. He said that the option of looking to change the compensation to an hourly wage instead of a percentage of revenue. The Committee asked if it were likely that the prior professional would return if the compensation was turned into an hourly wage, and Director Wilson responded that he felt it was not likely because it would be a significant reduction in total compensation. The Committee thanked staff for the update and reiterated that this staffing decision is not the purview of the board, but that a decision needs to be made in enough time to make sure the District is ready for the upcoming season.

VI. Managers' Reports

No reports were given.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion, there being no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved on _____

Committee Chair

Department Head