

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Chairman Key, Alderman Bylut called the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Palos Heights Administration Center, 7607 W. College Drive. In attendance were Aldermen Bylut, McGovern, and Clifford, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Leonard, LK Operations Manager Gareth Blakesley, LK Board Member Terry Horvath, and Recording Secretary Pat Sheppard. Absent was Chairman Key

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Bylut moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT: Gareth Blakesley

- This coming Saturday, May 12, the annual Chicago River Cleanup Day was scheduled with volunteers clearing invasive species, picking up trash, and spreading woodchip around the gardens.
- Concurrently on Saturday, an 8:00am Bird Walk was being held as part of the Global Big Day and international count of birds in each person's area.
- The native plant sale was also going to be held on Saturday which includes a variety of native plants, many of which are beneficial to pollinators and monarch.
- The Palos Heights Public Library pollinator garden had been installed earlier today. This 500 square foot pollinator garden has approximately 500 plants in it made up of 15 different species. This was done as part of their efforts to support the City and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.
- Installation of 15 national park style signs was started which were paid for with Nicor grant money. The signs around the grounds will help educate the public about specific nature related items at Lake Katherine.
- McCloud services had started applying algae treatment two weeks ago with the second treatment scheduled in a day or two. The lack of a deep freeze of the lake this past winter and sun exposure causes an early season algae called spirogyra to bloom. This is not the same as a later season alga that looks similar. Terry Horvath concurred and noted they were being proactive and were following the lake management plan.
- Lake Katherine had obtained a license to sell beer at the Half Marathon this past Sunday.

Bridget Provost and some volunteers were on hand to sell beer in the beer tent and LK benefited from the proceeds.

- The remainder of the perennials that were purchased from the “Feed a Bee” grant were planted last week. The all native pollinator attracting species were planted in an area near Harlem Avenue
- “Love Palos Day” was on April 28 and students from Trinity College came out and helped with prepping the gardens, resetting stones and spreading mulch.
- The Nature and Arts Festival, which was partnered with the Palos Heights Library, was held on April 28. There was a selection of nature and art inspired programs throughout the day ranging from music to painting to photography and the culinary arts. This free event was hugely successful with the auditorium housing an average of 60-65 people for event programs, and probably a further 200 people coming through our more interactive activities in the clubhouse.
- Also on April 28, Richard’s Bicycles had a couple of tents set-up by the bike trail promoting their e-bikes. E-bikes are potentially great as they are an environmentally friendly alternative to cars and may encourage the usage of bikes in general for commuting and chores.

Alderman McGovern asked Mike Leonard if he was involved with promoting the bikes on the trail. Mike said he had been working with Richards Bikes and had sold them a banner on one of the mile-markers on the trail. He was also talking with the owner about installing one or two bike repair stations on the trail. He also clarified that the e-bikes were not being promoted as rentals but rather for purchase. There was discussion about the possibility of bike rentals at Lake Katherine for the Cal Sag Trail.

- LK hosted a volunteer work day for Exelon who paid for some native trees and helped to plant them in the children’s forest.
- On Arbor Day a bur oak was planted in the children’s forest as part of a commitment to the city's tree status. This is in addition to many of the grant and dedication funded trees which were being planted this spring.
- The 2017 Annual Report was submitted to the city and released in the Regional on April 12.

Gareth explained to the committee a problem they were having at Lake Katherine, which was actually a world-wide problem, and that was balloons as waste. They get stuck in the trees and are found in the lake. Gareth would like to reduce the amount of single-use plastic (balloons) and presented the committee with a proposed ordinance banning the complete use of all balloons at Lake Katherine which would include balloon releases. He stated it currently was a rule, but they could not enforce it unless there was an ordinance. If the ordinance was effective in reducing single-use plastic, Gareth said he would like to encourage the City to adopt an ordinance as well banning balloon releases. The committee discussed the proposed ordinances for Lake Katherine and the City and concluded they would like to do a little more research on the subject. The proposed ordinance for Lake Katherine would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Alderman Bylut inquired if Lake Katherine was going to reconsider bringing back the St. Patrick's Day event of "Dyeing the Waterfall Green". Gareth said they may do one session at noon instead of two as in the past. The 4:00 session drew too many people and there was not ample parking.

Terry Horvath noted there was still one vacancy on the board. She also said only two of the three Townhome HOA's were being represented. Terry indicated requests had been sent to all three (3) HOA's to appoint a representative to be on the LK Board and was told no one was interested from one of the HOA's.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mike Leonard

- In regards to the Palmer Park Master Plan, public meetings were scheduled for June 14 and July 25 at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The consultants will meet with this committee at their August 14 meeting to present and discuss the preliminary Master Plan. Mike hoped the plan would be approved in September. Mike said he hoped grant money would be available for the OSLAD grant in 2019 for the park improvements.
- In regards to the tennis courts, Mike was still waiting for a proposal from the surveyor to do a topographical survey at Community Park. Construction on the renovations at the tennis courts at both Community and Palmer Parks would most likely begin in August.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Recreation Master Plans updates were moving along. There was a community survey on the website at www.plan4palosheights.com
- Pool passes were on sale. Mike noted a short-term (one or two years) solution was needed for the pool wood decks. Some would be taken down and the rest renovated. Mike hoped there would be enough in the budget by 2020 to redesign the deck areas and new fencing.
- Mike informed the committee he had called Tom Crowhurst in regards to a Lions Club park or a play lot (per Alderman Clifford's request at the last meeting). Mike said they would have to try and find some available land if they want to pursue funding for a small park or they could possibly consider funding ADA equipment for an existing park.

W BUSINESS

A. Tyco Integrated Security Proposal.

Mike explained that Tyco provided and installed the indoor security cameras at the Recreation Center and received a proposal from them to provide cameras for the outside. This was the original plan to have security cameras installed in two (2) phases for budgeting purposes. The outdoor cameras would provide access to review motion of vehicles and activity around the building's entrances and the playground on the south side. The amount of the proposal was \$13,810.00

Alderman Bylut moved to approve the proposal from Tyco Integrated to provide outdoor cameras at the Recreation Center in the amount of \$13,810.00, seconded by Alderman Clifford. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

B. Sound of Music Video Systems Estimate.

Mike explained they would like to expand the audio and visual system in the Orchard Room by adding wireless presentation ability, video equipment, and upgrade the wifi. This upgrade would help to promote and market the Orchard Room rentals for business meetings, presentations, and training sessions. The cost of the upgrade was \$7,846.86

Alderman Bylut moved to approve the estimate from the Sound of Music to provide and install an audio visual system in the Orchard Room in the amount of \$7,846.86, seconded by Alderman McGovern. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

C. Outdoor Ice Rink.

Mike was asked to investigate the costs of an ice rink, noting the City was now the home of an Olympic Gold Medalist. He reported his finding as follows:

- An indoor facility would cost more than the new Recreation Center addition. The indoor ice rink business was volatile and referred to the fact that the Southwest Ice Arena was just sold because they could not afford renovations/upgrades.
- Outdoor rinks were not a wise investment, although they are a great recreational amenity, they were a fiscal drain. Mike had done some research on communities that have outdoor rinks and obtained some reports. The Village of Glencoe's reports showed that during the years 2009 thru 2013, they consistently lost between \$76,000 to \$98,000 each year and their most recent reports indicated that the ice rink historically operated at a loss but did not include a dollar amount. Mike assumed the village absorbed the losses. The largest cost was the maintenance of the ice and mechanical equipment. Mike noted the report also showed the number of days the rink was closed due to high temperatures and/or rain confirming our climate does not support outdoor ice rinks. Mike had also talked with the Mundelein Park District who estimated the cost for an outdoor ice rink with a warming hut, skate rental, and a roof structure over the ice at \$1 to \$1.5 million. Mike said he was not able to get straight answers or reports on the costs for Evergreen Park's outdoor ice rink/facility. Reports from the Belvidere Park District showed operating losses between \$35,000 and \$71,000. Discussion ensued on the subject. The committee felt it was cost prohibitive to have an outdoor ice rink in Palos Heights, but asked Mike to send Alderman McGrogan the reports he had obtained and then the subject could be brought back up under Old Business at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ALDERMEN'S COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Alderman Bylut moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Sheppard
Recording Secretary