

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



RECREATION COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes October 9, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Key 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, City Administrator Dan Nisavic, LK Director Gareth Blakesley, and Recording Secretary Pat Sheppard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Key moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE:

City Administrator Dan Nisavic congratulated Mike Leonard on achieving his executive certification, which meant he was now a Parks & Recreation Executive. The entire committee congratulated Mike.

LAKE KATHERINE REPORT: Gareth Blakesley

- The fall season has been busy thus far. 20 trees were planted last week, most of which were dedication trees. Dead trees were also being removed.
- Exterior painting of the Nature Center was almost complete and was looking really good. The color scheme was similar to what it was, but accent colors made it pop.
- LK recently co-sponsored a well-attended recycling and shredding event with the Palos Heights Public Library and the Police Department.
- The canoe and kayak season closed on Monday, Columbus Day, noting it was a successful season. The rentals were a good source of revenue.
- Gareth held a workshop earlier today for students from Moraine Valley Community College on Recreation Facility Management.
- They have been planning Fall Fest activities and events with the Recreation Center and the library.
- 3200 people attended the Monarch Butterfly Fest. They received a lot of positive comments and they met their budget.

In regards to the Monarch Butterfly, Chairman Key noted the Public Arts Commission (PAC) had commissioned an artist to paint a very large monarch butterfly on the wall of the cleaners adjacent to the municipal parking lot and it looked great. The PAC was also replacing the leased rotational sculpture by the gazebo with a new sculpture of monarch butterflies they are purchasing.

Proposed Ordinance Amendment

Gareth had introduced the proposed amendment to the City Code, Section 132.47, “*Public Use of Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens; Certain Acts Prohibit*” by adding (A)(21) “It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any and all types of balloons on the grounds at LKNCBG” at the August committee meeting. He noted the current code section and the proposed amendment was included in their packets.

Alderman McGovern was very opposed to the proposed amendment as he felt it would cause an undue burden to the Police Department and it was non-enforceable ordinance.

Alderman Bylut said he was inclined to support the proposed amendment. He said it would give LK more leverage in prohibiting balloons and he did not feel people would be calling the police to report they saw someone with a balloon on the grounds at LK.

Alderman Clifford was not in favor of prohibiting balloons.

Chairman Key felt that because this was strictly for LK and there was already a list of 20 other items not allowed on the grounds, it made sense to add the prohibiting of balloons to the list. He noted many of the other items on the list which are sometimes ignored by visitors, but having an ordinance that prohibits certain things gives staff a leg to stand on. He also believed the police are not nor would be called on these types of violations.

Discussion ensued on the subject. Chairman Key said with Lake Katherine being a nature center and botanical gardens it is appropriate for them to support and enforce ecological and environmental issues. He suggested if the proposed amendment was passed, it could be monitored with the Police Department for one year. Alderman Bylut agreed and felt the proposed amendment had value for LK.

Chairman Key moved to approve amending the City Code, Section 132.47, Public Use of Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens; Certain Acts Prohibit” by adding (A)(21) “It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any and all types of balloons on the grounds at LKNCBG”, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a voice vote, the motioned tied with 2 ayes and 2 nays.

Alderman Clifford said a tie vote meant the motion dies. Alderman Bylut thought it should go to council without recommendation. The City Administrator said he would check with the City Attorney on whether or not to place the motion on the City Council agenda.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mike Leonard

- As a follow-up from the last meeting, Mike told Alderman McGovern the purchase of an ADA door would be included in the 2019 budget, and according to the City’s engineer, the ADA parking spot would not be an issue.
- There are 36 participants for the indoor swim lessons and 7 participants in water aerobics at Shepard HS. Alderman Bylut hoped this would open up the door for more opportunities to allow more community use of the pool.

- Tennis Court Update: The color coating and sports coating are weather dependent and there has been a lot of rain. A couple days of dry weather was needed to complete this work.
- Pool Improvements Project: The bid opening is scheduled for this Thursday, Oct. 11. In order to get this project completed before the weather turns, it was Mike's recommendation, if the bids come in at or under budget, to move this right to City Council next Tuesday, October 11, after Morris Engineering reviews the bids and makes a recommendation to approve a contractor. **AGENDA**
- Staff are making a scarecrow to put on display at the Recreation Center for photo-ops.
- For the record, Mike noted basketball "dunking" was not allowed at the Recreation Center's gym for safety reasons.
- Mike had recently attended the National Recreations & Parks Association Conference in Indianapolis. He attended several good seminars and trade shows to see what's new.
- The new event, DogtoberFest, had a pretty good turnout even with inclement weather.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tennis Courts Renovation Project, Change Order #2. Mike explained there was an error in the bid specs - sq. ft. opposed to sq. yds., therefore the amount of landscape restoration was calculated wrong and would require a change order for an additional 333 sq. yards in the amount of \$1,190.00.

Chairman Key moved to approve Change Order #2 for an additional 333 sq. yards in the amount of \$1,190.00 for the Tennis Courts Renovation Project at Palmer and Community Parks, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

AGENDA

2. ReNew Active Program and AARP Medicare Fitness Program. Mike told the committee he learned about these programs while he was at the NRPA Conference, which are similar to the Silver Sneakers program that they have been trying to get invited to join. He and Joe Smith did some research on the two programs:
 - 1.) the ReNew Active Program was strictly for members enrolled in United Health Care's Medical Advantage Plan (Part B Supplemental). Members are offered free fitness center memberships and the fitness center is reimbursed \$20 per member per month as long as the members visit at least once during the month. The Rec Center's monthly senior resident discount rate is \$21. It was Mike's recommendation to join this program and felt it would help boost senior memberships.
 - 2.) AARP also offered a Medicare Fitness Program. The member would pay 50% of the monthly dues and after 4 visits to the fitness center, AARP will reimburse the City the additional 50%. Mike recommended joining this program to begin January 1, 2019. Mike said they could monitor members on the numbers of times they attend and if they don't comply with the required 4 visits monthly, they could be dropped from the program after a 3-month period.

Chairman Key moved to approve joining the ReNew Active Program for members enrolled in United Health Care's Medical Advantage Plan, seconded by Alderman McGovern. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

Chairman Key moved to approve joining AARP's Medicare Fitness Program, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

3. Meyers Park Sign. Chairman Key noted Meyers Park was dedicated a year ago, but a new sign had not been installed. Mike said they received a quote from One Up Signs in the amount of \$4,227.00, but they were going to try and get another quote as well, so he would like to use the not to exceed amount of \$4,300.00.

Chairman Key moved to approve the purchase and installation of a sign at Meyers Park in an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00, seconded by Alderman Bylut. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. **AGENDA**

ALDERMEN'S COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

The committee discussed the proposed basketball improvements for Palmer Park.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Key moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Clifford. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Sheppard
Recording Secretary