

HUNTINGTON WOODS PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

Members Present: Mary Gustafson, Joe Zieldorff, Jeff Aisen, Eleanor Daniel, Frank Spencer, Kim Tarnopol, Shelia Cohen, Jessica Steinhart

Guests: Todd Sperl, Sharon Nowak, Claire Galed, Gail Linden, Bonnie Nowikowski, Dan Cherrin

- I. Call to Order by Chairman: 7:31pm by J. Aisen
- II. Approval of Agenda: Removed latchkey proposed rate and added preschool proposed rate. Approved by K. Tarnopol and S. Cohen.
- III. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2019: E. Daniel and K. Tarnopol
- IV. Correspondence - None
- V. Public Participation
  - a. T. Sperl, President of South Oakland County Soccer: Thanked HW Parks and Rec for the work being done to revitalize the parks and offered to partner on efforts to improve the fields used for soccer, such as Men's Club Field. SOCS grew 15% from last fall to this fall with almost 1,000 kids in the program. The organization has a new board with 50% HW residents. The organization is eager to keep community kids enrolled in the non-profit program
  - b. C. Galed – Asked about update on railing from parking lot to door. HWP&R is still waiting on price.
- VI. New Business
  - a. 2020 Proposed Rate Increases – Pool, Latchkey, Preschool
    - i. The long range budget committee made a recommendation to increase the pool rate. A 5% increase was suggested for 2020 with additional review for the 2021 season. The advisory board reviewed the current and proposed pool rates. Motion to approve by S. Cohen and J. Zieldorff. All in favor of 5% increase.
    - ii. The preschool rate has not been increased in a long time and is not much higher than when the program launched. The number of staff required to plan and implement the program before, during and after the school day along with required training, equipment and licensing procedures necessitates an increase in rates. The advisory board reviewed the current and proposed preschool rates along with rates for the Huntington Woods Lutheran Church and Temple Emanu-El. Motion to approve a 12% increase by S. Cohen and J. Steinhart. All in favor of increase.
    - iii. Latchkey removed from agenda.

- b. Daily Pool Rate: Future meetings will address the daily pool rate difference for children and adults.
- c. Swim Team Increase: The 5% rate increase for the swim team will be shared by a reduction in coaching staff payroll (2%) and an increase in user fee (3%).
- d. Latchkey Registration Procedure: Next year, Burton Pit Stop will be from after school until 6pm. HWP&R does not foresee having a lottery. Latchkey registration is tentatively planned for April and Pit Stop registration will be in May. Online registration and online payment will be available in the future. There will be one fee for the day with no price reduction for earlier pickup.
- e. Slate of Officers for November election: The official election for next year's officers will take place at the November meeting.

## VII. Old Business

- a. Master Plan: The Open House took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the survey deadline is November 6<sup>th</sup>. So far there have been over 300 responses. The company is putting together a draft for the Recreation department and then the Advisory Board will review it. Afterwards, there will be a public review and then a City Commission review. All of this must be complete by January 7<sup>th</sup> and submitted to the State before February 1<sup>st</sup>. C. Galed was displeased that a paper survey was never made available and that there was no assistance for residents with limited computer access. E. Daniel indicated that a computer was made available at the Open House for people to complete the survey and that the Seniors group turned down the offer for computer help.
- b. Fitness Park: S. Novak, C. Galed, G. Linden, B. Nowakowski were concerned about lack of funding commitment for Fitness Park from Men's Club and the higher than anticipated cost of the project. M. Gustafson explained that accessibility was necessary for equipment and that the cost included footings for the requested shade structure and landscaping for the requested privacy. Benches were added to the plan to ensure places for people to sit. The Ralph C. Wilson Fund was researched however, the scope of the project is not large enough for them to fund. A \$60,000 funding request was submitted to Men's Club for an auction item towards the \$128,000 first phase of the project. Initially, the Men's Club was concerned about the high cost and long timeframe for project completion. The City could potentially contribute \$40,000 while an additional \$25,000 is already committed to the project from the CIP fund. The Men's Club is considering the request. M. Gustafson informed the guests that HWP&R will pursue grant funding if the Men's Club is unable to fund the balance of the project.

## VIII. Department Updates by M. Gustafson

- a. Peasley Park: Construction underway and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. This is the same company that did the Reynolds Park plan.
- b. Change to Program Registration for Royal Oak section: There has been no negative feedback from current enrollees. New language about the change in registration process will be added to the newsletter.

- c. Swim Team: Coach requested time change for practice but staff declined due to impact on Fruit Camp.
- d. Latchkey Director: HWP&R has been pleased with the new part-time hire. The new director is budget minded and feedback from staff has been positive.

IX. Plan of Action for November Meeting

- a. Election of Officers
- b. Latchkey Rates

X. Board Member Comments

- a. K. Tarnopol: Scotia Park community planting day was very successful. Over 2000 daffodil bulbs were planted and the new sign was installed.
- b. J. Steinhart: Hay Day and Touch a Truck were great events. This year, the day started early for kids with special needs. The turnout overall was huge and the event was very busy.

XI. Adjournment: 8:42pm, J. Aisen