

HUNTINGTON WOODS PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

7:30 pm Remote Meeting

DRAFT

Members Present- F. Spencer, S. Cohen, S.Potter, K. Tarnopol J.Jenks (Commission Liaison)

Staff Present – T.Shanley

Guests Present – C.Galed, G.Linden, S.Ruttenberg, B.Nowakowski

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Frank Spencer- 7:38PM
Note: Due to attendance, there was no quorum. Any items that require a vote will be required to be held until the next meeting.
- II. Approval of March 30, 2021 Agenda
Motion by F.Spencer, Second by S.Potter
- III. Approval of February 23, 2021 Minutes
Correction to Minutes to reflect that Jeff Jenks is a member / commission liaison.
Motion by F.Spencer, Second by S.Cohen
- IV. Correspondence – None
- V. Items of Business
 - a. Reynold’s Park Project Update
The city is currently reviewing and discussing the project and we are awaiting their direction.
B.Nowakowski (10124 Talbot) expressed concern about the “intergenerational” aspect of the park. The equipment is designated for ages 14 and up so there are concerns about it being in a playground area used by small children. She also expressed that she feels there may be some “ageism” in play. The request for this equipment was originally made by the seniors who should be given consideration in the community.
S.Ruttenberg (2513 W. Roy Court) had a similar concern about the intergenerational aspect of the park. She also asked about the criteria and process used for selecting the park. F.Spencer explained that there was a committee that visited a number of sites and also did a walkthrough of the Recreation Center. The factors they considered included space, parking, accessibility, etc.
G.Linden (25840 Concord) also had a concern about small children having access to the fitness equipment. She mentioned that it is worth re-visiting this project because some of the factors may have changes. Specifically, there was a grant that was a consideration in making the decision. It was based on the “intergenerational” factor. We did not get the grant so this may be reason to take another look at the decision. She also suggested that perhaps Elgin Park might be another option. It is scheduled for renovation in 2022 and has low utilization so it might be a better location.

S.Tanner (10867 W. 11 Mile) said that the fitness equipment should be placed where disabled people can access it. She also said that the decision should not be made in a vacuum. Input should be taken from the people who were asking for it and will use it. C.Galed (10084 LaSalle) suggest that the committee should re-visit this topic and also reiterated the point about the fact that the grant was not provided so this could change the decision-making process.

There was a question to Jeff Jenks regarding where the decision is in the process with the Commission. He said they are reviewing the information. He also expressed that he shares the concern about safety given proximity and access to the equipment by small children.

It was mentioned that Amy Sullivan is compiling the information from the last two years regarding this project.

G.Linden added that if there is another look at this project there should be a committee that includes members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Advisory Board, Community members and Commissioners.

b. Val Jones Park Discussion

K.Tarnopol provided some feedback from community members who use the park.

There was an inquiry on whether the bleachers could be moved to a shady location.

They are currently in full sun against the 11-mile fence. Parents often sit on the bench and the metal benches get hot. Tracy said she would look into it. There is also a request to get a sign with the operating hours and a phone number to call if the gates are locked during the open hours. Tracy said this is already in progress. Kim also spoke to some of the people in the park about potentially having a mural in the skate bowl. They were highly in favor of the idea. They felt that this would prevent graffiti issues. Several P&R advisory board members have been visiting the park regularly. It was noted that there is a wide range of ages who use the park including small children and older adults and families. Several of the people who use the park have volunteered to take leadership roles as far as speaking to participants to remind them to care for the park, clean up trash, be considerate of others. There have been no complaints about issues in the park other than the park being locked when it should have been open, but this appears to have been a communication issue that is resolved.

c. Tennis/Pickleball Court Project Update

A company has been hired to resurface the courts. During the process they will add lines to the courts on 11-mile for pickleball since there is so much demand for this sport. One of the courts by the rec center will also receive pickleball lines. When the resurfacing work takes place, the courts will be closed for approximately one week.

d. Memorial Benches at 11 & Huntington

The memorial benches will be added after the court re-surfacing is completed. The old benches will be repurposed to use by the ice rinks in the winter.

VI. Department Updates

The Fruit Camp lottery was completed. Due to COVID restrictions the number of campers will be lower. They may not have received their first choice but everyone got a session.

The pool will be open this summer but under COVID restrictions. Information will be published in the Hometown Herald which is available online now and will be mailed out in

mid-April. Pass owners will have to register for 2-2.5 hour slots. There will be no swim lessons. There will be Hurricane and Tropical Storm but with reduced numbers. There will be no day passes or guest passes available due to the challenges with maintaining health and safety standards. The café will not be open and there will be no food allowed. There will be a babysitter pass option but it has to be specifically for a named babysitter added to the family account. There was a question about whether there could be an less expensive option for seniors versus the \$121 senior pass.

The Historical Site Scavenger Hunt is underway. Signs have been placed throughout the city. Hiring is in progress in several areas. There is an opening for a full time Parks Assistant.

There are also positions for camp counselors, lifeguards and parks staff.

A new communication director was hired by the city.

The Daddy/Daughter Dance was successfully held outdoors on the tennis courts.

The 60+ newsletter will be delivered by the end of April. Due to the amount of content it was decided to deliver it early. It was also noted that May is National Older Persons' Month.

The truck parade was held on March 30 and it was a big success.

There is currently no decision on the fireworks.

There will be food trucks at the Rec Center on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

Colette is retiring. There will be more information on the Herald.

VII. Public Participation

B.Nowakowski mentioned some issues with the gazebo at Gordon Hassig. She said it is dirty and requested that the tables be pushed back in. There was also a concern that the snow was not shoveled around the gazebo and a request to take the plastic down.

VIII. Plan of Action for Next Meeting

- Reynolds Park Update
- Val Jones Park

IX. Board Member Comments - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm