

**HUNTINGTON WOODS PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
7:30 pm Gillham Recreation Center – Multi-purpose Room  
APPROVED**

**Members Present-** S. Cohen, S. Potter, J. Steinhart, A. Philko, K. Tarnopol, M.Ceaser, J. Aisen, J. Jenks, City Commission Liaison

**Staff Present** – T. Shanley

- I. **Call to Order by Kim Tarapol-** 7:31 PM
- II. **Approval of Agenda for September 28, 2021-** Motion- J. Aisen; Second- S. Cohen
- III. **Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2021-** Motion- S. Potter; Second- J.Aisen
- IV. **Correspondence-** Email provided from Tracy regarding security camera safety.

**V. Items of Business**

- a. **Security Camera Discussion with Deputy Director of Public Safety Bill Cudney-** Bill Cudney (Public Safety) explains that there are cameras inside and outside of city hall, inside and outside of the elementary school, and on public safety properties. Explains the purpose of the placement of these cameras, understands the liability at the pool, and the general safety. No interest to watch the cameras but more so aiming to protect the city and community. Board questions Cudney about the security of the footage and where those videos would go.

- Gail Linden (Concord Rd)- Feels her privacy is invaded and incidents can happen anywhere. Not on board with this idea.
- Claire Galed (LaSalle)- Thinks there is more of a problem with basketball than skate parks.

**Addition to the Agenda:** Introduction of Lauren Fletcher – new Recreation Program Coordinator. Lauren is overseeing aquatics, athletics, and some special events.

- b. **Val Jones Park Update -** Tracy, advisors, and community members met this summer to discuss the problems at the park. Research to see if they can install sound barriers near the homes. Awarded a grant for an art installation and working with the youth to help create that mural.
  - Jessica Downey (Kingston)- Unhappy with the lack of support from the board. Presented to the board a packet including public responses, Next Door posts, and overall information on concerns.
  - Andrew Cohen (Elgin)- Since April, he developed a program for children to learn rollerblading and hockey every Sunday morning. Frequently uses the park. He understands concerns and is looking to finalize a solution. He explains that these such activities cause noise but so does every other sport.
  - Jeff Bortnik (York)- Family activity and high user of park. In favor and working with the neighbors to find a solution.

- Brain Luther (Kingston)- Noise isn't the only problem. Has frustration with the littering and disrespectful behavior occurring at the park. Feels the park isn't respected.
- Board discussion on what steps to take. Recommendation to have an informal meeting to discuss this issue.

**c. Chabad Programs in Huntington Woods-** Bad feedback coming back from the public about the promotion of these activities. Going forward we are not going to put this information out in the Hometown Herald. Clarification of precautions going forward.

**d. Continued park rental discussion-** Groups are all following the same protocols for rentals. Diligent about community members following the same processes.

**e. Reynold's Park Project-** City Commission approved the project and Tracy met with the contractor on the workout equipment. Lead time is a concern from the contractor.

**VI. Department Update-** Camps and pools were very successful this summer. The Rec Center has been open since August with minor obstacles. Kathy from the front desk has retired and 4 new part-time clerks have been hired. Shortage of latchkey staff and looking for more staff 18+. Lauren planned and had her first successful event. Bridget took over the 60+ newsletter and the Hometown Herald. Teen council starts next month with monthly meetings back in person. Tracy mentioned how amazing the staff has been while navigating being open again. From filling in at the front desk and at latchkey when needed to working extra hours during the week to get everything done – the staff has done an exceptional job.

**VII. Public Participation-**

- Claire Galed (Lasalle)- Clarifying what the policies are for people putting up signs.
- Gail Linden (Concord Rd)- Clarifying the time that the Rec Center closes.
- Ben Richardson (HWMC President)- Looking for ideas for the Men's Club to fund for as an auction item and looking for ideas from the board and P&R Department.
- **Plan of Action for Next Meeting-** Discuss the term limit of current board members, discuss Men's Club proposals. Review the Val Jones status of the park.

**VIII. Board Member Comments- J. Steinhart-** Recommends that J. Aisen get a T-shirt so the community knows who he is when he is acting as the city photographer.

**IX. Adjournment-** 9: 05 PM