



Parks, Recreation & Forestry STAFF REPORT

MEMO DATE: 5/27/2020

MTG. DATE: 6/1/2020

TO: Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees

CC: Matt Giese, Village Administrator

FROM: Sean Brusegar, CPRP - Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

RE: 2020 Summer Recreation Programming

BACKGROUND:

On March 13, 2020, the Village of Cottage Grove Parks & Recreation Department began canceling recreation programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We canceled programs based on the "Safer at Home" order. As of May 26th, Dane County's "Forward Dane" plan moved into Phase 1. This phase allows for limited programming. Outdoor activities such as baseball and softball allow for practicing but not competition. There is a chance we will move into Phase 2 in coming weeks. The attached document shows what summer programs are affected, when they could possibly run and the PPE/precautions that would be needed to run the program. With that being said, I am proposing that the Village does not allow in-person programming until August 1st. This recommendation is based on the following:

- PPE & Safety of Participants – All in-person programs would require sanitizing of equipment, hand washing stations and no shared equipment. Securing PPE is very difficult and extremely costly.
- Class/program size & cost – With social distancing requirements, most class sizes will have to be reduced. We run classes based on a minimum number of participants to break even with the hope to make some money. Either we would need to charge more to cover the instructor costs or the instructors would have to take less.
- Quality of programs – Based on the safety and social distancing concerns, I feel the quality of the program that we can offer at this time will suffer.
- The phase situation could be fluid. We are currently in Phase 1. We could move into Phase 2 as early as June 9th. Should we move into Phase 2 and there is a spike in infections, we could possibly drop back into Phase 1. At that point, we would then have to cancel an ongoing program.
- MSCR (Madison School & Community Recreation), the largest entity in our area, has canceled all summer programming.



- Fitchburg has canceled all summer programming and their splash pad will be closed for the 2020 season.
- Shelter cleaning – Without summer programs running, and playgrounds being closed until Phase 3, our shelters remain closed. The CDC recommends that we clean and sanitize shelters AT LEAST once per day. Depending on use, hourly is recommended. At present, we are working to procure the proper PPE (coveralls, face masks, rubber gloves, disinfectant and sprayers) for cleaning shelters. Currently, we are not bringing our summer staff (college kids) back. We do not have enough vehicles to transport them individually and without baseball and softball, we would not have enough for them to do. The college kids' clean shelters daily for general use and shelter reservations.
- Shelter reservations – All shelter reservations have been canceled until July 1st. We would like to open shelters, should we reach Phase 2 for rentals only, as of July 1st. Keeping them locked for the general public until August 1st or we reach Phase 3. Phase 3 would allow playgrounds to be open. At that point, there would be more park usage so shelter restrooms would be needed with increased park traffic.

We will continue to offer virtual programming with adult and senior fitness, cheer and tumbling and weekly challenges. We can revisit this decision in early to mid-July for fall programming.

Some other things to consider:

- Home Talent League (HTL) Baseball – Since this is not a Village run program, I feel that HTL should be allowed to use Fireman's park. HTL is scheduled to start on July 4th. I have told them, at this point, the Village will not be cleaning the restrooms at Fireman's. Restroom maintenance would need to be done by HTL as well as the concession area.
- Should the Village choose to cancel in-person programming, would we allow MG baseball to use Fireman's Park baseball diamond to practice and possibly run intersquad games? If so, I believe that they should have to follow District protocols. I will be talking to Jeff Schreiner and hopefully have an update for you on Monday.
- Music In The Grove – The May and June events have been canceled. We could run these events in Phase 2. We could also look to move them to Fireman's Park and allow people to listen from their vehicles. I feel that until we reach Phase 3, Music In The Grove events should be canceled.



STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends canceling all in-person programming until August 1. Staff also recommends canceling all park shelter reservations through July 1, 2020, keeping park shelters locked unless a reservation until August 1, 2020, and to suspend all field reservations until August 1st, 2020.

On May 2, 2020, the Parks, Recreation & Forestry committee: Motion by Kiefer, seconded by Laufenberg, to suspend all summer in-person programming until August 1, 2020 due to Covid-19 challenges, with the understanding that the committee will revisit this matter in June and July. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4-0-0.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Aguilera, to suspend park shelter reservations through July 1, 2020 and keep park shelters locked without a reservation until August 1, 2020, and to suspend field reservations until August 1, 2020. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4-0-0.