

Village of Cottage Grove

PARKS, RECREATION and FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 18, 2021

- 1. Call to order virtual Zoom meeting.** The meeting was called to order by Heidi Murphy at 5:01 pm.
- 2. Roll call and confirm that the meeting was properly posted.**

It was determined that a quorum was present, and that the agenda had been properly posted. Committee members present for the meeting were Heidi Murphy (chair), Penny Aguilera, Amy Brice and Kevin Laufenberg. Jay Kiefer was absent and excused. Staff present were Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Sean Brusegar, Recreation Supervisor Trista Taylor and Utility Clerk Kristen Krause. Two members of the public were also in attendance.
- 3. Public appearance: Public's opportunity to speak about any subject that is not a specific agenda item.**

Keri Robbins and her daughter Julia were present to discuss the possibility of adding teen representatives to Village committees. Both feel that it is a positive way to engage teens/students in their communities, while giving them insight and experience in local government and its processes. They also believe it would be especially useful for the committee to have a student/teen.
- 4. Discuss and consider resident vs. non-resident program rates.**

Brusegar explained the history of the resident versus non-resident fees and the origination of the tiered-fee system. Taylor would like to slightly adjust the fees on the adult enrichment and non-sport programs/classes, as has been done in other area communities. The adjustment in fees would be less than those in the tiered-fee system. Brusegar and Taylor suggested adding \$5 - \$10 to non-resident registrations for adult enrichment classes and non-sport programs/classes and wanted to get input from the Committee. Committee members agreed with the adjustment in non-resident prices for adult enrichment and non-sport programs/classes. No formal action was taken.
- 5. Update on 2022 budget.**

Murphy reported that everything proposed in the budget will remain in the budget. The budget has been published and is available for public comment for 15 days. The budget will then go before the Village Board on December 6 for final approval. Brusegar added that 2022 will be very busy with projects.
- 6. Update on Continental Properties plans.**

Murphy stated that Continental is looking to have the first couple of buildings open in 2022. 2023 is still the expected opening of the dog park. Brusegar said that the Committee will go over the process for a dog park later in 2022.

7. Director's Report.

In Recreation news, as of November 1, we are once again allowed to utilize the Monona Grove School District Facilities. Due to the fact that we have not been able to use the facilities for our programs prior to November 1, the youth enrichment program {YEL} was shifted to our building and combined grades. There are 13 participants signed up for chess and the class is going great. The Youth Volleyball League started and has 65 kids between the two grade levels (30 in 3rd/4th and 35 in 5th/6th). There are six volleyball staff members. Program Coordinator Sam Frederickson is lining up coaches and setting up teams for the upcoming season. Some grades may be combined since many area communities are seeing lower registration numbers for these basketball programs. Cottage Grove will host quite a few weekends of games for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams. With these games, we are in need of experienced basketball referees, 18+ years old, for \$25/game. Our adult enrichment programs have been going very well including the recent Paint n' Sip and Cookie Night, which both had great attendance.

Taylor delivered lunches for the Optimist Club this week, which gave her the opportunity to get out and meet the front office staff at each school in Cottage Grove. We are working on building better communication with the school district since it has been a challenging year with facility usage and programming. The Spring/Summer Resource Guide preparations have also begun. The Sustainability Committee will be adding some new content and we have some new program options in the works. Taylor is hoping to make some changes to the guide layout and will be meeting with the Herald-Independent in early December to discuss these changes and pricing.

Adding student representatives to the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee was discussed. A newly proposed pilot program would place student representatives on both committees for one year. Committee members agreed that this could be a valuable and impactful experience for teens/students. If the students were to have voting rights on the committees, two students would be recommended so that there would continue to be an odd number for voting purposes.

In Parks news, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Josh Bennett recently began the CPSI (Certified Playground Safety Inspector) class to become certified in the near future. At Fireman's Park, turf was installed in front of the pitcher's mound to help combat wear and tear. New pitching rubber and a home plate were also installed. A new pitcher's mound and home plate were also installed on the upper diamond at Northlawn Park. Community Park's turf was recently prepped for the hockey rink. Sunshades were removed at Willow Run and Bakken Parks. The new park sign was installed at Red Hawk Park and the old sign was reinstalled at Fireman's Park once the bike path was completed. All Village park shelters and bathrooms, along with the splash pad have been winterized. Leaf pickup and mulching was also done at all of the parks.

8. Approve the minutes of the September 30, 2021, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee meeting.

Motion by Laufenberg, seconded by Aguilera, to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2021, meeting as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Discuss skate park.
- Discuss Community Park playground
- No December meeting - the next regular PRFC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 27, 2021, at 5:00 pm and will be a virtual Zoom meeting.**

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Aguilera, seconded by Laufenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 pm. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Krause, Utility Clerk.

Approved on: ____

These minutes represent the general subject matter discussed in this meeting but do not reflect a verbatim discussion of the subjects and conversations that took place.