

**Recreation and Park Advisory Board
Virtual Meeting via WebEx
March 23, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Board Members: Kirsten Kaplan (chair), Kathleen Linehan, Ken Scales, Elizabeth Fischer, Jack Thirolf, Tom Lynch, Chip Boylan, Natalie Vankos
Staff: Tim Chesnutt, Karla Sheehi
Council Liaison: Mark Pierzchala

Meeting commencement: 7:02 pm

Re: Approval of February Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Re: Citizens Forum

No Citizens were in attendance

Re: Council Reports

Councilman Pierzchala expressed that this year's budget process has been the most difficult budget he has been involved in with the city. It has involved extremely long work sessions; a proposed property tax increase for 2025, the need to raise fees for trash collection, storm water management, and water & sewer to keep up with rising costs.

For this year's capital budget review, councilman Pierzchala requested a list of the city's capital projects that are not within the five-to-ten-year budget plan. City staff did a great job gathering these and as a result there is now a table at the end of the budget book listing these projects.

Re: Staff Reports

Department vacancies recently filled

- **Jamie Jones**, joined our Rec Services division as a **Recreation Programs Coordinator** handling many of our contracted programs across the classes, summer camps and after school divisions
- **Jessica Corazza** joined the Horticulture team as the **Parks Maintenance Specialist** and will be managing various contractors such as tree planting, grounds maintenance, and annual installation.
- **Eric Grieshaber** has joined our R&P team as the **Senior Construction Project Manager**. Eric started with us, on March 20.

Spring Registration Launch

Just as the dust settled from our Summer Camp registration, our recreation staff roared into March launching our Spring program registration on March 2nd, followed by our Swim Center registration launch on March 14th. Both were a great success!

Swim Center Hiring Event

The Swim Center is holding a hiring event on site on Wednesday March 29th from 5-8pm. If you know of any teens looking for summer employment, please refer them to the swim center or have them email Karla if they are interested in PT summer employment.

Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Swim & Fitness Center** – (Jack) Budget for the upper pool came in higher than expected. Thank you to Mayor & Council. There was good attendance at the last community forum at the Swim Center with good feedback from attendees.
- b) **Recreation and Parks Foundation** (Chip)
The Foundation's mans a beverage booth at the city's Hometown Holidays event and recruits volunteers to assist. The city's Legal department has recently established a new memorandum of understanding for this event, making it so that the volunteers under the Foundation and not the city. The general liability coverage for volunteers has then changed as well, being volunteers of the Foundation vs the city.
Both Tim Chesnutt and Councilman Pierzchala are interested in following up on this matter with the city.
- c) **Arts**
Senior Center Mural (Tom)
A selection was made for an artist whose designs are colorful patterns of people doing various activities with a creative flowing line going through the artwork.
City Hall Generator art project (Jack)
Jack shared diagrams of the artwork going on the three side panels of the generator cover (Outdoor recreation activity, Town Center enjoyment, and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater)
The artwork is in various shades of blue.
- d) **RedGate** – (Kirsten)
During the last budget work session, Mayor and Council supported Recreation and Parks moving ahead with funding to obtain the RedGate Master plan design.

Tim shared that Mayor and Council decided as part of the RedGate concept plan, the community gardens and dog park are going to go in the space where the driving range used to be. With the amount of community interest for a dog park, Recreation and Parks came up with an approach that will be a pilot, during the design phase. There will be a fence line where the fence will go with no asphalt and no water. It will be an area where dogs can run with no leash and will officially start July 1.

Old Business/ New Business

Old Business

Upon completion of Councilman Pierzchala's report, the FY24 budget discussion continued, led by Kirsten, who shared a memo she drafted to Mayor and Council. The memo addresses FY24 budget priorities and funding for Recreation and Parks, communicating important points on behalf of the board. The board reviewed the memo, making specific verbiage modifications and agreeing on a final draft. Chip made a motion to approve the letter with changes identified by Kirsten, Tom made a second motion to approve. All members in attendance voted in favor. Kirsten will submit the memo to Mayor and Council, on the board's behalf.

New Business

Spring Stream cleanup

This board adopted the West Civic Center stream, which is at the bottom of the sledding hill at the Glenview Mansion. We coordinate a Spring Stream Cleanup and a Fall stream cleanup. The cleanup is scheduled for a Saturday morning from 9-11 am and Karla proposes a couple of dates in April that our board weighs in on via email. Saturday April 15 and Saturday April 22 were the two proposed dates. Karla will send out the email with the dates and will let everyone know which date worked better for most.

Re: Adjournment

Natalie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Chip seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm

The next meeting: Thursday, April 27, 2023 – Virtually via WebEx