

APPROVED

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON APRIL 9, 2015 IN THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE, LOCATED AT 908 SEWARD STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

Present: President Pat McCourt, Robert Bady, Dan Coyne

Absent: Vice President Michael Drennan, Ann Covode

Also Present: Director of Parks & Recreation Brian Rosinski, Programs Director Kari Lindquist, Corporate Secretary/Office Manager Anna Christina Nelson, Treasurer Gerald Gibbs, Attorney David Saunders

Citizens: Clayton Duber, Hal Gerber, Al Goldberg, Carole Henry, Ann Johnson, Frank Krochmal, Doug Lasch, Don Leventhal, Margie Leventhal, Pam McCann, Carole Reesh, Chris Senese, Judith Treadway, Connie Uselman, Alaine Wolfson, Jean Zuiker

Pat McCourt called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

Twelve citizens addressed the board, all in opposition to a proposal that portable toilets be placed in three parks – Elks, Kamen West and Ridgeville Parks – during summer months. Brian Rosinski distributed to board members a list of 15 phone calls, messages and E-mails sent to him, all in opposition to placing portable toilets in Ridgeville parks.

Connie Uselman asked about gardening plots in Elks Park. Programs Director Kari Lindquist responded that guidelines are being finalized.

Minutes of March 12, 2015 meeting:

Motion #1: Rob Bady made a motion to approve minutes from the March 12, 2015 meeting. The motion was not seconded.

Dan Coyne said he wants to discuss the March 12 minutes at the May meeting when more board members are present. Brian Rosinski will inform Commissioners Ann Covode and Michael Drennan that the March 12 minutes were not approved and will be on the May agenda.

Approval of Bills:

Motion #2: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve payment of April bills in the amount of \$21,477.57. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures: Motion #3: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve April petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$651.21. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Director Kari Lindquist presented her monthly report. Highlights: Winter classes ended March 24. There were more than 90 participants in classes offered in the Community House and total revenue increased by 30% over classes held during winter 2014. Kari provided the number of students in each class, income from each class, instructor expenses, cost of supplies and how many students in each class were able to take classes at reduced cost. Spring classes have begun and registration is up 20% compared to spring 2014.

Spring Break Camp is taking place April 6-10 with Vee Witter as director. Counselors are Jason Slusher and Yamila Blake-Lazu.

Summer camp programs will begin June 8. Interviews continue for counselor applicants and young teens who want to participate in Ridgeville's counselor-in-training program.

For the Garden2Table program the beginner and advanced classes have been combined. Three instructors work with 24 participants who meet once a week (on Mondays). The budget for supplies will be reviewed before Session II begins July 6.

Guidelines will be distributed to gardeners who have reserved plots in Elks Park. Kari has gathered information from Edible Evanston on how to establish a program to donate surplus from the plots.

The Farmers Market will take place in Ridgeville Park each Wednesday afternoon from June 3 through the first week of October. Two vendors – Lyons Farm and Katz Cookies – are returning. Kari is lining up musicians to perform.

In planning upcoming programs and classes, Kari plans to focus on “celebrating the diversity” of Ridgeville residents and attracting new participants. Her goal is to find out what new programs and classes Ridgeville residents would like to attend. She has prepared a survey to send by e-mail to Ridgeville patrons and also may give the survey on paper to those who attend classes.

Kari is preparing a list of Ridgeville volunteer positions with descriptions of responsibilities for each position. She has created a draft of a volunteer form based on the park district's registration form and modeled after other park districts' forms.

Treasurer Gerry Gibbs presented his monthly report. Highlights:

Gerry distributed updated figures from the park district's General Ledger and Appropriation Ledger.

As a way to reduce or eliminate Petty Cash expenditures, Gerry recommends that one Chase debit card be obtained and given to Brian. There would be a withdrawal limit on the card, which would be added to the account Ridgeville already has at Chase.

Corporate Secretary/Office Manager Anna Christina Nelson presented a report. Highlights:

Anna Christina said she would like to have drinking water in the Community House tested to make sure it is not contaminated. Brian will follow up.

Anna Christina attended the annual Illinois State Police Background Check Workshop. The experts recommend that the park district do fingerprint checks for prospective employees.

During a workshop on emergency training (at the annual Illinois Association of Park Districts) it was noted that park district staff should be taught to use equipment designed to deal with emergencies, such as fire extinguishers. Anna Christina said she would benefit from such training.

Pat McCourt asked Anna Christina to submit her report to Brian Rosinski in advance of each board meeting so Brian has time to review it. That is the procedure followed by other staff members.

Director of Parks & Recreation Brian Rosinski's presented his monthly report. Highlights:

About 70 children attended Ridgeville's annual Spring Egg Hunt, which took place on March 28. Joel Frankel provided entertainment.

The maintenance crew has been very busy cleaning up the parks and repairing playground equipment.

Interviews continue for those applying for summer jobs at Ridgeville. Kari and Vee attended the Mayor's Job Fair at Evanston Township High School on March 28.

Baseball diamonds in Kamen East Park and Kamen West Park need work to improve drainage from the infields. Pinel Andrews Construction Corp. has estimated the cost to repair both fields at \$11,750. One diamond could be repaired now at a cost of \$5,875 and repair of the other field could be included in the next budget. Board members said an alternative would be to repair one diamond and have the other be grass covered.

Brian is preparing a tentative 2015-16 budget to present to the board in May.

There is a crack in the basketball court in Ridgeville Park, which was re-surfaced last spring. The crack was caused by a shift in the underlying asphalt.

Brian is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery, possibly as early as April 17. Before the surgery, Brian will meet with staff members to designate duties during his recovery.

Old Business:

The following items were tabled:

Port-A Potties in Ridgeville Parks
Commissioner Guidelines: Best Practices
IAPD Board Development Program Update
Ridgeville Park District Racial Justice Statement
Nepotism Policy Review

New Business:

The following items were tabled:

Celebrate African American History Month Annually
Collaborate with YWCA in "Stand Against Racism"

Dan Coyne Announcement for 9th Ward Alderman:

Dan Coyne is one of five people who have asked Mayor Tisdahl to be considered for appointment to the 9th Ward Aldermanic position being vacated by Coleen Burrus.

Pat McCourt asked for clarification on Coyne using the name "Ridgeville Consortium" in his communications. Some times the consortium is referred to as "Ridgeville Parks Consortium." Attorney David Saunders said it should be clarified in each communication that the consortium is not connected to the park district in any way.

Protocol/Statute to Fill Commissioner Vacancy:

Attorney David Saunders reviewed procedures followed in the past to fill board vacancies. He will put something in writing for the board to review.

Motion #4: At 9:18 p.m. Rob Bady made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Dan Coyne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Rita McCourt