

APPROVED

**THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON APRIL 13, 2017 IN THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE, LOCATED AT 908 SEWARD STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.**

**Present:** President Michael Drennan, Vice President Ann Covode, Rob Bady, Dan Coyne, Pat McCourt

**Also Present:** Director of Parks & Recreation Brian Rosinski, Program Director Natalie Sallee, Treasurer Gerald Gibbs, Attorney Charles Valente

**Citizens:** J. Boarini, Debby Braun, Julia Coyne, Rocky Kunz, Anthony Morrow, Pat Schumacher, Jean Zuiker

President Michael Drennan called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:** None

Michael Drennan congratulated Debby Braun on being elected to the Ridgeville board in the April 4 election.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion #1:** Pat McCourt made a motion to approve minutes from the March 9, 2017 meeting. Ann Covode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Bills:**

Gerry Gibbs explained why he recommends that \$95,000 be transferred from the park district's Chase Corporate operating account to the investment account at U.S. Bank. The transfer is included in the monthly bills for April.

**Motion #2:** Dan Coyne made a motion to approve payment of April bills in the amount of \$112,744.86. Ann Covode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:**

**Motion #3:** Dan Coyne made a motion to approve payment of April petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$380.00. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Program Director Natalie Sallee presented her monthly report. Highlights:**

Asian Pacific American Heritage is being celebrated this month on the park district's Celebration Board. The board features Tuyet Le, who works with the nonprofit organization Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Natalie hopes to discuss with Ms. Le opportunities for the park district to collaborate with the organization.

Hiring for summer camp is almost complete. Few positions were available because nearly 100% of 2016 counselors wanted to return this summer.

Ridgeville hosted a Pop-Up Adventure Playground on March 19 led by Yulia Borisova. Approximately 40 children attended.

Natalie led a discussion of the book “The Other Wes Moore” on March 20 as part of the Evanston Public Library’s Community Wide Read event. Four Ridgeville residents attended.

Spring Break Camp went well. The weather was nice most days so the campers were able to play outside.

The Golden Egg Hunt event was successful. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Bunny (Bryan Richards) and StacyMusic.

A new Align Strength and Stretch class will be offered June 5-July 20 taught by Kristin Ross, a Ridgeville resident. Kristin has met and discussed the class with the previous teacher, Laura Downey. There was a free demonstration class on April 1 and there will be another one on May 3.

Natalie has been speaking with Mishra Keller, a Ridgeville resident, about possibly teaching an exercise class called POUND, which uses drumsticks and rhythmic music to accompany participants as they move and dance. Natalie would like to have a demonstration class toward the end of summer to assess interest.

Natalie is working with Elliot Hurtig on plans for the annual soccer festival in July. There is a registration form on the park district website and an event page on Facebook. There also is a plan is to recycle yard signs (from the recent election) to promote the festival.

Natalie and Brian are working with the Ridgeville Foundation to develop a “Concerts on the Ridge” series in the summer. The proposal is for there to be concerts in Ridgeville Park on Wednesday afternoons in July that would overlap the last hour of the Farmers Market.

In partnership with the City of Evanston’s “Clean Up, Evanston” event in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day, Ridgeville is hosting two sites – Ridgeville Park and Elks Park – for cleanup on April 22 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Volunteers are needed. To register, visit the Ridgeville website and follow the link to sign up through Volunteer Evanston. Natalie also has created a Facebook event with registration information.

**Director of Parks & Recreation Brian Rosinski presented his monthly report. Highlights:** More than 150 people attended the Golden Egg Hunt on April 8.

Voting machines for two precincts were set up in the Community House for the April 4 election. Ruben Sierra and Marcos Cruz did a nice job opening the facility at 4:30 a.m. and closing at 8:30 p.m.

Seventeen children attended Spring Break Camp, which took place from March 27-March 31.

Spring cleanup is underway in all of the parks. Ruben and Marcos have seeded several path areas and have aerated the parks.

No word yet from the city about the status of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money for proposed improvements to Brummel Park. There is much uncertainty because of the new administration in Washington, but the hope is that there will be no cuts in 2017. If the Ridgeville request is approved, new equipment will be installed in the 2017-2018 budget year.

Soccer Fest is planned for July 15. A soccer pitch will be installed in Kamen West Park and will remain there for 3-5 weeks. If there is enough interest, another soccer pitch will be set up in Leider Park and will remain there for 3-4 days. Neighbors will be notified of plans to install the soccer pitches.

**Treasurer Gerry Gibbs presented his monthly report:**

Gerry distributed a list of various outstanding/unresolved budget items that will be voted on at board meetings. He also distributed and reviewed the updated appropriation ledger, balance sheet, statement of revenue and appropriations and general ledger.

**Capital Improvements Committee:** Leider Park – no report

Art Studio (east of Community House) – Ann Covode has met with Mike Miro of the Mudlark theater group. They believe a committee should be formed to consider options for improving the Art Studio. The committee could include representatives of the park district, the Ridgeville Foundation and Mudlark. Natalie said she would like to be on the committee. Ridgeville residents also are welcome to join.

**Old Business**

**Illinois Association of Park Districts Code of Conduct**

Dan Coyne signed the Illinois Association of Park Districts Code of Conduct.

**Motion #4:** Ann Covode made a motion that the matter of board members signing the Code of Conduct be concluded. Pat McCourt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Video Taping of Ridgeville Board Meetings**

Natalie said meetings can be streamed live on Facebook using a phone. Another option would be to record the meetings on a camcorder and post the recording on YouTube. She estimates a camcorder would cost \$300. It was the consensus of the board that discussion of the matter be postponed until the May meeting.

**New Business**

Board members thanked Michael Drennan for his service to the park district.

Rita McCourt suggested it may be time for the board to hire someone else to take notes at monthly board meetings. She believes the person who takes notes should have the support of all board members. At the March board meeting, Commissioners Coyne and Bady voted against retaining Rita to take notes. Rita said she is willing to continue taking notes until someone else is hired. Brian will post the job opening.

Dan Coyne said that he believes Rita has done a good job but he objects to relatives of board members and staff members being hired. Rob Bady also said he believes Rita has done a good job but does not believe Ridgeville residents should consider Ridgeville a “Mom and Pop” operation and the board should consider how it looks to residents to have relatives working for the park district. Pat said that even though he is far from objective, he believes Rita has done an excellent job taking notes and has not missed a meeting in 12 years.

**Citizen Comment:**

Debby Braun said that during her campaign she spoke with many Ridgeville residents who appreciate the friendly staff and employees and like the small-town feel of the park district.

Natalie Sallee said the position of camp director was posted and no one applied for the job.

Jeff Boarini gave an overview of the policy at McDonald’s corporation regarding the hiring of employees’ relatives.

**Motion #5:** At 9:37 p.m. Dan Coyne made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ann Covode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Rita McCourt