

APPROVED

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON JUNE 8, 2017 IN THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE, LOCATED AT 908 SEWARD STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

Present: President Ann Covode, Vice President Rob Bady, Debby Braun, Dan Coyne, Pat McCourt

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

Citizens: David Braun, Wellington Grinage, Richard Katz, 8th Ward Ald. Ann Rainey, Pat Schumacher, Jean Zuiker

President Ann Covode called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

Wellington Grinage said he objects to being videotaped by Commissioner Coyne during board meetings. Mr. Grinage said he believes such taping by a commissioner is illegal. Jean Zuiker said she also objects to Commissioner Coyne videotaping meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve minutes from the May 11, 2017 board meeting. Pat McCourt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

Motion #2: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve payment of June bills in the amount of \$24,522.84. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:

Motion #3: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve payment of June petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$210.00. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Director Natalie Sallee presented her monthly report. Highlights:

Mario Treto, Jr. is being honored this month on the park district's website. He is assistant city attorney for the City of Evanston and has been the lead attorney for the Plan Commission, Board of Local Improvements, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Preservation Commission. The National LGBT Bar Association has named Mr. Treto as one of the Top Under 40 LGBT Lawyers in the country.

Julie Larson has been hired to take minutes at monthly board meetings and will begin at the July meeting.

Ridgeville's summer camps began June 6. Some spots are available in LEGO Camp, STEAM Camp, Renegade Writers Camp and Wizard Camp. Natalie and Laura Downey are planning a new Dance Camp for the first week in August. The dance camp for 3-4-year-olds will be in the morning and 5-8 year-olds in the afternoon.

Six adult classes are scheduled for June 5-August 5: Align Strength and Stretch, Feldenkrais, Yoga, Gentle Yoga for Seniors, Mindful Writing Practice, and Zumba GOLD. About 15 people participated in the first demo class for POUND, led by Mishra Keller, which took place June 4. Natalie believes this will be a great class to add to the fall lineup.

Natalie and graphic designer Sarin Seesawat have begun work on the Fall/Winter brochure. Natalie hopes to have the brochure mailed to households at the beginning of July.

Ridgeville's Farmers' Market began June 7 and will go through October 11, taking place each Wednesday from 3:30-7 p.m. in Ridgeville Park. There are 4-5 confirmed vendors. Three of them will participate in the market all 19 weeks. The Book Bike will join the Farmers' Market on three dates and Natalie hopes to line up musicians to play during some of the markets.

Ridgeville will participate in the annual Custer Street Fair, which will take place June 17-18. Natalie, Commissioner Debby Braun, Camp Director Saralina Kamholtz as and Camp Counselor Hannah Harper-Smith will represent Ridgeville at the park district's booth. Other commissioners are invited to participate.

The following events are planned for Ridgeville Park:

June 21-25 – Mudlark Theater will present "Twelfth Night" at 7 p.m.

July 22-August 13 – The Arc Theater will present an all-female telling of "Taming of the Shrew" at 7 p.m.

July 5 – Jutta & the Hi-Dukes will perform from 6-7:30 p.m.

July 9 – The Ridgeville Band will perform (time to be determined)

July 12 – Afrikan Kings will perform from 6-6:45 p.m.

July 12 – Tenuto Orchestra will perform from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

July 19 – Annie Andrews & the Irish Folk Band will perform from 6-7 p.m.

July 26 – School of Rock will perform from 6-7:30 p.m.

9th Ward Ald. Cicely Fleming has asked for Ridgeville's assistance in coordinating an event on August 1 in Kamen East Park. Ald. Fleming said the Evanston Police Department is urging each ward to host an event as part of the "National Night Out" program.

Dan Coyne had asked for a list of home zip codes for all Ridgeville staff members.

Natalie gave Dan the list. Debby Braun questioned whether it is legal to provide the home zip codes for minors who work for Ridgeville. Attorney Charles Valente said he would research the matter and report back to the board.

Treasurer Gerry Gibbs presented his monthly report:

Gerry distributed a list of outstanding budget items from July 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017 as well as an updated appropriation ledger, balance sheet, statement of revenue and appropriations, general ledger and a tax levy report from the Cook County Clerk's office.

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

Brian complimented Natalie for her work in preparing the park district for day camps, Farmers' Markets and other summer events.

The maintenance staff--Ruben Sierra, Marcos Cruz and Luis Mendoza-- have been busy getting the parks ready for summer.

For summer camp programs, the park district has distributed \$5,332.50 in financial assistance to 19 people who are participating in summer programs.

Other summer events --- 4th of July races in Kamen East Park, Soccer Festival July 15 in Kamen Park East and Kamen Park West, and the City of Evanston's concert in Brummel Park July 18, which also includes a variety of food trucks.

All staff members have received CPR/AED training.

The City of Evanston has been testing all park drinking fountains for lead content so all fountains in Ridgeville parks have been turned off until Brian receives notification that the lead level is acceptable. The water fountain in Leider Park was found to have a lead level that was too high. It will be fixed within the next four weeks.

Brian recommended that the board approve the following motion:

Motion #4: Dan Coyne made a motion to approve the prevailing wage ordinance.

Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital Improvements Committee

Leider Park -- no report

Art Studio (east of Community House) – Ann, Pat and Natalie met May 15 with a group of people interested in considering options for improving the Art Studio. Ann distributed notes from the meeting and said an architect has prepared some drawings of possible changes to the building. Ann said long-term changes are being considered but some changes can be made now. Staff is making those changes. The maintenance crew has cleaned and organized the second floor of the building and bleachers will be moved to

Ridgeville Park from Kamen East Park for performances of “Twelfth Night.” Ann suggested if the board decides to go ahead with renovating the building, there could be a survey of Ridgeville residents (perhaps by e-mail) to ask residents their opinions about any proposed renovation or rebuild and then the board could schedule a meeting to discuss results of the survey. She said there also could be a feasibility study to find ways to increase revenue generated by use of the building.

Proposed Improvements to Brummel Park – A federal budget has not yet been passed so no decision has been made about Ridgeville’s request for CDBG funds to improve Brummel Park. Brian said if/when the city approves funding for the project, he will sign an agreement with the city and then seek bids for the work.

Gerry recommended that the board approve the following motion:

Motion #5: Dan Coyne made the following motion: The board authorizes the Treasurer to transfer up to \$25,000 from the Recreation to the Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of improvements to Brummel Park related to the planned CDBG improvements for Brummel Park. In the event such transfer would result in a reduction of the Recreation Fund balance for the fiscal year, the Treasurer is authorized to transfer up to \$25,000 from the Corporate Fund to the Recreation Fund to avoid such a reduction and as long as the transfer does not result in a reduction of the Corporate Fund balance for the fiscal year (excluding depreciation and pension accounting). Pat McCourt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Video Taping of Ridgeville Board Meetings

There was lengthy discussion about Commissioner Coyne continuing to videotape board meetings. Some people have said in Citizen Comment portions of meetings that they do not like being videotaped by Dan. In May the park district began videotaping to be the “official record” of the meetings to stream live and then post the results on the park district’s Facebook page. Dan said some constituents have told him they appreciate having him live-streaming the meetings and that there were some problems with the park district videotape. Natalie is working to solve the problems. Dan said once the problems have been resolved he will be stop videotaping the meetings.

New Business

Use of Brummel Park

Ridgeville staff members and city staff members are working together to insure proper use of Brummel Park and the city’s nearby parks.

Port-A-Potty

Motion #6: Ann Covode made a motion that port-a-potty be placed in Ridgeville Park during July and August. Rob Bady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ann suggested that funds be included in the 2017-2018 budget to cover the cost of placing a port-a-potty in Ridgeville Park in June, July and August of 2018.

Board Protocol

Ann asked board members to be respectful of one another and not interrupt when a board member is speaking.

Debby asked that staff or board members be able to respond when a citizen asks a simple question during the Citizen Comment portions of meetings.

Brian suggested that board meetings begin before 7:45 p.m. The matter is to be discussed at the July meeting.

Bike the Ridge

Dan asked how Rob could join the city committee that plans the annual Bike the Ridge event. Dan also suggested that a “fun run” be added. 8th Ward Ald. Ann Rainey said there are already some 20 running events in the city, the city’s Special Events Committee plans Bike the Ridge, many city resources are already used to make the bike event a success and a “fun run” is not going to be added.

2017-2018 Budget

Brian reviewed the various steps that the board will take in considering and approving a budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Citizen Comment:

Wellington Grinage asked about Attorney Charles Valente’s credentials to be the park district attorney and asked to see in writing the law/s governing videotaping of board meetings. Wellington says he believes it is illegal for the park district to videotape meetings using Natalie’s phone and also that videotaping by Dan is illegal. Wellington said he intends to refer the matter to the Illinois Attorney General’s office.

Jean Zuiker said she is a member of the board of the Bohemian Theater Ensemble and that some theater companies avoid performing in Evanston because critics do not review plays in Evanston and they are not considered for Jeff Awards. The board may want to consider this as options for improving the Art Studio are studied. Natalie said that critics have reviewed performances by The Arc Theater group.

Motion #7: At 9:31 p.m. Pat McCourt made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Debby Braun seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Rita McCourt
June 2017 minutes