

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009, AT THE WILLOWBROOK VILLAGE HALL, 7760 QUINCY STREET, WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Cobb called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Those present at roll call were Commissioners Carol Lazarski, Ronald Kanaverskis, Doug Stetina and Chairman Cobb. ABSENT: Commissioner Laurie Landsman. Also present was Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Walter Righton.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 7, 2009

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Stetina, seconded by Commissioner Kanaverskis, to approve the minutes of April 7, 2009.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

5. VISITOR'S BUSINESS

There were no visitors.

6. REPORTS

A. Park News in Brief

Superintendent Righton provided the following highlights:

- The Village's Recreational Stimulus Program will begin with the Summer Recreation Program.
- The Summer Fun Guides will be mailed Friday, May 8.
- Confirmation was received that the Parks & Recreation Department has received permission to hold the Vehicle Fair at the Willowbrook Town Center.
- The new yard tractor is working very well.
- Cub Scout Troop 156 installed eight birdhouses at Willow Pond.
- Fishing Birthday parties are off to a good start this spring.
- The High School Bass Fishing Seminar was a big success with 24 participants.
- The decision to keep the aerator on at Willow Pond this past winter resulted in the fish population faring dramatically better than those in some surrounding ponds. The last capital project for FY08-09 was the installation of an aerator at Prairie Trail Park.

B. Waterford Playground Update

Superintendent Righton reported that the equipment has been ordered and should be delivered about May 29. The bid opening was yesterday, May 4, for the installation of the playground equipment. We received eight bids, all under the estimated budget. The lowest bid was received by the Jim Waterson Construction Company. A recommendation to the Finance/Administration Committee will be made on May 11. If approved, Staff will ask for award of a contract for the playground installation that same night.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Children's Holiday Party 2009

There was no report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Long-Range Plan

As reported earlier, Mr. Righton was directed to prepare updated budget estimates for projects that were included in the Five Year Plan. Since the revised estimates represent sizeable expenditures he is certain the Village Board will ask for the Parks Commission's prioritization of the projects. He encouraged the Parks Commission to establish some criterion by which we will later prioritize the projects. Mr. Righton further suggested that the Commission may wish to establish the criterion that we take care of existing park amenities before developing new amenities.

Chairman Cobb noted the substantial increase in the revised estimates for the projects identified in the Long Range Plan.

Commissioner Stetina indicated that one of the projects previously discussed was the dredging of Willow Pond to make it deeper. The consensus of the Commission was a project of this type should not be included in the Parks Department Budget.

Commissioner Lazarski inquired if the parking lot has to be expanded prior to the installation of additional ball field lighting. Superintendent Righton responded it has to be done either simultaneously or prior to the installation of ball field lights on Field #3.

Chairman Cobb felt a better parking lot at the Community Park would get a bigger, more immediate "bang for the buck."

Commissioner Kanaverskis felt the gazebos should be installed as early as possible.

Superintendent Righton indicated that if the tennis courts at Waterford Park are not addressed in some way by 2010, they will have to be locked up since they will not be safe due to the uneven surface.

Chairman Cobb felt it was important to spend money where most people would get the benefit of the money. We have five people a day at the Waterford Park tennis court and we have 400 people a day at the Community Park parking lot.

Chairman Cobb further thought that expanding the parking lot at the Community Park would make it a premium park. He also noted that the parking lot transcends the scope of the Parks Commission and thought it could be considered a project from the general Village budget.

Commissioner Kanaverskis offered the suggestion of expanding the Community Park parking lot in phases over several years. Superintendent Righton responded he felt it would not be the most efficient method of addressing this issue.

Superintendent Righton indicated that he would prepare a list for the next meeting of the items discussed this evening and the Commissioners can provide a consensus of which items were more important. The Commissioners can then look at each project and eventually assign a priority to them. He also suggested it would be wise to gather input from the stakeholders, residents and affected groups, before the Commission prioritized proposed projects identified in the Long Range Plan.

B. Recruitment of Potential Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Superintendent Righton reported he had spoken to the members of the Waterford Playground Committee with regard to volunteering as a Parks Commissioner and one of the committee indicated a possible interest. Mr. Righton said he would be contacting her next week.

Commissioner Lazarski inquired if it were possible to develop garden plots in the Village-owned land north of the new Public Works building. Mr. Righton said he would look into it. She also asked if it would be possible to solicit the level of interest from residents with regard to having garden plots before making a final decision with regard to the garden plots. Superintendent Righton responded that he would like to know if there was a viable place in the Village of 3 acres or more to have garden plots before even asking that question. If 50 people have an interest and we do not have the land, what would we do then?

9. ADJOURNMENT

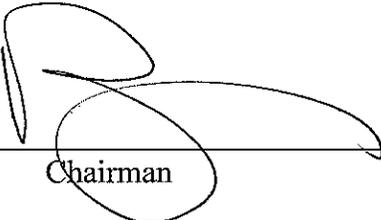
MOTION: Made by Commissioner Stetina, seconded by Commissioner Kanaverskis, to adjourn the regular meeting at the hour of 8:50 p.m.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

6-2, 2009

  
Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Mary Partyka.