



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Members Present: J. Bryan, D. Featherson D. Barreto, T. Long, R. Bush, P. Gregory

Members Absent: K. Machut, D. Michelin

Staff Present: K. Hawk, L. Hemingway, R. Doerner

Others Present: C. Ratliff, S. Frost, R. Foreman, Steve LJ, M. Robinson
M. McCallum

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Action: The motion to suspend the rules and allow the meeting to be held virtually was approved. With a quorum present, D. Barreto called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17

Action: The motion to accept the meeting minutes was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

C. Ratliff, S. Frost, R. Foreman, Steve LJ, and M. Robinson all spoke in support of the proposed honorary street name sign application submitted by C. Ratliff and Alderman Robin Rue Simmons, in honor of Morris “Dino” Robinson, Jr.

HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN APPLICATION – Morris “Dino” Robinson, Jr.

Action: The motion to approve the application designating the portion of Church St., between Hartrey Ave. and Grey Ave. with the honorary St. name sign “Morris “Dino” Robinson, Jr. Way” was approved.

SPORT AFFILIATE PROGRAM

On December 17, 2020, staff gave a presentation on the history of the department’s sports affiliate program and provided proposed policy and process changes for review and consideration.

Action: The motion to formally adopt the Evanston Parks and Recreation Sports Affiliate Program policy as written, with the inclusion of the further indemnify and insured protection for the Board, was approved.

CAMP REGISRATION PROCESS

Because of the pandemic and the current operating guidelines, we are extremely limited in the number of slots available at each camp for participants. The Department surveyed the community for input that would help prioritize the registration process in

order to decide on the most fair and equitable way to allow families to register for camps being offered this summer.

Results from the survey highlighted disparities in the community. Staff is still finalizing the registration process based on COVID-19 guidelines and input from the survey. Some of the changes include pushing the registration date to March 6, 2021 to see where we are with COVID-19 guidelines and to allow staff more time to finalize the process. Also, there will be a number of registration slots reserved for those who don't have access to technology. A report on the final registration process will be presented to the Board at their March 18 meeting.

POLICY FOR NAMING / RENAMING PUBLIC PLACE UPDATE

Currently there is no policy or process in place for naming / renaming parks. In 2020 there was a request to rename a park in the 2nd Ward and the Board did not have an opportunity to set a policy or to have a response to the request. Since then, a committee of the Board has drafted a policy and process for naming parks and recreational facilities that has been reviewed by the City's Legal Dept. The committee will address the Legal Dept's comments and provide an updated policy at the March 18 Board meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Potential Skate Park -

The City of Evanston receives many requests for the construction of a skate park. Staff was directed to look into temporary and permanent options for a skate park in Evanston. At the January 19, 2021, special City Council meeting, staff presented information on temporary and permanent skate park installations, proposed locations, and criteria use in selecting the locations. There was no final decision made. The next step is to hold community meetings with the skateboard community and discuss possible locations with Ridgeville Park District officials.

Dog Park Project

Northwestern gave the City of Evanston \$85,000 as part of the 2020 Good Neighbor Fund for the creation of a dog park. The funds were put into the city's general fund to help cover the deficit created by COVID-19. The dog park is still a priority. The \$85,000 is currently part of the capital budget and the project is slated for completion by the end of 2021.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:24pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm, February 18, 2021 on the Zoom platform.