



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave. Room 2402

6:00pm on Thursday, May 26, 2022

Members Present: J. Bryan, P. Gregory, K. Machut, M. Rosinski

Members Absent: D. Featherson D. Michelin, R. Bush

Staff Present: A. Thompson, M. Callahan

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Quorum present and meeting called to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: The Motion to approve the April 28 meeting minutes passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / BUSINESS

Honorary Street Name Sign Application – JoAnn Avery Way

Action: The Motion to approve the honorary street name sign application submitted by Chairmember Bobby Burns and Ms. Beth Jacobs to designate Simpson St. between Dewey Ave. And Darrow Ave. with the honorary street name sign “JoAnn Avery Way” passed.

Board Office Appointment

Action: The motion to appoint Robert Bush as Board President and Dan Featherson as Vice President passed.

Skate Park Advisory Group Update

Final rendering of the skate park design is now online.

STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Referral to end Park Hours

On May 2 The Human Services Committee reviewed the Board’s recommendation to not eliminate park hours. Councilmember Reid didn’t feel like the Board understood his request and wanted to send the item back for reconsideration. The Human Services Committee voted against this. Councilmember Reid will try to get the item moved to the

full City Council for consideration. If this happens, members of the Board may want to attend to speak during public comment.

Summer Camp programs

Most of the summer camps are filled. There are 608 participants registered for aquatics camp. Summer staff are receiving increased training. We've contracted with Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute to provide suicide gatekeeper certification QPR (question, persuade, refer) training. YWCA did a Healthy Relationships training and the Child Advocacy Center will conduct a sexual harassment training. Staff will also receive Mental health first aid training.

Lakefront Updates

Dredging at the Church St boat ramp will be completed by Friday. There was a delay due to an expired dredging permit. The floating dock will be installed on Saturday. We have passed out over 2,200 free season beach passes to Evanston residents. Some people are requesting up to 10 passes for their household. Next year we will need to come up with a better way to make sure tokens are going to residents only.

Dog Park / Dog Beach

Dog Beach – The path leading to the dog beach is unsafe and has to be fenced in. If the dog beach was ever reopened it would have to be made ADA accessible to be compliant. It would be very expensive to put that structure and infrastructure into place for it to possibly be washed up by high water levels therefore, the City is not looking to open the dog beach anytime soon.

Dog Park – \$110,000 was allocated for a potential dog park. A. Thompson reported that the Public Works staff completed its research for the potential dog park site and it's now left with the City Council to give direction to staff regarding next steps for a dog park. Staff will send the Board a copy of the memo that went to the City Council.

Soccer Pitches

We have been approached by an Evanston resident who wants to have a soccer pitch installed in Evanston using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, in the amount of \$150,000. Staff will send the Board a copy of the soccer pitch.

Robert Crown Field Lights

Staff is still getting complaints about the field lights. Residents would like for the lights to be off when there are no paid field reservations. Staff does not want the field to become pay to play. The field should be lit and open for play even when there is no paid reservation.

Ecology Center Repairs

The Ecology Center repair project is added to the capital improvement plan for next year in the amount of \$1.5 million. The project includes relocating and/or modifying plumbing lines in crawl space, renovating restrooms and improving the building security.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:24pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm, June 16, 2022 at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.