

## Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

3:00 pm

November 9, 2020

**Present:** Commissioner Moffat and Commissioner Lenski (remote)

**Staff:** Nicole Vickers, Beth Keen, Mike Hay, Jim Huetson, Elliott Bortner, Joey Kalwat, Francesca Borman and Ryan Coffland

Supt. of Recreation Nicole Vickers welcomed Commissioner Lenski and Commissioner Moffat. She explained that the meeting typically covers **Spring 2020** and **Summer 2020** participation, revenue & expenses. However, due to COVID-19, no programs ran in the Spring. Ms. Vickers then asked the supervisors to present their reports and to discuss their accomplishments during COVID-19.

SPRC Customer Service Manager Mike Hay: Mr. Hay oversees the Birthday Party program, as well as the Parent's Night Out program. Parent's Night Out was on hiatus during July and August. Birthday Parties ceased operations during the shutdown of facilities but were immediately offered once facilities reopened. During the shutdown, over 350 personalized virtual e-cards were sent out to kids turning 3-8 years old on their birthday. The e-cards contained a coupon for booking a future party with us. This is a marketing campaign that we will continue in hopes of expanding our Birthday Party program.

Aquatic & Recreation Supervisor Joey Kalwat: Mr. Kalwat oversees the operation of both Sunset & Mill Creek Pool, Playhouse 38 and several special events. Concerts and Movies in the Parks were the events that ran this summer. Concerts in the Park were moved to the Stephen Persinger Recreation Center on the soccer fields to allow for social distancing. In place of beer sales, the District obtained a BYOB permit from the City. Staff received many positive comments for the opportunity to attend live music during these unusual times. Movies in the Park took place at Moore Park to allow for social distancing and to follow all COVID guidelines. The overall participation was slightly down this year, however, the events were successful with many happy participants and great weather.

Recreation Supervisor Beth Keen: Ms. Keen is responsible for Preschool, Dance, Cheer, General Athletics, Early Childhood, Youth, Family and Senior Programs/Trips. All-Star Sports had a few classes run. Tennis did really well and seemed to be untouched by the pandemic. The District was able to offer some additional recreational classes including indoor Dance and Cheer. Some of the contracted athletic classes that did run include: Challenger Sports soccer class, fencing, golf and volleyball. Toddler was able to run a Kid Rock Class and Youth was able to run a Horsemanship Class. Adult had a Swedish Language class run and also a Dungeons and Dragons class run. No trips were able to be offered this summer due to COVID-19.

Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Elliott Bortner: Mr. Bortner was responsible for fitness centers, cultural arts programming, as well as some of the special events. General athletics including pickleball had 101 open gym/punch swipes and sold a total of 7 punch cards. The cultural arts program successfully ran a Lion King Jr. production and also a Showcase mini-camp. Rehearsals for both programs were almost exclusively held outdoors. There were 50 tickets sold for each performance and close to \$5,000 brought in for revenue.

Sunset Facility Manager and Fitness Supervisor Jim Huetson: Mr. Huetson oversees facility operations at Sunset Community Center and Fitness programming. The District was able to run 13 indoor fitness programs which included 102 participants. Outdoor fitness offered many programs and was able to accommodate 751 participants. The classes were structured as a pay-per-class to allow flexibility for participants. As a result of this format, many more classes were offered, yet resulted in less revenue compared to last year. The outdoor fitness classes were more popular at the start of the summer, however the numbers went down as temperatures increased and indoor fitness classes were offered.

Athletic Supervisor Ryan Coffland: Mr. Coffland is responsible for Youth & Adult Softball, Middle School Volleyball, Mini Golf and Special Events. Cosmic Golf was the special event that Mr. Coffland oversaw. Unfortunately, this event lost money due to weather. Participants were excited that Cosmic Golf was still offered even though Swedish Days was cancelled. Middle School Volleyball was supposed to run in April and May, but due to COVID it was pushed back to mid-June. The volleyball league was held at Sunset pool in the sand volleyball courts. Numbers were lower than in the past, but participants enjoyed playing in the sand volleyball courts. Youth softball was offered and teams only practiced and played scrimmage games against other Geneva teams due to COVID guidelines. Adult Softball ran with a total of 8 teams.

2020 Summer Camp Report by Recreation Supervisor Kelly Wales: Ms. Vickers stated that Mr. Bortner will review Ms. Wales' report in her absence. Ms. Vickers noted that we were one of few Districts to start a camp program as was scheduled and managed to run a fun and safe camp without any COVID interruption. Some of the changes that were made due to COVID included all participants were required to wear face masks, implementation of additional cleaning and sanitizing, participants spent as much time outdoors as possible, temp checks were performed at drop off and virtual field trips were offered. Mr. Bortner added that there were over 1,400 participants for Summer Camp with a profit of over \$18,000. He added that evaluations included many encouraging comments and positive feedback from participants. A weekly newsletter was sent out electronically to families. Mr. Bortner shared recommendations for 2021 including: Staff to work with Peck Farm in streamlining camp offerings, research methods to improve online registrations, increase staff development as it relates to technology and continue to follow Illinois Department of Public Health and Center for Disease Control guidelines as it relates to COVID for another successful year.

Mr. Bortner shared some highlights and accomplishments from the Spring. Some of these included creating a COVID update webpage which has had over 7,000 views, launching the Live Your Best Life at Home Webpage which includes 150 games/activities for families and has had over 4,000 visits, E-sports were offered with a great response from the community and over 200 participants, Playhouse 38 held 2 virtual radio shows with over 150 viewers, Virtual 5k was offered, Virtual Butterfly House release party and many video contents were created with over 20,000 video views. Mr. Bortner concluded by sharing how proud the Recreation Department is looking back on all the successes and accomplishments we have had during these hard times.

Commissioner Lenski shared that he is very proud of staff and thanked them for all their hard and dedicated work.

Commissioner Moffat stated that every Board member is happy with all of the staff accomplishments and impressed with the innovation that went into planning and offering so much to the community during these times. He thanked staff for their dedication and passion.

Ms. Vickers thanked everyone for participating and thanked Commission Lenski and Commissioner Moffat for taking the time out to come and listen to the staff reports.