

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

6:00 pm

November 8, 2021

Present: Commissioner Cladis and Commissioner Lenski

Staff: Nicole Vickers, Beth Keen, Christine Shiel, Elliott Bortner, Jim Huetson, Joey Kalwat, Kelly Wales, Will Turner, Ryan Coffland and Amanda Vinson

Supt. of Recreation Nicole Vickers welcomed Commissioner Cladis and Commissioner Lenski. She explained that the meeting would cover **Spring 2021** and **Summer 2021** participation, revenue & expenses. She referenced the memo explaining some of the details regarding how the program budget is calculated with regard to direct and indirect costs. Ms. Vickers then asked the supervisors to present their reports for both Spring and Summer.

SPRC Customer Service Manager Will Turner: Mr. Turner introduced himself. He recently joined the Park District team and will oversee the front desk staff at SPRC along with Personal Training and Kidz Korral.

SCC Customer Service Manager Francesca Borman: Ms. Borman was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Borman oversees the front desk staff at Sunset Community Center, the Birthday Party Program, the Parent's Night Out Program and Pavilion Rentals.

Aquatic & Recreation Supervisor Amanda Vinson: Ms. Vinson introduced herself. She recently joined the Park District team and will oversee the Aquatics daily operations, Swim Lessons, Playhouse 38 and some Special Events.

Aquatics & Facility Manager Joey Kalwat: Mr. Kalwat was recently promoted and now oversees the facility operations at the Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center, the operation of both Sunset & Mill Creek Pool, Open Gym, Pickleball, Fitness Programming, Playhouse 38 and some special events. **Spring 2021:** Fitness classes had growing enrollment with 263 participants; several classes were held via Zoom or outdoors. Pickleball basics was able to run 2 of the 3 classes offered and there were over 750 unique swipes for pickleball open gym. Playhouse 38 held a production of Wonderland with 22 people in the cast and 2 acting classes ran. **Summer 2021:** Fitness classes had a total of 326 participants and an overall net revenue much higher than the previous summer. Pickleball had 312 unique open gym visits and remains very popular. Pickleball numbers could be lower due to people playing outdoors. Playhouse 38 held a youth production of Moana Jr. with two casts that featured 40 total actors. This production held 8 performances. Playhouse 38 also held 2 tech assistantship classes.

Recreation Supervisor Beth Keen: Ms. Keen is responsible for Preschool, Dance, Early Childhood, Youth, Family and Senior Programs/Trips. **Spring 2021:** Dance accommodated 84 participants throughout the Spring season. We were able to have 6 Early Childhood classes run with Music classes being most popular. Several Youth classes ran with the most popular being STEM classes (Adventure in STEM, Lego Robotics and Race Car Engineering). There was not enough enrollment to run Adult classes. We offered a couple of outdoor trips, however, enrollment was low. **Summer 2021:** Dance enrollment was up compared to the previous summer. There was an increase in Toddler enrollment. Several participants enjoyed Terrific Twos and Learning all the Time Preschool Prep. Music classes remain a popular class for Toddlers. Youth saw an increase in enrollment. Popular youth classes were Spanish and Little Medical School Camps. A few Adult classes were able to run including Photography, Bingo, Bunco and Journaling. Outdoor trips were popular including the Botanical Garden and the Arlington Race Track.

Sunset Facility Manager Jim Huetson: Mr. Huetson oversees facility operations at Sunset Community Center, Mini Golf and special events. **Spring 2021:** Parent's Night out was able to run 4 times. The Egg-mazing race registration was down, however participant feedback was positive. The Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt events were successful, participation was approximately cut in half due to COVID restrictions. The Bunny Basket Deliveries were successful, families were able to spend time with the bunny in front of their house. Screen free week was well attended and surpassed the program maximums. **Summer 2021:** Cosmic golf had low attendance due to poor weather conditions. Geneva's Got Talent was held in two rounds this year and attendance was lower than previous years. Summer concerts were successful despite challenging weather with an estimated 700 participants. Movies in the Park took place at Moore Park, the movies shown were Trolls World Tour, Sonic the Hedgehog and the Wizard of Oz. Cookouts took place at Hathaway, Bricher and 4th Street Parks and were well attended. Folk Fest was not held again this year due to COVID restrictions, however a virtual concert was offered.

Manager of Peck Farm Park Christine Shiel: Ms. Shiel oversees the operations of Peck Farm Park, summer camps, specialty programs and rentals. **Spring 2021:** Quite a few programs were cancelled, however there were many new programs that ran successfully. Nature Playworks was a new parent-tot class that ran which included guided nature play, hikes and crafts. Nature Recess was an exploratory nature series for kids doing e-learning. The Butterfly Release Party nearly sold-out. **Summer 2021:** Little Buds continues to be a popular program series. Some new programs that ran and were popular included: Science with Skittles (science classes doing experiments with food), Critter Care Workshop (classes focusing on how biology and natural habitat informs the care of the animals kept in the interpretive center) and Citizen Science Workshop (classes learning about different citizen science projects that kids can participate in). Staff are working on designing more in-depth programming that meets multiple times to explore a nature topic, in addition to our single class options.

Athletic Supervisor Ryan Coffland: Mr. Coffland is responsible for Youth & Adult Softball, Youth & Adult Basketball, Volleyball, Contractual Athletics, Martial Arts, Gymnastics and Special Events. **Spring 2021:** Youth Leagues had a strong spring with our Youth Softball League and the High School Basketball league. Adult Softball had an impressive 14 teams in the league and the Church Softball league ran for the first time in over 4 years. Tennis had great numbers with only 2 out of 14 classes having to be cancelled. All-Star Sports only had a 23% cancellation rate. **Summer 2021:** Volleyball instructional classes had very strong numbers. The 3-on-3 Swedish Days Basketball tournament and dodgeball tournaments ran well despite dealing with rain. Gymnastics Summer Camp had a great summer with 219 participants. Tennis ran 28 out of 32 classes and had 197 participants. All-Star Sports had an extremely good summer with 624 participants and 66 total leagues/classes.

2021 Summer Camp Report by Recreation Supervisor Kelly Wales: Mrs. Wales' responsibilities include Kids' Zone, Summer Camp, Day-off Trips, Teen programming and supervision of the Recreation Coordinator and Recreation Assistant. The Camp Report outlines the financials and participation numbers for Traditional Camps (Safari, Discovery, Voyager, Explorer, Adventure, Teen X-treme) and our Unique Camps. Traditional camps had 2,591 participants with a profit of \$95,989.44. Our Unique Camps had 290 participants with a net profit of \$12,904.71. Overall, staff continues to provide safe camps while creating a fun environment for our participants. Staff continues to diligently follow COVID guidelines and adjust the program as needed. Mrs. Wales shared many positive comments and feedback that camp received. Mrs. Wales shared recommendations for 2022 including: Include Friendship Station Preschool in the priority registration for summer camps, publish a set date for priority registration participants to cancel without being assessed a service charge, research the needs for adjusting staff participant ratios, continue to monitor and implement all COVID guidelines, resume field trips, research bus costs of other companies to be sure we are receiving the best deal, and increase program fees 5-10% in an effort to cover rising expenses such as minimum wage, bus rental costs and increasing supply costs.

Commissioner Lenski and Commissioner Cladis thanked the staff for their dedication and continued hard work.

Ms. Vickers thanked everyone for participating and thanked Commission Lenski and Commissioner Cladis for their time and attention.

Nicole Vickers / Brynn Pattermann