

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 12, 2025

TIME: 5:00 – 6:21 PM

PLACE: Sunset Community Center

PRESENT: Commissioner Cladis, Commissioner Kaven, Supt. of Recreation Elliott Bortner, Kelly Wales, Ally Paulson, Kyle Donahue, Briana Carlson, Tanya Osika, Laura Sprague, Chris McAdam, Beth Keen, Brendan Lochbaum, Ryan Coffland, Adam Dagley, and Hannah Sterrick

GUESTS: None

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED:

Supt. Bortner welcomed Commissioners Cladis and Kaven and explained that the meeting would review the staff's area of responsibility as well as highlights, accomplished goals, and future goals. Supt. Bortner advised the Commissioners that the numbers include only direct costs to the programs, and indirect costs are not reflected in this report. Supt. Bortner then asked the Recreation staff to present their reports.

Kelly Wales – Recreation Supervisor

Ms. Wales reported on before- and after-school care, day off trips, and teen and family programming. **FALL 2024:** Fall break day off trips participation was slightly lower than the previous year. Winter break day off trips were comparable to the previous year. A new family tea party ran, with great success. A couple of new teen programs were canceled due to low enrollment. **WINTER 2025:** We held a teen laser tag event in collaboration with the Geneva Library that was a huge success, with 55 teens participating. Another teen event will be held this summer with the Library. Staff did see a slight increase in participation for the winter day off trips. Commissioner Kaven asked how the participants are transported for the day off trips. Ms. Wales reported that we contract school buses through the Geneva school district.

Briana Carlson – SPRC Customer Service Manager

Ms. Carlson reported on Pickleball classes, leagues, and tournaments. **FALL 2024:** Overall participation was 3,138 individuals, which is a slight increase from the previous year. There have been a couple of Pickleball establishments opened in the past year, which staff believe have affected our numbers. Class sections were expanded to allow a greater variety of class times for the increased participation. Our net profit was \$16,916.00, an increase of \$3,500.00 from the previous year. Staff offered 45 classes, with only 5 classes canceled due to low enrollment. One tournament was held, The Pickleball Boo Bash. This is the second year for this tournament, and the same number of participants registered this year as in the previous year. The courts were also adjusted, and staff were able to add a 6th court to allow more gameplay during classes and open gym. Commissioner Kaven asked if classes are offered at our outside courts. Ms. Carlson stated that this upcoming season, classes will be offered for the first time outside at our new courts at Mill Creek Community Park. **WINTER 2025:** We saw a decrease in participation in the winter 2025 season, with roughly 800 fewer participants. This change was seen mostly in our non-resident open gym numbers and open gym numbers overall. Group classes, private classes, and tournaments continued to be successful. Our net profit was \$13,000.00, which is a \$3,000.00 decrease from the previous year. Staff offered 46 classes, with only 6 classes canceled due to low enrollment. Staff continue to accept feedback from participants and will adjust the schedule. One tournament was held, the Pickleball Snowball Smash. This was a doubles tournament and saw our highest enrollment numbers to date. Staff received great feedback from the participants and will run a similar tournament this summer during Swedish Days.

Tanya Osika – Cultural Arts & Recreation Coordinator

Ms. Osika reported on dance, cheer, gymnastics, and Playhouse 38. **FALL 2024:** The Jingle Ball dance recital saw an increase of 100 participants from the previous year and an increase of \$700.00 in revenue. Participants include dancers and audience members. The same number of dance classes were offered, with an increase in participation. We did have some staffing issues with gymnastics and tumbling classes, and some classes had to be canceled mid-season. New instructors were hired for the winter season, and positive changes were made. Some new cheer, pom, and tumbling classes, taught by in-house staff, were added and doubled the profit from the previous year. These classes were previously taught by contractors. Ms. Osika believes that the increase in participation and profit is due to the staff changes. The cultural arts numbers stayed consistent with the previous year. Frozen Jr. saw huge success with enough participants for two casts. **WINTER 2025:** Dance had a \$10,000.00 increase in profit. Some of this increase is due to the Geneva Park District hosting its first dance competition. Most of the revenue from costumes and extra fees came in winter 2025 and will be paid out in spring 2025. Ms. Osika continued to put a heavy focus on staff recruitment for gymnastics and tumbling during the winter 2025 season. Many more classes were offered, increasing participation. Twice as many classes were offered for cheer, poms, and tumbling as the previous winter season. Playhouse 38 had a great winter season despite many classes being canceled halfway through the season due to an instructor's medical issue. For the first time since pre-COVID, a non-musical youth production had a double cast. Adult programs expanded as they are now co-oped with Batavia Park District and St. Charles Park District. Supt. Bortner stated that Ms. Osika and Mr. Donahue have done a great job engaging our participants by rotating dependable directors for our productions as well as bringing in rentals to the facility.

Chris McAdam – Aquatics & Fitness Coordinator

Mr. McAdam reported on fitness and special events. **FALL 2024:** Fitness saw an increase of 50 more participants from the previous year, a \$4,000.00 net profit increase, and the cancellation rate was down. There were three special events in the fall. Polar Express sold out in 11 minutes on registration day. The fees were increased in anticipation of increased expenses, which increased our net profit by \$1,700.00. Halloween Hay Day saw a decrease in participation of 40 participants. We did see an increase in net profit due to an increase in non-resident participation. Pizza Palooza is a free event held during Red Ribbon Week. The pizza is sponsored by Aurelio's, and this year the entertainment was a balloon artist. **WINTER 2025:** Fitness saw an increase of 80 more participants from the previous year, a \$2,500.00 net profit increase, and the cancellation rate was down. The last two weeks of the year are drop-in classes only, where participants who may be traveling or want to try a class. There were two special events in the winter. Daughter Date Night saw an increase of 100 participants and \$800.00 net profit. Commissioner Cladis stated that it's great that the residents get to experience the benefit of the school district and park district working together to provide a great event. He asked if there is room to grow. Supt. Bortner stated that pre-COVID, we saw registration numbers are large as 1,200 participants, and staff would love to have more participants. Fun with your Son Night had an increase in participation and an increase in net profit due to more non-resident registrations. Both events are starting to gain more traction after COVID.

Beth Keen – Recreation Supervisor

Ms. Keen reported on contracted programs, toddler, youth, adult programming, and senior trips. **FALL 2024:** Toddler class numbers were similar from the previous year. Popular classes included: Terrific Two's, Learning all the Time, cooking and music classes, and holiday specialty classes. Ms. Keen stated that this coming fall, Batavia Park District will no longer be co-oping their Kid Rock classes with the Geneva Park District as they have opened their new Community Center. Eliminating that co-oped program could affect the overall revenues and expenses. Numbers for Shotokan are down due to our long-time instructor opening up his own studio. A couple of instructors have been hired, and we are working on rebuilding the program. Youth programs remain the same from last year. Popular classes include music lessons, STEAM, cooking classes, and Chilled Pallete Art classes. Adult program participation increased from the previous year in Bingo and Bunco. Learning Mahjong and Adult Spanish was added, which

helped increase the revenue. Senior trips continue to be popular despite revenue decreasing due to the Diamond Tour trip to Memphis being canceled due to low enrollment. Golf and ice skating participation numbers and revenue increased due to adult golf running. **WINTER 2025:** Toddler participation numbers decreased. Shotokan classes numbers decreased. Youth participation and revenue increased from the previous year. Popular classes included STEAM, Ready Set Code, cooking and music classes, and Chilled Palette Art classes. Adult participation numbers increased with popular classes being Health and Wellness, Financial classes, Adult CPR and First Aid, and Learn Mahjong. Senior trip numbers decreased due to Elgin Community College Culinary School having to cancel their lunch and tour. There were 14 participants registered. Revenue was higher despite the trip cancellation. Tennis participation numbers and revenue stayed consistent with the previous year. Ice Hockey did not run this season due to low enrollment.

Brendan Lochbaum – SCC Customer Service Manager

Mr. Lochbaum reported on the Parents Night Out program. **FALL 2024:** There were eight dates scheduled and ran in fall 2023, and only six scheduled and ran in 2024, with a small decrease in revenue due to the number of classes held. **WINTER 2025:** Participation increased with the same number of dates run, increasing revenue.

Cory Bradburn – Athletics Supervisor

Mr. Bradburn reported on general athletics, All-Star Sports, and tournaments. **FALL 2024:** The fall 3v3 skeleton basketball tournament tripled in size. Mr. Bradburn attributes this to the date being changed to the Friday of Columbus Day weekend, as the kids had off from school. General athletics numbers went down significantly. This is due to softball numbers decreasing after local private softball organizations, including Geneva Softball Association, have shown recent growth. Despite our numbers decreasing, the same number of girls are playing softball, and we are recouping costs from field rentals. There were seven adult softball teams, and Mr. Bradburn's goal is to bring all seven teams back for the upcoming season. All-Star Sports co-oped classes are running great. **WINTER 2025:** Mr. Bradburn reported that he received great participation in girls' basketball, specifically in the 3rd/4th grade division. That group of girls increased from 30 participants in winter 2024 to 60 participants in winter 2025. Mr. Bradburn's goal is to continue improving that program by recruiting more moms to coach. Adult volleyball did not run due to low enrollment.

Ryan Coffland – SCC Facility Manager

Mr. Coffland reported on special events. **FALL 2024:** Harvest Hustle 5K Race had 14 more runners than the previous year. Escape the Mansion decreased slightly in participation by 13 registrants. Hello Santa is a free event for our community members. Participation is capped due to the number of phone calls the male recreation staff members are able to make. **WINTER 2025:** Mr. Coffland runs one special event in the winter season: Super Shuffle 5K Race. The number of runners decreased by 61 from the previous year, but we did increase our sweatshirt sales by 30. Commissioner Kaven asked if the races are on trails. Mr. Coffland stated that the Harvest Hustle runs on the grass trails throughout Peck Farm Park, and the Super Shuffle is on the paved trails starting at the corner of Fabyan and Viking Drive.

Adam Dagley – Peck Farm Park Manager

Mr. Dagley reported on Peck programming. **FALL 2024:** Total participation increased by 20 from the previous year. A couple of successful events include: Family Campout, and Bagpipes and Bonfires. There was a total of 59 more participants for this year's Bagpipes and Bonfires program, with 49 being non-residents, than the previous year. In fall 2023, 39 sections of classes were offered. In fall 2024, that number was increased to 53 sections of classes. **WINTER 2025:** Participation in winter 2025 doubled from the previous year. Participation went from 100 to 210 participants. Successful programs included: Dino Dance Party and winter Fort Building. Mr. Dagley also offered, for the first time, a winter Risk-Watch Camp, which is a co-op with the Geneva Fire Department and the Geneva Police

Department. Peck Farm Park also hosted a new event in December called Winter Wonder Lights, which saw about 400 participants on the kick-off night. Staff were pleased with that number as the weather was very cold and wet for an outdoor event. Commissioner Cladis stated that Peck Farm Park is a unique facility with unique programming, which drives the positive numbers Mr. Dagley reported on.

Supt. Bortner stated that although the teen program area reflects a low number of participants, the real number of teens who participate in our programs is not fully represented by the teen program category alone, and he would be happy to share those numbers with the Board at a later date. Supt. Bortner highlighted completed goals from the previous year as well as new goals for the upcoming year. Commissioner Kaven thanked the staff for providing fantastic updates as well as goals. Commissioner Cladis thanked the staff for providing a variety of programs for our residents.

Submitted by: Elliott Bortner / Hannah Sterricker