

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2023 5:30 P.M., Park View Room

Present: Trustee and Chairman Tom Shepherd, Trustee Kristina Sayas, Trustee Shawn Hillmann, Dr. Susan Retzack, Ms. Allison Kelly, Mr. Patrick McNally, Ms. Stacy Barry-Coffey, Mr. Ryan Black

Absent: None

Also Present: Ms. Katherine Gehl, Assistant Manager/Zoning & Planning Administrator

1.) Call meeting to order

Chairman Shepherd called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

2.) Review and act on minutes dated May 18, 2023

Dr. Retzack motioned to approve the minutes dated May 18, 2023 as presented. Trustee Sayas seconded. Motion approved 8-0.

3.) Discussion and possible action regarding a request made by Tonawanda 5th Grade Farewell Committee for a discounted rate for their annual 5th Grade Farewell Event

Ms. Megan Reuter, 605 Crystal Lane, was present before the Committee to represent the request. Ms. Reuter explained that the Tonawanda 5th Grade Farewell is an annual event that is hosted by Tonawanda to celebrate the 5th graders that will be graduating. She explained that she was made aware that prior to the pandemic, the Recreation Committee had offered a discounted rate to Tonawanda for this event and she would like to make a similar request for this year's event. Ms. Reuter also inquired if this could be an agreement that is approved moving forward so that a request does not need to be made each year.

Ms. Gehl noted that this event has already occurred but there was an agreement made with Village Staff that Tonawanda could come to the Recreation Committee with their request and be billed retroactively based on the rate that is approved.

Mr. Black noted that he recalls the previous discount being given; however, he does not recall what that rate was. He wants the cost to run the event to be covered.

Dr. Retzack, Trustee Sayas, and Chairman Shepherd were in agreement that requesting a discounted rate should be the responsibility of Tonawanda and should be done annually so that the Recreation Committee can review and be aware of the event.

Trustee Hillmann suggested that the discounted rate that is offered to Tonawanda be the rate of a pool party which is currently set at \$400.00 for residents.

Dr. Retzack motioned to charge the Tonawanda 5th Grade Farewell Committee the pool party rate on an annual basis for the 5th Grade Farewell Event, with the understanding that the pool party rate may change over time and with the understanding that the Tonawanda 5th Grade Farewell Committee is required to submit a request for this rate annually. Trustee Hillmann seconded. Motion approved 5-3.

4.) Discussion and possible action regarding incident at Village Park tennis court and potential policy changes regarding organization facility reservations

Chairman Shepherd explained that on May 13th, a few members of the Recreation Committee were made aware of an incident that occurred at the tennis courts of Elm Grove Park on Friday, May 12th. Letters detailing the incident were drafted by both parties and were shared with members of the Recreation Committee and Village Staff. This incident occurred after the agenda for the previous Recreation Committee meeting was posted, so the Recreation Committee reviewed the situation as a discussion item only at the May meeting. The Recreation Committee requested that staff prepare an outline of these types of reservations that are made with the Village each year for review to see if any policy changes should be made. Chairman Shepherd asked for thoughts from the Recreation Committee.

Dr. Retzack noted that the rental of the courts by Marquette University High School (MUHS) is not new and it happens every spring. She noted that MUHS had their reservation made so they have the right to use or not use the courts.

David Frank, the varsity tennis coach from MUHS, was present at the meeting and shared the good and longstanding relationship the school has had with the Village and that there has not been any major issues in the years that they have rented the courts.

The Committee was in agreement that the situation has been dealt with and they do not feel it's necessary to adjust the current process for these types of facility reservations.

5.) Recreation Manager Update

Ms. Gehl informed the Recreation Committee that staff will be conducting an interview with a potential candidate for Recreation Manager in the coming week.

Trustee Hillmann suggested reaching out to universities to post the job for Recreation Manager and to begin looking at more non-traditional employees.

6.) Summer Program Update

Ms. Gehl explained that the pool and splash pad opened on June 3rd. It was a busy first weekend and the new staff have been working great. Ms. Gehl explained that there have been a few days where the pool has either been closed entirely or closed for open swim due to weather.

Dr. Retzack inquired if the staff will still be paid if their shift is cancelled.

Ms. Gehl noted that they are not compensated for a shift that is cancelled but the staff are often made aware that their shift is cancelled before they ever come to the pool. There are opportunities for staff to pick-up hours if they want them through private swim lessons; picking up sub requests; and working Friday Flicks, Tunes on Tuesday, or Bocce League.

Dr. Retzack felt we should consider looking into what other communities do for cancelled shifts or gauging the attitude of the staff and pool supervisor.

Ms. Gehl noted that there has been great enrollment numbers since the opening of program registration on May 6th. The first session starts on Monday, June 12th and will run through June 23rd.

7.) Summer Events Update

Ms. Gehl explained that Village Staff have been working on organizing plans for the 4th of July celebration including making final confirmation on permitting with the vendors who have agreed to participate in the day's

festivities, organizing judges for the Baking Contest and Bike Decorating Contest, and ordering t-shirts and other supplies for the Fun Run.

Mr. McNally exited the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

8.) Other Business

Trustee Sayas inquired how it was determined to move forward with the basketball court. Staff explained that it is being planned to be included in the upcoming capital budget but staff are looking at price estimates for a potentially earlier repair.

Ms. Barry-Coffey noted that the Park Master Plan is still outstanding and if completed could be used to aid in applying for grants for certain park projects. Ms. Gehl noted that updating the Park Master Plan is noted as a priority item for the next Recreation Manager but unfortunately at this time the Village does not have the staff to complete the project.

The Committee noted that a diving board should also be added to the capital budget.

9.) Adjourn

Dr. Retzack motioned to adjourn. Trustee Sayas seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Katherine Gehl, Assistant Manager/Zoning & Planning Administrator