

**VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

1. Call meeting to order

Present: Trustee and Chairman Shepherd, Trustee Sayas, Trustee Hillmann, Dr. Retzack, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Black, Mr. McNally and Ms. Barry-Coffey

Absent: None

Also present: Ms. Gehl, Assistant Village Manager, and Logan Kein

Trustee Shepherd called the meeting to order at 5:32 P.M.

2. Review and act on minutes dated August 16, 2023

Mr. Black stated he was not present at the last meeting but asked about the proposed cost for a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Chairman Shepherd stated that a CORP is a 5-year document and that village staff have been directed to see if after the first CORP is done if a 5-year revision can be done at a lower cost.

DR. RETZACK MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. TRUSTEE SAYAS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Ms. Barry-Coffey arrived at 5:36 P.M.

3. Recreation Manager Update

Ms. Gehl stated that she is pleased to share that the Village offered the position of Recreation Manager to Mr. Logan Kein and he accepted. His anticipated start date is Monday, September 25th. Mr. Kein was present at the meeting to introduce himself to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Kein comes to the Village with experience in project management, logistics, law enforcement, and recreation management.

4. 2023 Elm Grove Pool Report

Ms. Gehl introduced the discussion regarding pool operations for this past summer. There were 9 active rescues performed and 4 first aid care instances. This number is down from 2022. None of the active rescues resulted in an emergency call.

Ms. Gehl also provided an overview of the season passes and day passes purchased in 2023 compared to 2022. Overall the number of season passes purchased this year as compared to last year was comparable; however, the number of individual season passes for individuals doubled from last year from 7 to 14.

Ms. Gehl discussed the make-up of day passes purchased and it was noted by Chairman Shepherd that there were much fewer non-residents who had purchased day passes and splash pad only passes as compared to 2022. Ms. Gehl noted that there was a common complaint from non-residents

regarding the price for a day pass, especially if they only intended to use the splash pad and it was outside splash pad only hours.

Ms. Barry-Coffey noted that she also heard that this was common complaint and suggested we could offer week passes as well as annual passes or we could offer guest passes. Ms. Gehl stated this is something the she and Mr. Kein will look into for next summer.

Trustee Hillmann explained that he understands there were complaints regarding certain fees but said it will be important to compare the staffing costs and what the fees are set at to make sure that we are covering those costs.

Dr. Retzack asked if revenues were up from previous years. Ms. Gehl stated that she does know that total revenue for pool fees were up from previous years but as staff is currently finalizing operating budgets she will provide an actual breakdown at an upcoming Recreation Committee meeting.

Ms. Barry-Coffey noted that it would be ideal if the pool could remain open longer in the summer. She stated that she understands there has historically been issues with staffing but would like to see if there was a possibility.

5. 2023 Summer Program Report

Ms. Gehl provided an update on the summer programs. Overall the registration numbers were comparable to previous years, with a significant increase in the number of registrations for tennis lessons. However, there drops in registration for a number of categories.

Chairman Shepherd noted that there was a significant decrease in registrations for swim lessons and he would like to see that number back up to the levels of previous years due to the recent investments that the Village has made in the pool.

Trustee Hillmann suggested that we look into how other communities are advertising their swim programs to get some innovative ideas as to draw people to Elm Grove.

Ms. Kelly thought that bring back pre-Covid swim meets may help draw attention or the program could be rebranded to be a pre-competitive program.

6. Fall Program Update

Ms. Gehl explained that most fall programs have now begun. We are offering a number of adult fitness classes and have a number of programs offered in partnership with the New Berlin Recreation Department and Sunset Playhouse.

Dr. Retzack asked if the Village has looked into providing senior programs as was done in the past. Ms. Gehl stated that we did not this year but there are a number of these types of programs offered through the New Berlin Recreation Department that have been advertised in the Village's guides.

7. Basketball Court Update

Trustee Shepherd explained that the funding for the basketball court was approved by the Finance & Licensing Committee and the Village Board. The intention is to bid out this project in 2023 with construction to occur in the spring of 2024. Village staff is in the process of getting bids and talking with different companies to provide quotes for this work.

The basketball court is intended to be full-size and constructed to a 40-year spec with new basketball poles and hoops.

Ms. Gehl stated that staff met with a company on Monday who will be providing estimates for the work with either concrete or asphalt.

Dr. Retzack asked if eventually it would be beneficial to create some sort of barrier between the volleyball courts and new basketball court. The Committee discussed that benches, a divider wall, or trees could be placed to create separation.

Trustee Sayas explained that she can discuss the possibility of the Elm Grove Community Foundation partnering or working with the Village on this project to alleviate some of the costs.

8. Other Business

Ms. Barry-Coffey asked if the ice rink is intended to be installed this winter. Ms. Gehl stated yes and explained that there were issues that year with getting the ice rink up and running due to the weather not consistently being cold enough.

Trustee Sayas stated the Village could look into partnering with local businesses to offer fun things by the ice rink to bring more people to the park to use it.

Dr. Retzack asked if the port-o-john that is in the park could be relocated in the winter closer to the ice rink. Ms. Gehl stated she would look into this.

Ms. Barry-Coffey asked how the Committee will be involved once the CORP work is started. Chairman Shepherd thought that the companies that submit RFPs could be asked to attend a Recreation Committee meeting so the Committee can talk about what they are offering. Once a company is selected, the Committee can have regular discussions and input as the work is being done.

9. Adjourn

DR. RETZACK MOTIONED TO ADJOURN. MS. KELLY SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Gehl
Assistant Manager/Zoning & Planning Administrator