



Wilmette Park District
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2020
6:30 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order:

<u>Members of Committee:</u>	<u>Staff:</u>
Commissioner Mike Murdock, Chair	Superintendent Emily Guynn
Commissioner Cecilia Clarke	
Commissioner Todd Shissler	
- II. Communications and Correspondence
- III. Recognition of Visitors
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - A. After School Recreation and After School Clubs Redevelopment – Verbal Update by Staff
- V. New Business
- VI. Managers' Reports
- VII. Adjournment

If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 11, 2019
6:00 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room

Attendees Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair Mike Murdock, Cecilia Clarke, Todd Shissler
Staff: Emily Guynn, Jerry Ulrich

Staff: Director Wilson, Steve Holloway, Sean Flynn, Jeff Groves, Carol Heafey, Joey Sanchez, Jason Stanislaw

Attendees Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Parks & Recreation Committee; all voted yes, the **motion carried**.

III. Communication and Correspondence

Commissioner Murdock acknowledged the communications in the packet regarding primarily bathrooms at Thornwood Park but also a couple other topics. He thanked everyone for their communication and stated that all communications are read by the entire committee prior to the meeting.

IV. Recognition of Visitors

The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Beth Drucker – Speaking on behalf of herself, not the organization she is a part of Go Green Wilmette. She urged the committee to consider installing a charging station some place in the Village on Park District property as other entities have declined similar requests in the past.

Ryan Henning – He and his wife just purchased the house at the southeast corner of Thornwood Park. He understands the project due to his profession, but is concerned about the addition of public restrooms, and more concerned that if they are going to be added to the park, they have concerns about the location. He also stated that typically in his experience, where a pump would be location would likely not be the place a restroom would be located. Staff assured that no locations have been chosen yet as to location of a pump, nor have any decisions been made if restrooms should be installed in the park.

Eleanor Lipinski – Referenced an email she sent about allowing for part time usage for dogs off leash in a formal manner. She said that the dog beach is good for people who live east, and West Park for those who live West, but Howard Park is the place that people who live in Central Wilmette take their dogs off leash to play for years. Sometimes the police come and chase them away, and they don't want to feel like criminals. She was hoping to start a discussion or learn about the process to allow for Howard Park to be considered to allow for dogs off leash. Four other residents spoke in support of Mrs. Lipinski's request but did not state their names and cited the impact lake levels were having on the dog beach, the lack of fencing at West Park, and their desire for a place for dogs in Wilmette. Staff explained that the District is in process to fence the dog off leash area at West Park so there will be a fenced in area for dogs in the District's offerings. The Committee informed the residents it would take the topic up officially in the future and when it does that staff will reach out to those who we have contact information for.

Sophie Candido – Referred to an email that was submitted on behalf of the Colgate Neighborhood Association opposing bathrooms in Thornwood Park and contained a petition with over 100 signatures against bathrooms. She listed a series of questions that were asked in the email.

Emily Fremish – Lives on Kenilworth Avenue and is looking to learn more about bathrooms at Thornwood Park. While she is not against the installation of bathrooms, she wanted to relay the pattern of behaviors she has seen. She said that the parking on Kenilworth Avenue has become a rest stop for Uber drivers and laborers who are working in the area. They eat lunch and then use the portable toilets.

V. New Business

None

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Alcohol Guideline Review – Superintendent Guynn reported that staff communicated with other agencies in the area to get a sense of what their policies and administration of the policies around alcohol are. She handed out a summary of those inquiries. Ultimately, she said the conclusion of the analysis is that the policy that is currently in place does allow for alcohol in various locations and for various reasons if a permit is issued. She also stated that for any larger permit, over 100 people, come to a board committee for approval. She said that there is additional insurance we ask people to get through our risk management agency when permitted to have alcohol. She said that upon the conclusion of staff's review, the recommendation is to keep the policy the same that someone would need a permit to have alcohol at an event. Commissioner Murdock asked about alcohol as a request for a permit in a park. Director Wilson said that in the past we have always rejected the requests, but for larger events such as fundraisers that also get approval from the Village, we should consider issuing the permit. He stated that staff is not recommending permits requesting alcohol for a family picnic for example. Commissioner Shissler stated he likes

that we have flexibility within the current policy and feels that staff is managing it the right way.

- B. Restrooms in Parks** – Commissioner Murdock introduced the topic of restrooms in parks acknowledging that there are people who are specifically interested in Thornwood Park in the room, but that staff had been asked to look at all parks in the park system and try and develop guidelines that would help inform a discussion around washrooms for any park in Wilmette. At that time, Superintendent Guynn walked the board through the information in the meeting packet that defines the various different terms for different types of parks and acknowledged that the definitions are not absolute and are interpreted differently by various Park Districts. Commissioner Murdock said that based on the memo in the packet, he feels that micro parks should likely never have bathrooms and would likely come to the same conclusion for neighborhood parks. With that being said, staff was asked to go through all of the parks in the system that are not micro parks and give their recommendations regarding washrooms. Superintendent Guynn led the discussion and answered questions in conjunction with Director Wilson. Ultimately, staff recommended the board consider installation of permanent restrooms in Community Playfields, Gillson Park, Thornwood Park, Vattmann Park and West Park due to the nature of their use by the community for larger organized activities. Superintendent Ulrich was asked for a cost estimate and he stated that a concrete structure itself could cost around \$100,000 and then the installation of the utilities could range depending on location and could be as little as \$10,000 or up to \$100,000. The Committee discussed the recommendations and did not add any other parks to the staff's recommendation. The Committee discussed the bathrooms at Community Playfields and all three Committee members expressed their support for the staff's recommendation. The Committee referred discussion for washrooms at Gillson Park to the deliberations of the Lakefront Committee as they do their comprehensive plan development in 2020. Regarding Vattmann Park Commissioner Murdock stated he does not support the recommendation because the usage is not quite the same nature as that of other parks that bathrooms are being considered. Commissioner Clarke and Shissler said that they both don't think Vattmann is as high a priority as other parks but should be considered. Regarding West Park, the Committee agreed that there was no need to add more bathrooms because of the paddle tennis facility. When discussing Thornwood Park, Commissioner Murdock stated that he has struggled with this topic. He stated he felt that having tennis courts alone is not enough to warrant bathrooms, but there is no other options nearby. He said he would look at Thornwood similar to Vattmann in nature, but due to the use of the park by the baseball association, he understands how it would be useful to many park users. His issue with that being the driving force in the decision making process is that baseball is facilitated by an outside organization and we don't have full control of the future of the program. So, he feels the decision should be made outside of the baseball program and therefore is not in favor of bathrooms in Thornwood Park. Commissioner Shissler stated that he is in favor of washrooms at Thornwood as many people use the park and there is nothing else nearby. Commissioner Clarke said that she leans towards bathrooms at

Thornwood and that she feels many of the safety issues raised about bathrooms are actually more real with portable toilets than with bathrooms that could have cameras and be locked in off hours. She also noted that the comments on Nextdoor regarding this topic are in favor of bathrooms being installed. She also stated she knows most of the neighboring communities have bathrooms in their more heavily used parks and inquired if they have had safety issues. Director Wilson stated that both Skokie and Glenview have many parks with restrooms and neither have ongoing issues. He also stated he spoke with the Wilmette Police Department and got the statistics for the calls to parks and none of them point towards issues where bathrooms are located. Commissioner Murdock asked Commissioner Clarke to choose yes or no on bathrooms at Thornwood Park, and she responded that if she had to decide right now, she would recommend bathrooms at Thornwood Park. Commissioner Murdock summarized the outcome of the discussion as the Committee is going to discuss with the full board the recommendation to install restrooms at Community Playfields, Thornwood Park, and Vattmann Park.

- C. **Romona Playground** – Staff updated the committee that in response to a request last month from parents raising money for the installation of playground equipment, staff has spoken with Alexandra Eidenberg and she was informed that there are no certified playground installers on staff and therefore we are unable to offer such a service. Staff did extend that for things such as landscaping work in and around their playground design could be facilitated by District staff if desired. The Committee thanked staff for their efforts and said they felt this was an appropriate conclusion as installation of District 39 equipment should be paid for and be the responsibility of the school district.

VII. Managers' Reports

Time did not allow for managers' reports.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Minutes Approved by Committee on _____

Committee Chair

Department Head



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room

Attendees Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair Mike Murdock, Cecilia Clarke, Todd Shissler
Staff: Emily Guynn

Staff: Director Wilson, Steve Holloway, Sean Flynn, Jeff Groves, Carol Heafey, Joey Sanchez, Jason Stanislaw

Attendees Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Parks & Recreation Committee; all voted yes, the **motion carried**.

III. Communication and Correspondence

None in the packet.

IV. Recognition of Visitors

The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Katia Stien – Spoke in regard to dogs off leash at Howard Park and thought it was left that interested people would be contacted about the topic and that did not happen. Commissioner Murdock explained that the topic is not on the agenda for tonight's meeting and that is why staff did not contact anyone, but that they will do so when the topic is on the agenda sometime in the first couple months of 2020.

V. New Business

A. **After School Recreation and After School Clubs Redevelopment –** Commissioner Murdock introduced the topic and asked for Superintendent Guynn to walk the Committee through the information in the packet. Superintendent Guynn stated by providing a historical background on the existing programs with enrollment figures broken down by school. She also explained that over the past few years the demand has increased for After School Recreation to the point that for the 2019-2020 school year, staff opened up additional rooms at the Community Recreation Center as well as at the Centennial Recreation Complex to get everyone off of waitlists and into the program. This prompted a planning exercise by staff to see how to do programs

for school aged children differently to best satisfy the desires of the community. She explained that the After School Clubs that were originally facilitated by District 39 parents, but has been a park district program for years now, has seen significant decreases as opposed to the increases in After School Recreation. She then articulated the two new programs staff is developing, one called Campus Clubs that would be more in line with the current clubs, and then the Care program which would be more like the current After School Recreation program. She explained that the locations for the Campus Club program are not determined as the District 39 staff still must discuss the concept with their elected board. The Committee asked a lot of questions to best understand how the programs would work and how they would be different. Ultimately, the Committee expressed its support for the new programs and said they were looking forward to how the school board and staff respond.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. **Alcohol Guideline Review** – Commissioner Murdock deferred to topic to a future meeting.

VII. Managers' Reports

Jeff Groves, Recreation Facility Manager

- Lisa Sullivan has been hired to be the new supervisor at Mallinckrodt
- At gymnastics, classes and team competitions are ongoing and around the holidays there are offerings over the break
- In Fitness the Holiday Hustle is ongoing with 75 people signed up

Jason Stanislaw, Racquet Sports Manager

- Third Annual Pro-Am upcoming in February which is an earlier date than the first two years to avoid the conflict it experienced with other events in the past
- Reported that staff is putting the finishing touches on summer outdoor tennis court permanent reservations similar to permanent court time at the tennis facility
 - The cost is contemplated to be about \$150 for the season
 - Staff would not allow all courts at any one location to be fully booked with permanent times
- At paddle some new events are in development such as member guest events

Sean Flynn, General Manager Centennial Ice Rink and Pool

- The day before Thanksgiving, due to the construction at the Glenview Ice Rink, Wilmette hosted the Glenbrook North versus Glenbrook South hockey game
 - About 1,400 people in attendance
 - Overtime game with a well behaved crowd
- Thursday through Sunday of Thanksgiving week we hosted the Loyola Tournament
 - New Trier won the tournament
 - No incidents to report as all were well behaved
- On December 1 we held a free figure skating event for new students to see our offerings

- Over 200 attended
- Skate with Santa will be on December 15
- Annual Figure Skating Exhibition will be immediately following Skate with Santa

Joey Sanchez, Centennial Pool Manager and Centennial Ice Assistant Manager

- Over Thanksgiving the efforts began to rehire staff for summer
- Cyber Monday sales netted about \$104,000

Carol Heafey, Recreation Program Manager

- Breakfast with Santa this past weekend with over 300 in attendance
- Gingerbread workshops began last week as well
 - 11 workshops total split between adult and children
- Nutcracker will be this upcoming weekend
- Preschool registration began last week and we are in line with last year's registration
- Winter break camps coming up around the holidays

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Minutes Approved by Committee on _____

Committee Chair

Department Head