

**UNITED CITY OF YORKVILLE
SPECIAL PARK BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 7, 2018 6:30pm
Parks Maintenance Building, 185 Wolf St., Yorkville, IL**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Deborah Horaz. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Roll Call:

Deborah Horaz-present, Amy Cesich-present, Mark Dilday-present, Dan Lane-present, Gene Wilberg-present, Sash Dumanovic-present

Introduction of Guests, City Officials and Staff:

Parks & Rec Director Tim Evans, Superintendent of Parks Scott Sleezer, Superintendent of Recreation Shay Remus, City Council Liaison Joel Frieders, Ward 3 Alderman

Public Comment: None

Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2018

The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Sash and second by Gene. Unanimous voice vote.

Bills Review:

Bill List – April, May and June 2018

Tim said there were several end-of-year purchases and grants have been finished for Bristol Bay. Scott transferred \$70,000 to the capital budget to purchase the playground for Purcell Park, also a new lawn mower and hydro-lift for easier car maintenance. Money was also spent in each park in order to obtain grants. The reimbursements should be received in a little over 60 days. Tim hopes to have the Riverfront Park information submitted by the end of the summer.

Budget Report – March and April 2018

Tim discussed the April report since it is the end of the fiscal year, however, some expenses will still occur. He referred to the Income Statement and said the Parks had a fantastic year and thanked Scott for watching the budget. He said there were also staff turnovers and retirements. The year started with a \$70,000 deficit and overall, staff expects a \$50,000 surplus.

Tim stated they have an in-house plan for equipment and recently purchased a new cargo van for Shay that can also be used to attend conferences. He said 2 vehicles are needed to transport equipment during events. He said they also have a playground in need of replacement and 20 years is the replacement time. Scott said the manufacturers no longer have parts to repair equipment and he added that Beecher Park is about 20 years old. Tim said he was recently asked to be on the judging committee for the ComEd grant and therefore his department was ineligible to apply. Tim said the year ended very well and Ribfest and Hometown Days will help gauge the coming year.

Old Business:

Riverfront Park and Bristol Bay Regional Park Grant Updates

Tim reported that the grant for Bristol Bay is done with all amenities in and the \$400,000 will be reimbursed to the Parks Department from the State. He said the added parking is a huge asset. At Riverfront Park the fishing pier, playground and shelter are finished with some landscaping work to be done. Part of the west side parking at Riverfront is covered under a grant, however, the east parking at Riverfront and all at Bristol Bay was put out to bid. A bid of \$271,000 has been received. That will be taken to City Council and he is looking at land cash or future land cash to fund this project. He credited Scott and staff for much of the work that has been done. Deb asked if the Parks could bring back hot dogs to attract people there.

New Business:

Park Board Proposal

Tim said Alderman Chris Funkhouser had put forth a proposal to dissolve the Park Board and include it in some other committees. Joel said this proposal came from frustration that 43% of the scheduled Park Board meetings had been canceled. He suggested bi-monthly or 'as needed' meetings. He does not feel the Park Board should disband and said the Park Board volunteers are valued and that some elected officials have come from the Park Board. Joel sent a link to apply for the Park Board to those who sent negative emails to him. He encouraged Park Board members to attend the Council meeting on June 12th to speak in favor of keeping the Board.

Amy questioned why the matter was not brought forward for discussion with Tim instead of taking it directly to a committee meeting. Deb said there had been previous discussions as to how often the Park Board should meet and it was decided at that time that meetings would be on a 'as-needed' basis. Tim said he felt the issue was brought up in an effort to have efficiency in the city. He added that in addition to serving on the Board, the members carry weight at community events and citizens can engage in dialogue with them.

In conclusion, Tim recommended the Board should meet bi-monthly, call special meetings when needed and re-evaluate this at the next meeting. Amy commented that if they meet bi-monthly, all the bills do not need to be printed in an effort to save paper. Tim will highlight the big bills.

Yorkville Youth Tackle Football Agreement

This agreement has been executed the past few years and Tim is just seeking approval from the Board. No raise in fees is needed, he said. Sash asked if there were any resident complaints. There have not been complaints for football or for baseball. Gene asked if alcohol is allowed in the parks. It is allowed for special events when approved by the Mayor and in the past it has been allowed on Tuesday and Thursday for softball. Tim noted that other leagues allow liquor. Amy made a motion to approve the Youth Tackle Football Agreement for 2018 and Sash seconded. Roll call vote: Cesich-yes, Dilday-yes, Lane-yes, Wilberg-yes, Dumanovic-yes, Horaz-yes. Carried 6-0.

Parks and Recreation Monthly Report:

Shay reported on the upcoming movie night in conjunction with Raging Waves. There will be discounted admission and entertainment prior to the movie. Tim added the movie night will be a collaboration with Oswego with another collaboration in August. Other upcoming events are Riverfest and Summer Solstice. Tim will send a list of the events and asked if Board members could come and engage with attendees. Shay said the Farmer's Market is going well and vendors sold out recently. Staff is running the market along with Amber Dawn Farms. A golf outing was also recently held and the St. Patrick's Day Parade was successful. Shay reported that only 20 spots are left in all the programs for next year and that numbers were up for the camps this summer. This provides consistent revenue.

Additional Business:

Tim noted that the Kennedy Path was officially opened recently. It has been a huge success with many people of all ages using it and it connects to other paths as well. Gene questioned who is responsible for the Kennedy trail and staff replied that it is the city's responsibility. He noted that the snowmobilers damage the trails in the winter and also pose a danger to pedestrians.

Alderman Frieders commented about improvements that will occur at Galena Rd. and Bertram. There will be a right in/right out and this will help traffic flow at the light. He also commented on other projects. He said the bridge on Baseline Road will be repaired by IDOT and the older mini-golf business at Prairie and Rt. 47 will be demolished for road improvements. The viaduct at Rt. 47 will be widened in Sugar Grove and lane improvements on I-88 have begun at Rt. 56 and Rt. 47.

Tim said Parks is collaborating with Kiwanis on Oktoberfest which will be held the second Saturday of October. Summer Solstice will be held June 22-23.

In another matter, Sash inquired about Ron Clark Park. Scott reported that Encap will do work in the fall and Friends of the Park will do an inventory of plants in the meantime. The house on the property was also discussed and will eventually be sold.

There was discussion brought forth by Sash inquiring if there is a policy on background checks for independent contractors or affiliate groups. There is currently no liability on them, however, Tim will discuss with the city attorney. Tim noted that all volunteer coaches and employees undergo background checks and also must have a certificate of insurance.

Sash also inquired if there is a list of future land acquisitions. There is a master plan for future park sites, properties of interest and future projects. A future regional park is possible for the south side. It was noted that land cash can't be used to replace playground equipment, it must be new.

Staffing for Parks and Rec was discussed and it was noted that they share a receptionist at City hall and program registration is able to be done there. A coordinator was hired to go out for improved programs. Another employee may be added to Scott's staff.

Adjournment:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:35pm on a motion and second by Amy and Mark, respectively. Unanimous voice vote approval.

Respectfully transcribed by
Marlys Young, Minute Taker