

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4

6:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Jeff Troeller, Amy Hoffmann, Scott Helms, Todd Rusniak, Dave Ziemer, Mark Kohnhorst, Joe Kohler

1. President Troeller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes – **MOTION BY** Hoffmann seconded by Troeller to approve last month's minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

ASH Silver&Fit Update- A contract between American Specialty Health and the City has been signed for the Recreation Center to become a Silver&Fit location. This allows seniors, with the Silver&Fit benefit that comes with their health insurance supplement to Medicare, to use the Recreation Center without purchasing a membership. Silver&Fit members can enjoy use of our fitness room, gymnasium, pool and special senior fitness classes including Classic, Yoga and Splash. For each visit, the City will be reimbursed \$3.25 up to 10 visits per month per member.

Recreation Center Tour- Following the conclusion of the agenda, the Commission toured the Recreation Center and received updates on the following:

- Fitness Room Storage – a door leading into what was formerly ceramic storage has been added to a wall in room 208. This allows access to the fitness equipment from both room 208 and 210. By moving the equipment from room 208 into the storage closet, there is more space in 208 which will allow increased class maximum sizes.
- Security Front Desk Gate – The security gate that wraps around the front desk has sustained damage over time. Pulling the gate out and pushing the gate into its storage area during operation has become difficult due to the damage of the gate. Staff will research repair costs but expects it to be cost prohibitive. Upon initial construction of the Recreation Center and staff's anticipated operations of the facility, a security gate was favored. However, with how the facility is operated, staff questions if having a security gate is required. Staff will continue to consider repairing the gate, replacing the gate or removing the gate.
- Fitness Center – The new equipment was shown and included the SciFit Stepper. Additionally, the maintenance work and process to recover the selectorized equipment pads was explained. The Commission was informed that the 2018 CIP includes a funding request to replace selectorized weight equipment.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Programs Mentioned:

- Red Cross Babysitter Course Session I, Feb. 4
- Snowed In At The Movies - High School, Jan. 27
- Adult Fitness Classes, Session 1, Week of January 9
- Triathlon Training (New), Jan. 18

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Upcoming Adult/Youth Sport Programs Mentioned:

- Youth Pickleball Ages 6-11 (New), Feb. 20
- Youth Floor Hockey Ages 6-11 (New), Jan. 16

AQUATICS

Upcoming Certification Classes

- Lifeguard Training Course, Jan. 5
- WSI Training Course, March 15

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center 2017 Open Swim Hours & Adjustments from 2016 – Staff Recommendations –

As staff reviews the hours of operation of the Veterans Memorial Pool, consideration for extended hours, earlier opening time, consistency in opening times, and having times available to schedule rentals is all being considered.

Staff has already adjusted swim lesson times so on weekdays the pool will open at 1:00 PM instead of 1:30 PM. Staff, in review of closing times of other facilities found them to be anywhere from 6 PM to 8 PM. Staff recommends a closing time of 8 PM during the week. While attendance does drop in the evening, there is another 'push' around 5 PM. Even so, evening attendance is still in the 100's.

For weekends, staff recommends the start time of 1:00 pm to remain consistent as well as enable private rentals to be held before the pool opens. Rentals could be held from 10:30-12:30. Closing time on weekends would be 7:00 PM as attendance significant drops after 5 PM on weekends.

Staff has considered another way to accommodate times for private rental time by having a 'flexible' Friday closing time. When we have rentals, the pool would close at 5:00/5:30 or maybe even 6:00 PM. Then rentals would have a two hour time block without going too late into the evening. The concern with this is trying to inform the public, including those coming from great distances, know of the earlier closing times when they occur.

The Commission understood the concern about Flexible Fridays and felt good advertising would be needed to make people aware that Friday closing times could change. Commissioner Rusniak suggested closing early every other Friday to accommodate rentals.

Commissioner Hoffmann asked if a 1:00 PM starting time is early enough on weekends. The Aquatic Fitness Supervisor said that many comments last year were about opening the pool earlier. By 1:00 PM, a long line has already formed and people would like to start using the pool earlier in the day. Commissioner Hoffmann suggested opening, on the weekends, by 11 AM, closing at 6:00 PM and thus allowing rentals from 6:30-8:30 PM.

President Troeller asked if staff was considering staying open longer on excessive hot days as we have done in years past. The Director commented that we could. In the past, the policy was that when the temperature was above 90 degrees after 5 PM, the pool would stay open an extra hour.

Commissioner Hoffmann suggested, that since the public looks to have earlier opening hours, opening on the weekend at 11 and closing at 6. This would allow rentals from 6:30-8:30 PM.

MOTION BY Hoffmann, seconded by Troeller to set Veteran Memorial Pool hours at 1 pm to 8 PM, Monday through Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 AM to 6 PM.

MOTION AMMENDMENT by Kohnhorst, seconded by Ziemer to include to the motion that the pool would stay open an hour longer during the week should the temperature reach 90 degrees at 5 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

PARKS OPERATIONS

Willowbrook Park Ice Rink Update – The Ice Rink is up and has been flooded. It has been a learning year and as such, staff believes it was best that only one rink was purchased at this time. The slope at the site is greater than anticipated and thus flooding in some parts of the rink is up to 7 inches. This meant that the first base layer took longer to freeze. Staff will consider grading the site for next year for a more even flood. Also, staff has learned that keeping the grass cut short at the end of the mowing season will help the ground frost. Having a good frost in the ground is vital in getting the water to freeze. Staff is unsure if a second rink would fit at Willowbrook. Also, the slope at the site of the second rink is even greater than where the first rink is placed. More work would need to be done to grade this site. The second rink to be purchased may have to be smaller, or put at a different site. During the time that flooding was being done, staff had placed signs that the rink was closed. Skating when the rink is not ready could severely damage the liner.

Lincoln Athletic Fields Improvement Discussion

Batting Cages – The High School has requested a batting cage at Lincoln Athletic Field along the east field's third base line. Commissioner Helms, AD at the High School, commented that Hartford is the only school without a batting cage by their varsity softball fields. Ideally, the High School would like to have two batting cages next to each other, however, budgets and space would need to be reviewed. The High School did ask if the City would be able to help with the cages. These cages would be available to use by the Club teams that play on the east field as well as the young recreation teams that play at Lincoln. The City offered their services to grade the area, install a crushed stone base and help install the cages.

Infield Renovations – The High School would like to add new infield mixture to the east field and possibly the west. The crushed granite base is no longer good and most has washed off. The High School would like to install a clay surface material, however it is expensive. The cost per field is \$7,000-\$8,000. Clay would drain better as well as just being a better infield material. The hope would be to raise money for this material through Banner Advertising.

Banner Advertising Sales – The High School staff is taking the lead on soliciting banner advertising at West Side Park. They asked permission to also sell space at Lincoln Athletic Field. The money raised with these banner sales would be kept in a special fund by the City to be used only for field improvements. The City provides the contract paperwork that the sponsor/advertiser would need to sign. Contracts can be one year in length, three or five. The advertiser also completes a form indicating the design and verbiage of the sign for approval by City Staff. Once approved, the advertisers have the banner made at a sign company. Staff will hang the sign and also store the sign should the advertiser have a multi year contract. The Commission was in favor of allowing banners to be placed at Lincoln Athletic Fields and continuing to work with the High School on field improvements.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Ziemer seconded by Helms to adjourn at 7:20 PM and go on the Rec Center Tour.

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by,

Sara Cummings

"Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the City Clerk at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting." Members of the Common Council may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law."