

## HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

5:30 PM – City Hall, Council Chamber

Present: Todd Rusniak, Kate Carroll, Ken Mikulec, Dan Hummel

Excused: Scott Helms, Joe Kohler, John Klabecek

1. President Rusniak called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION BY** Kohler, seconded by Rusniak to approve the January minutes.

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – The monthly report was printed on separate sheets. Commission found this easier for viewing. The numbers are up across the board from 2021.

Also included was a report on membership numbers since 2018. The purpose was to see pre-COVID and post-COVID numbers. Overall, resident memberships are better than they were in 2018. The non-resident memberships are a bit slower to recover but still trending in the right direction.

Staff is aware of new businesses in the community and are having discussions on how to improve services to retain current members and gain new ones.

3. Communication and Correspondence – None
4. Appearances / Public Comments – None
5. Old Business – None
6. New Business

### ADMINISTRATION

Lutz Family Foundation Donation – Staff is pleased to announce two major donations towards the indoor aquatic center. In the 2023 CIP, there is 300,000 budgeted indoor pool improvements.

Terry Lutz, former owner of Signicast and donor to the original Centers Campaign/Indoor Pool, told Mike Hermann, former Parks and Recreation Director, that should there be future needs for the indoor pool, to reach out. Staff contacted to both Signicast Corp and the Lutz Family Foundation. Signicast agreed to donate \$50,000 - \$10,000 over the next 5 years. The Lutz Foundation agreed to donate the remainder of the \$250,000. With this donation from the Lutz Foundation, staff will be 'rebranding' the indoor pool. This discussion will take place in 2024 as part of the scheduled indoor pool painting project. The City thanks both Signicast and the Lutz Foundation for their generosity.

Bike Rack Donations - Jeff Pitts, representing Bike Friendly Group of West Bend, donated 6 bike racks for the City parks. MPTC students designed and fabricated these stylish bike racks. Staff plans to use them at Centennial Park. A picture of the racks was shared with Commission.

Thrivent Donation – The Recreation Department received \$1000 from the Thomas H. Brault Fund, a donor-advised fund held at Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing. This donation was not specific to any project and staff will consider how best to use this. It may be used for play feature upgrades at VMAC.

Recreation Site Tour – Before adjourning, the Commission visited the Recreation Center. The following items were toured and upgrades discussed.

- a. Lobby & Fitness Room - Discussed staff concepts of fitness expansion, lounge table area, etc. Brian Wirth, Maintenance Supervisor, felt a fitness expansion may not be as expensive as one may think and the only way to know is to have a contractor offer a cost estimate.
- b. Review of Indoor Pool and CIP Projects including \$14,000 Slide Tower design, \$30,000 Slide restoration, \$80,000 Play Feature, \$146,000 Pool Resurfacing
- c. Tumbling Room / Golf Simulator – Discussion to install a golf simulator in room 210 was discussed again this year. Commission was in favor of this change and felt it could offer the community a needed recreation service.

### **RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES**

Staff mentioned these upcoming programs:

Junior High Stuck at the Movies – Monday, February 20- This is similar to the overnight program ‘Snowed In at the Movies’ held a few weeks ago for high school students. Staff noted that we had about 145 participants at Snowed In. Stuck at the Movies will be offered during the daytime hours on a day off of school.

Family Puzzle Contest – Friday, February 17 – This is an annual family event that has been a staple program. We expect about 12 families. A nature photographer James McRae, whose photos are often used for puzzles, reached out to staff few years back and has donated the puzzles since then. James grew up in Erin. As he says “specifically Sconfinato Dr just off 83, in a black Dome house my hippie parents built. My first job was at the Old Fashioned Bakery downtown (no, not Granddads). Upon graduating in 88, I switched gears and got my first high paying gig at Helgesen for \$12 an hour”. We are very grateful for his donation of puzzles.

Be Active – Community Fitness Challenge – This is a family fun fitness challenge the Director had previously done in Watertown when he was the Director there. Wisconsin communities will compete against each other for the most activity by recording their ‘active’ minutes during the month of March. While no individual prizes are awarded, everyone that registers and pays the \$15 fee will get a t-shirt. The most active community wins a trophy.

Community Chorus Update - Registration has ended for our spring season. While registration numbers historically are lower for the Spring season than the Holiday season, our total registrations of 42 is a bit lower than usual. Mark Weller, the Director, is still very excited about the season and is doing a great job with the program.

Princess Camp - Ages 3-5, Saturday, February 18 – This program is full, but staff will consider adding a few spots.

### **ADULT / YOUTH SPORT**

Staff mentioned these upcoming programs:

Youthball Registration – Registration for Summer Baseball, Softball and T-Ball will run Feb 1 to March 1.

Youth Co-Ed Volleyball - Ages 7-12, Mondays, February 20 – March 20 – The High School coach is helping with this program by providing high school players to help coach and the Middle School Volleyball Club will be providing an adult supervisor.

Saturday Sports - Next Session Begins Feb. 25 and includes PW Basketball & Pee Wee Soccer (4-6), Youth Basketball (6-9)

## **AQUATICS**

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

Applications for Summer Positions – The Aquatic Fitness Supervisor is accepting applications for the outdoor pool as well as reaching out to former staff to confirm their return. He commented that to date he has received 40 Intent to Return forms, and of those 40, only 3 have indicated they will not be returning.

Signicast Aquatic Center

Swim Lesson Report – Session 1 is going well. Session 2 classes are filling. Additional staff was added on Monday nights and thus additional classes added. Those new classes are nearly filled.

Sweet Heart Special – Buy one admission, get a second free on Tuesday, February 14, 3:30-5:15 PM.

Family Game Night – Water games such as kickboard relay and duck dash will be played pitting families against families. Friday, February 24, 6:30-8:30 PM.

## **PARKS OPERATIONS**

Park Shelter Reservation Being Taken - Shelter reservations for the summer have begun. Shelters can be held for one week by calling the Recreation Office. To reserve a shelter, a reservation form and payment is required.

Park 2023 CIP Project Carry Forward – The projects that the Director has requested that funds be carried forward to 2023 include:

Homestead Park \$100k for playground equipment and installation

VMAC \$92K for basketball court re-surface and shelter construction.

There is restroom renovation money that can still be used to hopefully complete Willowbrook Park restroom.

Staff had to re-order our cemetery maintenance truck that was ordered in 2022 as Ford cancelled that order.

There is still money available to finish ballfield renovations at Independence Park. Staff hopes to work on the south diamonds this year.

New 2023 Projects include: Indoor slide, tower design, play feature, and resurfacing; park maintenance truck, West Side Park ball diamond dugouts (to be completed with the High School, Hartford Hawks, and Hartford Club Baseball), and the re-development of Centennial Park

Ice Rink Update – The rink at Veterans Park has been flooded. It received some use the three days the ice was good. The forecast outlook, however, is not favorable and staff doesn't expect the ice to last. At this time, no additional work has been done with the rink at Willowbrook.

Parks Project Report – Recent work has focused on snow removal and salting. Memorial trees have been planted, taking advantage of the weather prior to the snow falls. The new Park employee has been onboarded.

On the project report, the Director has removed the projects finished in 2022 so a 'clean' copy can be used for projects in 2023.

## **OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS**

The Director mentioned two former Parks and Recreation Employees have recently passed. Barb Osmus had been a long standing figure in our ceramics department. First as a customer, then as a part time employee.

Jim Scharpf also recently passed. Jim worked as the Building and Parks Maintenance Supervisor for many years. Randy said Jim was the type of supervisor that expected you to do your best, but willing to guide and offer advice.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Kohler seconded by Hummel to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Submitted by Randy Wojtasiak and 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."