

**HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

5:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

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

Excused: John Klabecek, Scott Helms

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** Mikulec, seconded by Carroll to approve June minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports –Program enrollment and attendance is up from 2022, however the membership enrollments continue to be lower than the previous year.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

2023 Operational Budget Plans and Discussions – Work on the 2024 Operation Budget is still in the early stages. In 2022 there were staff added as well as seasonal staff wage increases. For 2023, staff is proposing an adjustment only to the playground camp staff wages. Currently, the Supervisor wage is \$14/hr. The Director is planning to change that to \$16/hr. The leaders would be increasing by \$1 from \$12 to \$13.

From 2015-2022 memberships were increased by 2% every other year and 0% the opposite year. Last year, membership fees were increased by 4%. Given that the memberships enrollments are down due to local competition, staff believes raising fees at this time would not be in our best interests.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

No Report

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

No Report

AQUATICS

VMAC

Attendance Update – To date, overall attendance is down slightly from last year. However, the temperature has not been high and staff also believes the wild fire smoke may have deterred people from coming. The Thursday evening swim went well last week. The price for this special night swim is and music is played. Swim pass sales have been going well so far this year.

Signicast Aquatic Center

August CIP Project Work Schedule – Pool will close at 8 PM on August 2. The play feature is scheduled to be installed August 3-11. This is also when the slide restoration work will be done. The pool resurfacing is schedule for August 14-25 with staff re-filling the pool on August 25/26. The scheduled re-open date is September 5.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Report –.

On Going Work –

- Mowing and Trimming
- Restroom Cleaning
- Shelter Preparation
- Cemetery Care and Burials
- Ball Diamonds Preparation
- Playground Equipment Inspection and Repairs
- Tree Removals

Special Work for June Activities

- Bernd Park Bridge Repair – Replace Flash Board
- Willowbrook Park Fence Repair – added fencing to bottom to keep tennis and pickleballs from rolling under
- Willowbrook Park Bench Repair – replaced boards on benches by tennis courts
- Dog Park Fence Repair – keeping small dogs from escaping under the fence
- Independence Park Playground Installation – Swings
- Independence Park Gravel Drive Repair

Candy Cane Park Playground Update – The equipment was ordered in April, and staff was told, at that time, it would be delivered in mid-October. Of recent, staff has been told it will be delivered in November.

Parks Tour – The Commission went on site to the following Parks:

CENTENNIAL PARK – Visual oversight of the upcoming park re-development and pond retaining wall was reviewed. The contaminated soil was removed and new fill obtained. Sewer lines need to be installed and final grading can be done. The pavilion is on schedule and should be completed in a month. The Director is actively pursuing naming rights for the picnic shelter portion of the building. Cedar Lake Sales donated two life rings that are installed on posts on each side of the pond. The Lions Club is also looking to donate two more.

WILLOWBROOK PARK – Discussion as had regarding the tennis courts, resurfacing, and potential of creating two to four permanent pickleball courts using current tennis courts. Adding to this area for new pickleball courts is not feasible due not only to the grading of the area west of the tennis courts, but also lack of access to the area for construction vehicles. The Director stated that just putting in a temporary service drive would cost \$75,000. The re-surfacing of the courts is budgeted for 2026.

The hitting wall is still scheduled to be replaced with funding from tennis grants and individual sponsors.

WEST SIDE PARK – The batters eye was discussed. The willow tree lost in the storm in late Fall had provided screening to the lights from Hy 60 and the businesses across the street. With the loss of that tree, players and umpires have commented that they cannot see the pitch well. Fencing with mesh screen would cost up to / or more than 40,000. President Rusniak believed planting some arborvitaes would do nicely in the area to prevent the ‘blind spot’. It would be cost effective and appropriate for the park. President Rusniak understood it would be a few years before the trees would be tall enough to screen the area, but he also stated that building a berm and planting the trees on this berm could sped the process. The Director felt that might be a good solution.

The Commission reviewed the green space to the south of the playground as a potential site for permanent pickleball courts. This could be a good space as it is already owned by the City and is not near residential homes and thus the pickleball noise would not be a concern, and has parking and bathrooms close by. In order to fit approximately 6 courts, one tree would need to be removed. However, the tree is not in great condition. Cost of building a new court is around \$40,000/court. The Commission seemed favorable to this location for potential pickleball courts.

RECREATION CENTER – The Commission also reviewed the back of the Recreation Center as another potential site for pickleball. However, the Commission did not find this as desirable given the location - it's just not attractive, it's buggy and wet, and bathrooms are only available should the Recreation Center be open.

Commission retired to the Golf Simulator room at the Recreation Center where a light dinner was available as was golfing.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mikulec, seconded by Carroll to adjourn at 7:38 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."