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**MINUTES  
RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 14, 2021**

**1. Roll Call:**

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Recreation & Facilities Committee was held on September 14, 2021 at 7:33 p.m. at the Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Commissioner Kaplan, Comm Reps Beranek, MacGregor, McIlrath

Absent: Chairman Chhatwani, Comm Reps Macdonald and Henderson

Also Present: Executive Director Talsma, Director of Parks, Planning and Maintenance Hugen, Director of Recreation Kapusinski, Director of Golf & Facilities Bechtold, Director of Administrative Services Cahill, Executive Assistant Flynn

Audience: President Kinnane, Commissioners Friedman, McGinn, Dressler, and Evans

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Comm Rep Beranek made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep MacGregor to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

**3. Approval of the Minutes:**

Comm Rep Beranek made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep MacGregor to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

**4. Comments from the Audience:**

None

**5. Old Business:**

None

**6. New Business:**

A. Recreation Board Report / M21-080:

Director Kapusinski highlighted the following:

- August is a transition month, ending the summer programming and beginning the fall programming.
- Thank you to the commissioners and community reps who attended the volunteer night at Seascap and the E-Sports grand opening.
- Our seniors continue to be very active. We had 24 attend the pub trivia night, and 18 attend the Kinky Boots field trip.
- The Little Stars child care has 35 students enrolled, compared to 16 last year during COVID. We are prepping to fill a third room, but need a teacher.
- Preschool began in late August. We have two rooms maxed out at 10 students each, and need another teacher to add more students.
- This year, the STAR program is running at Thomas Jefferson and Whitely schools (District 54), in addition to the six District 54 locations. The numbers are good at all locations.
- The KinderSTAR has added a new morning program to serve the students who attend afternoon kindergarten. The school district is offering free busing to help with the program.
- Youth athletics – We have 8 fall baseball teams (up from 7 pre-covid); our soccer numbers are almost back to 2019 numbers; hockey registrations are similar to pre-covid numbers.
- Seascap closed as of Labor Day weekend after a successful summer. Swim lessons have expanded and are continuing year-round at The Club. We are taking students off of the waitlist.
- Communications and Marketing – August 3, the day our web-based fall program was released and registration opened, we had the highest website traffic of 2021. The top visited pages were the Guide, Seascap, Youth Sports and E-Sports. In terms of social media activity, the most engagements comes from parks-related posts regarding keeping our parks safe.

Executive Director Talsma added that the HEAA (football) has lower numbers for the second year in a row, and we continue to work with the organization, offering a 50% reduction in fees. We are hopeful that next year the program will be back on track.

Commissioner McGinn asked what drives the registration of the private skate lessons. Director Kapusinski replied that the lessons are simply very popular.

Commissioner Evans asked about the teacher to student ratio in the STAR program. Director Kapusinski explained that we have a 1:10 ratio, and all locations are staffed appropriately. We do have space in some locations, but need to hire more staff to add students.

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Beranek to send the Recreation Board Report to the full Board as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Facilities Board Report / M21-072:

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for Bridges:

- The golf season is going well; we have had over 2,000 rounds through August.
- The junior golf program has had great reviews. Both classes were sold out.
- The TopTracer project is moving quickly. Walls and trusses are up.
- Bill Meyer, who has been our Golf Course Superintendent, is moving to the Northbrook Park District. We wish him the best of luck. We will re-evaluate that position over the next month or so. For now, PJ will step in to keep everything up and running. Dustin Hugen's crew will help out for the remainder of the year.
- Our food and beverage area is doing well with good reviews. Jennifer and her staff spend countless hours answering emails and talking with brides and grooms.

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for The Club:

- July was a strong month, with a variance of 101 new memberships.
- The mask mandate will be a challenge for us in the near future.
- The demographics have changed, from 2018, when we had 38% of our members under the age of 40 to 2021; we now have 43% of our members under the age of 40.
- Sara has developed a lot of classes. September highlight is Zoombapalooza.
- We are planning the open house for October 2. Mailers will go out the last week of September. We will offer a \$0 promotional fee until November.

Commissioner Dressler said that she enjoyed seeing the member highlights in the board report. Director Bechtold said that these are on the website and up at The Club.

Comm Rep Beranek made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep MacGregor to send the Facilities Board Report to the full Board as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Member Comments:

Comm Rep McIlrath said she is impressed with the lower age demographics of The Club.

Comm Rep Beranek went to the E-Sports open house and said it was great to see so many people there.

Comm Rep MacGregor said that the parks look fantastic and the staff is wonderful! Great job moving the program guide to the digital format.

Commissioner Kaplan made a motion to recess for a closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) at 7:48 p.m.. President Kinnane seconded the motion.

Commissioner Evans made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaplan, to reconvene to the Recreation and Facilities Committee meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**8. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Evans made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaplan to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma  
Secretary

Cindy Flynn  
Executive Assistant