



1685 West Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
heparks.org t (847) 885-7500 f (847) 885-7523



**MINUTES
RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
June 21, 2022**

1. Roll Call:

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Recreation & Facilities Committee was held on June 21, 2022 at 7:58 p.m. at the Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Chairman Dressler, Commissioner Friedman, Comm Reps Beranek (phone), Henderson, MacGregor and McIlrath

Absent: Comm Rep Bettencourt

Also Present: Executive Director Talsma, Director of Recreation Kapusinski, Director of Golf & Facilities Bechtold, Director of Administrative Services Cahill, Executive Assistant Flynn

Audience: President Kinnane, Commissioners McGinn, and Kaplan

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Longevity Recognition

President Kinnane recognized the following Community Representatives for their years of service: Lizzie Beranek – 2 years; Chris MacGregor – 2 years.

4. Presentation of Gold Medal Finalist Video

Executive Director Talsma introduced the Gold Medal Finalist Video that the District submitted as the final step in the National Gold Medal competition. Everyone present viewed the video.

5. Approval of the Minutes:

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Henderson to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. Comments from the Audience:

None

7. Old Business:

None

8. New Business:

A. Inflation and Compensation / M22-061:

Executive Director noted that this is the identical memo that was discussed during the B&G meeting. All Rec & Facilities committee members attending this meeting were present for that discussion. When asked if there were any addition questions, there were none.

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep McIlrath to recommend to the full board the approval of a one-time cost of living adjustment of 6% for staff earning under \$75,000, and 3% for staff earning over \$75,000 with a cap of 1.5% for any staff hired in 2022. The motion carried by voice vote.

B. SD15 STAR Agreement / M22-052

Director Kapusinski noted the following:

- Last month we approved the one-year agreement for STAR with School District 54. This agreement is with School District 15. Thomas Jefferson (TJ) and Whitely schools on the north side are the STAR sites.
- Last year we took back the operations of this program, and it has been running very well.
- There will be referendum in November. If it passes, TJ will change to a middle school, so STAR would cease operations at that site.
- Our daily fee is the same this year as it was last year.

Comm Rep Henderson asked what happens to the children who currently attend TJ if it turns into a middle school. Director Kapusinski replied that those children would all go to Whitely. There is room for all of them. The District is realigning the school into their own neighborhoods.

Comm Rep Henderson made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep McIlrath to recommend to the full board the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with School District 15 for the operation of a before and after school STAR program dated July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Recreation Board Report / M22-053:

Director Kapusinski highlighted the following:

- This month's report summarized the activity and enrollment for May. Next month will have all summer enrollment numbers.
- Our new Communications & Marketing Manager, Alexis Kolberg, started on June 13. Alexis is very well-versed in social media and graphic design. She holds a dual degree in marketing and digital art.
- We have enrolled 16 children through Programs for All, and will communicate with the schools for our fall programs.
- All enrollment numbers for spring sessions are highlighted in the report.
- The Early Childhood program has started a new Preschool Park Adventures. Natalie Wood goes out to various parks on Tuesday afternoons, bringing a story and a craft. This promotes our preschool programs while offering free weekly summer programs.
- The Before and After School programs and preschool wrapped up in May.
- Summer camps began on June 6. We have four sites; all are full. Campers are bussed to their field trips and to Seascap.
- Baseball is wrapping up this month. Soccer has recently ended. Basketball will host a summer league. Spring hockey has ended, and summer hockey is beginning.
- We sold 1,032 Seascap season passes by the end of May, with 234 sold over Memorial Day weekend.
- C&M has been very busy as they were short one staff member for several weeks. They wrote the script for the Gold Medal Finalist video and found photos and videos to submit for that. A huge effort from several staff members went in to getting that submitted.
- Our Facebook page has reached 6,000 followers.
- Our summer activity schedule is on the wall in the board rooms. Note that we have an activity every day in June! Staff are spread out and assigned appropriately.
- A Summer Scavenger Hunt is underway. Colored sun logos are "hidden" throughout the community, encouraging families to get out to see several parks and facilities. Once all of the sun logos are found, participants can turn in their clue sheet at the front desk at receive a prize pack.
- A disc golf tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, with 30 teams signed up. 90% of the participants are between 25 and 50 years old.

Comm Rep Henderson asked when the Scavenger Hunt ends. Director Kapusinski responded that you can participate until the end of July.

Comm Rep Henderson asked how many times you can participate in Programs for All. Director Kapusinski stated that there is no limit; as long as we have space available, we will fill them with children through Programs for All. Executive Director Talsma added that the Foundation will also reimburse the District if we are able to open a new section of a program to serve a number of children through Programs for All (for instance, if we have six kids who want swim lessons, we could open a new section for them, and have the Foundation cover the cost of the instructor).

Commissioner Friedman added that he had two young men who had played on his team for several years and were able to continue playing thanks to Programs for All.

Comm Rep Henderson asked where the Preschool Adventures take place. Director Kapusinski said she picks a neighborhood each week.

Comm Rep MacGregor made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep McIlrath to forward the Recreation and Communications/Marketing June Board Report to be included in the June Executive Director's Report. The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Facilities Board Report / M22-060:

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for Bridges:

- The golf course has been very busy despite the challenging weather; we received 4.5 inches of rain in May, with one inch falling in a one and a half day period, but still did just over 3,500 rounds of golf.
- We hosted our first annual Senior Scramble, which was a great event. We had 25 teams participate; the winning team was 14 under par. We offered cooling stations, which were well-received. We will offer a couple more of these this year.
- The demo days were popular, including Taylor Made and Tour Edge.
- TopTracer has been very busy, and is growing exponentially. We ran a Father's Day special where kids eat free; we received 21 reservations using that code alone. This was only advertised through social media and an email blast.
- The Foundation's SRT golf outing had 24 teams sign up. With a 2.5 hour rain delay, 12 teams started and seven teams finished. Approximately \$10,000 was raised for the Foundation.
- Showings for weddings has increased in the last two or three week.
- The golf course is in excellent shape. We are dealing with the heat.

Comm Rep Henderson asked if the course is using any goats this year. Director Bechtold said no, but we will consider using them again in the future.

Comm Rep MacGregor asked what the utilization rate is at 418 hours, and what is total possible in a day. Executive Director Talsma replied that the primetime hours are between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. We are averaging about 3 hours for each bay, and are about halfway to full utilization. We are waiting for the bathroom to be completed and the beer garden to come together.

Director Bechtold highlighted the following for The Club:

- We added 69 new members in May, which is a good sign.
- We have sold 130 student passes. In past years, we sold 30 or 40. These can be purchased any time during the summer and are pro-rated.
- 80% of our members visited at least once in May. We continue to grow and are getting ready to hit the fall season. Our base membership is important, and the 80% usage number will get more people to refer more people.
- Sarah and the fitness team are doing great things; it is great to read about the member highlights – the members love being selected!
- Parents Night Out events have been successful. It is good to see younger kids using the pool and the rock wall; people are using the climbing wall more now.
- We have several pop-up fitness and yoga events scheduled.

Commissioner Kaplan asked what the number is we are trying to hit monthly in terms of new members. Director Bechtold said we are trying to get to 125 per month. We did reach that earlier in the spring and feel that once summer ends, we will get there.

Comm Rep McIlrath 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.

9. Committee Member Comments:

Comm Rep MacGregor is excited about the Disc Golf tournament. The course looks fantastic. Also, it is good to be proactive about salary increases. Great job on TopTracer. And thank you for the pin.

Comm Rep McIlrath said she and her husband took their 9 and 12 year old kids to South Ridge, and spent four hours there. They all loved the ninja warrior course! The Gold Medal Video was fantastic!

Commissioner Friedman told Director Bechtold good job handling the weather with the golf outing. He added that Comm Rep Evans would be appreciative as well. He thanked the Foundation for the help with the ball players. He also chaperoned and helped facilitate four kids to play in an All-Star game at the Boomers' minor league stadium, which will be a good memory for them.

Commissioner Dressler thanked the Community Representatives for their service. It is unique for a park district to have them. They are also the face of the park district, so they should feel free to repost the social media posts!

10. Adjournment:

Commissioner Friedman made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma
Secretary

Cindy Flynn
Executive Assistant

The following questions regarding information in the B&G and Rec packets were submitted and answered via email prior to the meeting:

A. COLA adjustment sounds like a good idea.

Thanks

B. Any thought to raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 for all permanent positions (if we have any staff less than that wage).

The majority of our year round positions are at least at \$15/hour. A few are in the \$14-\$15 range which we plan on having at \$15 for 2023.

C. I doubt the removal of Oakdale playground will go over well with Fabbrini Park area residents. It is a fun routine to walk your kids around to the 2 Fabbrini playgrounds (and sometimes to MacArthur). It is also the closest playground for the residents between the park and Hassell and most of us between Hassell and Rosedale. Will there be a neighborhood meeting before we finalize removal; if that is a certainty?

This is not a certainty, only been in the planning aspect for about ten years. The location to the other park makes it hard to justify the expense. We had discussed a ways back about removing it but not until it was ready for replacement. However, we do have some thoughts like what we did at Highland and at North playground at South Ridge. We would definitely hold meetings at the site when we explore this.

D. In the Eco-survey, p11 (p58 PDF) Planning & Open Space #3 – “Proscribed Burns” is not checked – we do those, don’t we?

Yes it should have been checked, though it would not give any more points on that question as we got the maximum of five.

E. I found it confusing that they score for pamphlets and brochures – kill a tree lately? How many of those things get printed in bulk, handed out and immediately discarded, then forgotten only to be discarded in bulk a few years later as they become out of date? I am happy we use our website, email and social media more dynamically.

I think they wanted us to be as responsible as possible if we did print; however, I completely agree, points should be given for not printing. Not to mention we save over \$100,000 by not printing a brochure and doing it all digitally!