

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**July 11, 2023**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Present:**  Justin Giaimo, Eli Abrams, Katie Khoury, Polly Seum, Frank Reed, Linda Granger, Denton Kitts

**Absent:** Kathryn Harriman **Guest:** Kenneth Stalder, resident

The meeting was called to order by Justin Giaimo at 6:31 pm.

Minutes from the June 13 meeting were noted to have an incorrect date of June 16 in the heading. Minutes were then approved 4/0, with Eli abstaining.

**Director’s Report**

Ms. Granger reported that the July 4th event was a success. The community felt safe in the park with no vehicles allowed, and only 1 vehicle violated no parking rules and was towed. There will be a follow up meeting to plan for 2024 with police, fire and staff. Ms. Granger said that the 45 acres across from McKitrick Park has been conveyed to the Village from MI Homes. Mr. Reed asked questions about when planning and physical work will begin on the “nature preserve” area. Mr. Denton indicated that nothing can commence until the Tolles students -who are part of the project that enabled the grant to be received- are back in school. Mr. Reed cautioned about budgeting for any money needed for the project. Mr. Kitts reported that the Farmers’ Market on July 4th was a success and that the WIC, SNAP, Produce Perks, and Sr. Farmers Mkt Nutrition Program are all in place. Mr. Reed had questions about the Senior program and how it works. Mr. Kitts also reported a higher number of vendors will be participating, and there will be food trucks at every market. Mr. Kitts reported that Touch A Truck on June 16th was a great success with over 1,000 participants. Ms. Granger reported positive feedback from the Fly with Falcons program the same day. Ms. Granger participated in Safety Town with 2 Lifeguards presenting Water Safety. Positive comments have been received about Safety Town each year. Ms. Granger shared the dates of Steam Threshers event and wished them good weather and success. Lastly, Ms. Granger invited the committee to the Explore Darby Creek event- Friday, July 14 from 2-4 pm.

**Old Business**

Village Council approved the final recommendation from the P&R Committee for a 6-month length of stay limit within a 12 month period to be enacted starting Jan. 1, 2024. Ms. Granger shared that new Campground Rules have been vetted through staff/Administration and Legal review, and are waiting on the Police Dept. review before finalization. The committee had lengthy discussion about the creation of a Field Usage Policy. After much discussion it was agreed that there may have to be a current Field Usage Policy and then a future policy, once the Village has other sports fields. Ms. Granger will be discussing the policy further with various interested parties and report back to the committee in August.

**New Business**

Ms. Granger reported that an engineering firm is working on plans for the Madison Meadows park project and the Jackson St. Dog Park. The committee and visitor, Mr. Stalder, gave input on desirable features of dog parks. Both project schematics will be shared with the committee moving forward.

**Polly’s Park Report**: Polly requested that dog waste bags get refilled at Pastime Park, and that the dog waste cans get emptied.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.