



RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AGENDA/ MINUTES

Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 8AM
Virtual WebEx Meeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order

2. Roll Call

Bobby Brown, Committee Chair
Trustee Hartshorn Hilton
Trustee Jones
Peter Travers, Director of Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Sara Keffer, Recreation Leader/ Recording Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. REPORTS

1. Recreation

A. Program Update - Director Travers

- a. Senior Programming - There are six classes currently offered at SOPAC.
- b. Spring Programming - Baseball registration closed on January 31 with about 45 players more registered this year than 2021. Our suburban soccer application was approved, but we are still waiting for the forms. There is a soccer RFP out for training clinics that is expected to be awarded in two weeks. The Baseball Clinic Camp RFP was awarded to The Gym Maplewood. Spring Field Hockey enrollment is open with about 50 players signed up. Trustee Jones requested more advertisement to increase field hockey's numbers. The Department is extending the US Sports Institute's camp agreement for this year.
- c. Pool Programming - The pool snack bar bid is back open again. Swim Lessons have been in discussion in the YMCA who are hesitant due to low staffing. Our head swim Instructor informed Director Travers that she will not be returning this year.
- d. Summer Camp - Our enrollment report showed 150 registrations within minutes. Most age groups are filled but we



are encouraging residents to go on the waitlist until enough staffing is hired. The South Orange Middle School did not give access this year for the gym for rain days.

2. Cultural Arts and Events Update - Director Travers

- a. Black History Month - Trustee Jones put together a series of walks and events. This coming weekend there are 12 enrolled for the run and 6 enrolled for the walk with minimal push. There is an exhibit at SOPAC of a Black photographer's work for residents to view. Trustee Haskins will do a nature walk and is looking for a historical speaker to talk about events relating to Black History. Trustee Jones will send Director Travers a flier with dates.
- b. Women History Month - Nancy Adams sent out the kickoff email to discuss ideas with other community partners. There will be a proclamation, a girl scout event and a movie scheduled.
- c. Watershed Poetry Event - Director Travers is working with Tracy Burns to schedule the event on March 13 either virtually or in person at the Skate House. Trustee Jones and Trustee Hilton requested our IT Dept. to install a Webex Room Kit that can offer a hybrid virtual program. Director Travers will follow up with IT to see if it is possible to install.

3. Facilities & Capital Projects - Director Travers

- A. Baird Update - The walls on the field house are going up on the second floor. They are still working on the third floor structure issue and in the old small gym on the second floor to address the bow problem. They are also working on a few smaller change orders. There will be a walkthrough on February 17 with Trustee Haskins and Trustee Brown. Trustee Jones requested to have a walkthrough in the early spring with the Historic Preservation Commission. There is a drone view video of the construction on the Village's Youtube page.
- B. Carter Park Update - Director Travers submitted the purchase order for the sculpture with the suggestion from the Purchasing Agent to get approval by the Trustee Committee.
- C. Cameron Recreation Area - Dresner Robin was awarded the bid to create the new design for the park. There will be a kickoff meeting this afternoon at noon. There will be public meetings to get residents' inputs.

6. OLD BUSINESS

1. User Fee Trust Fund - Director Travers reported that according to Business Administrator Loehner the agreement is expired due to the Sunset clause. The money taken in from South Orange in 2021 was entirely from our programs and will be used for South Orange programs and improve fields.
2. Parks Administration - Director Travers reported that there is a potential solution from Business Administrator Loehner who will make a presentation



on what the Parks Administration will become going forward under the umbrella of the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department will be responsible, with the current staffing, to work with the Public Works staff to do the work requested. Department Trustee Jones requested that there be a push for more staffing to cover the increasing responsibility and review the old ordinances about the parks administration. Trustee Brown will follow up with Business Administrator Loehner to share their ideas on paper.

3. Park rentals (birthdays, picnics, parties etc...) - Director Travers researched Maplewood's rentals before contacting insurance. Maplewood allows 29 persons or less to host events in their parks. Director Travers will reach out to insurance to see if groups of 29 or less in our parks should be required to have a \$2 million dollar policy taken out and stated that an ordinance change may need to happen.
4. Memorial Donations - Director Travers reviewed the documents that Trustee Jones put together about accepting donations for benches for review and feedback from the other Committee members for a final policy.

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Meadowland Rain Garden Proposal - Director Travers wanted to inform the Recreation Committee that Linda Beck applied for another grant for a rain garden and to ask for the best location. There is an ideal location by the Duck Pond where there is some flooding by the well house. The conservancy expects to have a plan for the public to see.
2. Floods Hill - Director Travers reported that the overall winter use of Floods Hill has been referred up to administration and their consultants.
3. Meadowlands Conservancy - Linda Beck reported that there is a pile of rocks on South Orange Ave, between the new Day Care Center and the Rahway River, that is covered in construction rubble and spray paint. Ms. Beck requests that Public Works assist in removing the rubble and she would get a volunteer crew to remove the spray paint. There is also a tree stump that she would like for kids to climb on in a new location since it can't be placed in a playground zone because it is not considered playground equipment. Ms. Beck requests that an email should be sent out to coaches that they need to be made aware to clean up after they are finished with the fields.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9:17 a.m.