



RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AGENDA/ MINUTES

Thursday, April 7, 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

Richard Bell - Mr. Bell reported a recent purchase of a park bench and wishes to coordinate with both the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Department on where to place the bench. Director Travers requested that Mr. Bell send an email to meet about the bench. Mr. Bell inquired about signage for the parks. Director Travers explained that the signage package for the town has gotten larger and is in progress.

Bob Landau - Mr. Landau asks if a sidewalk could be built from Meeker street to Clark street on the south side. Dr. Travers will reach out to the Director of Public works and the town engineer and request that Mr. Landau send the photo of the area that needs a sidewalk to his email. Jessica Miller requested that there be tree protection during the construction.

Tracy Carroll - Ms. Carroll announced that spring programs will take place with various classes and thanked the Department for their efforts.

5. REPORTS

1. Recreation

A. Program Update - Director Travers

- a. Spring Programming - Baseball games and practices have officially started for the older divisions. Evaluations and the draft are over. There are over 500 games scheduled over the next 7 weeks. There are 68 teams with over 700 players. Maplewood Softball has 22 teams which we are in charge of



scheduling to avoid double booking fields. Our soccer clinic program is run by a non-profit organization with currently 10 players enrolled. The Spring Field Hockey program is full. Flag Football registration is going to start soon even though it is a fall sport.

- b. Active Older Adult Programming - We have 8 new classes that are taking registration. Ms. Carroll inquired about having senior fitness classes. Director Travers needs to piece together the summer camp schedules, staffing and swim team schedules which do not start until May.
 - c. Pool Programming - Swim Team registration, recruiting pool staff and lifeguards. We are looking for other means of advertising for staff. Trustee Jones inquired if we are lifting the COVID restrictions. Director Travers responded that there are currently no restrictions from the State Health Department. Trustee Jones asked to bring back Adult Night and Doddy Dip. Director Travers will set up dates on the calendar.
2. Cultural Arts and Events Update - Director Travers
- a. Watershed Poetry Event - The February event had 50 attendees, virtually. Tracy Burns would like it to continue and will coordinate with the Recreation Department.
 - b. Summer Concerts - We are looking for local artists and starting the plans to organize the concert in the park.
3. Facilities & Capital Projects
- A. Baird Update - There are coordinating efforts to go over the IT and audio/visual projects. A change order will go into effect under Frankowski's contract and a resolution will be sent to the next Trustees' meeting amending the audio portion of their contract.
 - B. Carter Park Update - The sculpture is being fabricated. Director Travers is coordinating to get a nice ribbon cutting ceremony on June 4 with a rain date of June 5.
 - C. Cameron Recreation Area - There was a great turnout of paddle tennis players. The survey information is being reviewed and some clarity is needed on their initial design. The possibility of lighting will be on a scheduled timer.
 - D. Ferrell Field Tennis courts - There will be a meeting of the area with the construction manager scheduled within the next several days.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Parks Administration - Director Travers stated the budget is still in review. Trustee Hilton stated the budget proposal was sent to all the trustees two



weeks ago and will be reviewed at the Trustee meeting this Monday. The budget will be reviewed by department directors before the meeting.

2. Park rentals (birthdays, picnics, parties etc...) - Director Travers is working with the Village attorney's office to draft a policy.
3. Memorial Donations - Director Travers is changing the existing ordinance to accept donations which cannot exceed the cost of the supplies plus labor. The policy still needs to be set by this committee. The vote was passed by the Recreation committee to move the tree. Director Travers will internally repair the area after the tree is moved.
4. Bench - Trustee Hilton reported a group of residents raised money for a bench. It is a bench that fits into the design guide of Grove Park.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Swim Lessons - Trustee Jones received an email from a resident to push to the board of education to have access to the Columbia High School pool for swim lessons. Some roadblocks that came up are finding instructors who are lifeguard certified. Maplewood is going forward to open lessons for all kids in South Orange and Maplewood. Promoting swim lessons will start in May which is water safety month.
2. Founders Park - A first walkthrough was scheduled with the landscape architects.
3. Arts and Cultural Events Committee - Postponed discussion for the next meeting.
4. Meadowlands Park Conservatory - Linda Beck reported that the conservancy will help advertise the Doggy Dip at their Puppy Day event. Tomorrow a presentation of a plan for an amphitheater will take place. Sunday on Clark street, volunteers are going to take out the tree tubes and replace them with cages. Event on April 26 called Get Twisted - a yoga event, will take place in the park. The rain garden proposal went out.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 9:48 a.m.