



RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 5, 2024 – 8:45 AM
Virtual WebEx Meeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order 8:45 AM

2. Roll Call

Bobby Brown, Committee Chair - Present
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton - Present
Councilwoman Jones - Present
Peter Travers, Deputy Village Administrator - Present
Matt Gray, Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs - Present
Blake Smith, Arts and Cultural Events Manager - Present
Kristen Tyler, SOMA Two Towns - Present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 8:50 AM

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS 8:55 AM

1. Comments from resident Tad Delk – Appreciative of the project starting on Kenny Graham Tennis Courts, specifically the addition of pickle ball courts. Asked about the exact spacing between the courts and the tennis nets/fence. Would like them to be more centered than they appear in the drawing. Urged the need for bright pickle ball lines to clearly differentiate between tennis.

5. REPORTS 9:10 AM

1. Recreation
 - A. SOMA Two Towns
 - a. Senior Picnic was well attended. Approximately 60 participants. "Thank you's" to SEFD, SOPD and Health Department for support during event.
 - b. Next newsletter will be coming out in October.
 - B. Programming Update
 - a. Fall Program Session
 - i. Currently registration for fall Baird programming is at 599 participants spread across 63 programs.
 - b. Fall Sports Leagues
 - i. Flag football, cheer and soccer all start their seasons this week. Total registration for the three programs is over 800 participants.



- c. Winter Basketball League
 - i. Registration will open on 9/19 for winter recreation basketball league. Expanding to serve grades 1-8 and expect 500-600 participants.
- 2. Cultural Arts and Events Update
 - a. August Events Recap – Had two weather related issues during August, National Night Out which only got about 15 minutes in before the rain came and one movie night which was rescheduled for September 19 at the Baird. All other events were well attended.
 - b. Community Day – September 21st from 1pm-3pm. Lots of vendors confirmed. Health screenings and flu shots will be available.
 - c. Fall Gallery Show – Kaleidoscope Hispanica - Opening will be October 1st from 6:30pm-8:30pm
 - d. Hola Fest – October 5th from 7pm-10pm at the Baird. Salsa Bachata lessons, dance performances and dance party in the gym
 - e. Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival - October 18 from 5pm-10pm on Irvington Ave. Trucks are booked and ready to go.
 - f. Indigenous Peoples Day – October 14, 5pm-7pm in Spiotta Park. Red blanket dance troop will be performing.
 - g. Watershed Literary Event – October 13 at 3pm in the Skate House. Three local poets will be highlighted.
- 3. Facilities & Capital Projects
 - A. Baird Update – Porch re-waterproofing is underway but contractor is waiting on supplies. ETA for supplies is two weeks.
 - B. Pool Gutter Project – Mobilized this week. Project is starting on schedule. Will complete majority of work over the course of the fall and then finish once weather warms up in the spring.
 - C. Pool Bathhouse Project – Bids opened last and will stay out for 30 days. Hope to award in November and project will happen over the winter months.
 - D. Cameron Recreation Area – Followed up with Green Acres earlier this week. Still waiting on an answer regarding next steps.
 - E. Shade at the Pool – Met with company under state contract last week. Waiting on price quotes to see what can be added. Priorities are adding shade structures around two smaller pools where trees were lost and some shade near main pool. Also receiving quotes for replacing pavilion.
 - F. Tennis & Pickle ball Courts – Slated to start Monday, September 9. Estimated length is four weeks but weather is most significant determining factor.

6. OLD BUSINESS 9:30 AM



1. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton asked for an update on the River Greenway Project. Deputy Village Administrator Travers shared that they are waiting on approval from the county. He will follow up with Village Administrator Doran to make sure an update is shared with the Village Council.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9:40 AM

1. Tennis Instruction
 - a. Director Gray shared his recommendation to RFP tennis instruction on the Kenny Graham Courts. Private instructors are currently running lessons without going through the proper permitting process. Proving to be a challenge in keeping up with enforcement with new instructors showing up each week. Councilwoman Jones asked how "private instruction" would be identified. Director Gray responded that one-on-one instruction will be nearly impossible to prevent but group lessons and the use of ball hopppers would be the clear indicators of instruction. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton supported the idea stating that it is an insurance liability and that it is the department's job to enforce the policy as written. Director Gray shared that the goal would be to have an RFP out in late fall to go into effect for spring.
2. Baird & Pool Operation Cost
 - a. Director Gray shared projected operating cost for 2024 for the Baird, pool and camp programs. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton pointed out that the expenses presented are not inclusive of debt service, some administrative salaries and employee benefits expense. Deputy Village Administrator Travers stated that all employee benefits are lumped into Administration's department budget. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton suggested a review of the fee structure in an effort to close the gap between revenue and expense. Councilwoman Jones agreed and shared that she hopes the deficit that the Baird is operating at will shrink. Two suggestions were raising non-resident rates and passing credit card fees back onto the consumers. Director Gray shared that he will present a few different options for increasing fees for 2025, without a significant fee increase across the board. He cautioned that the Baird has not yet been operating for 6 months and that raising fees significantly could stunt the growth in participation they have experienced over the first three program sessions.
3. 133 Fairview Ave



- a. Deputy Village Administrator Travers shared that bids are open for a conceptual design for the 133 Fairview property. The bid includes community outreach and a phased approach to construction. By having a conceptual design, the Village would be able to submit for grants to fund portions of the project.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 3rd

11. ADJOURNMENT

9:54 AM