



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

Park District Citizen Committee Agenda

Monday, January 22, 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869735644?pwd=MW90M2pmdXBydFE2YXFjM0VLL2NjQT09>

Secretary: Virgil Woods

Welcome

Lauren

Attendees: Maureen McCarthy, Virgil Woods II, Lauren Johnson, rob, Joe Lilly, Jan Arnold, Kavita Vermani, Kathleen Lorden, Aaron Stigger, Sandy, Sandra, Jay Rowell

Public Comment

Lauren

None.

Review of Minutes

Lauren

Approved. Kavita and Aaron.

Recreation Program Update

Joe Lilly

Biggest Event: Cold outside but ready for Summer Camps for 2024

- Camp registration opens next Saturday Feb. 3rd 8am
- Camp hiring commenced in December of 2023
 - o Group interview Jan 4 – hired 12 people
 - o March 9th next interview
 - o Alot of returning staff, 2019 pre-pandemic majority were return, COVID caused a flux and now we are returning to before
 - o Over 50% staffed, many applicants from previous years
- Start hiring for life guards – 50% hired
 - o Feb 18th – hopeful last date for swim test with life guards – 40-50 more applicants needing to be hired
 - o Trained in house, paid training
- Back to Camps – Dance camps expanded
 - o Half days last year – started full days – great demand – expanded at fox center – added 20 children
- Partnership with D97 on scholarship program to provide summer camp 2 weeks free of charge long for free and reduced lunch participants – School and CDM from PDOP
- Preschool program transition for 2024-2025 school year
 - o Prior to 2020 around 7 locations – after 2020 it wasn't the same (no offers taken and has dwindled) - play school offer in 2021 (closed Beier center)
 - Spanish preschool saw some numbers then fell off and moved to carol
 - Decline in traditional preschool classroom this year
 - Program was rereviewed – removed traditional at carol
 - Next school year downsizing preschool offerings to carol center only, nature preschool program will be started, Austin gardens will offer shorter sessions of childhood and intergenerational classes in the morning

- Registration opened Saturday– Potty training before sign up – Public Opening is Saturday
 - 4 nature preschool slots
 - 10 Tues-Thurs
 - 12 Pre K

Discussion/Updates:

Community Comments/Feedback

All

- Aaron – Longfellow has benches by the outdoor skating rink (previously it was difficult inclement weather to put on skates)
- Kavita – the ice skating rink desk staff make it easy and are very helpful for information, long lines for open skate get long and they still remain patient
- Lauren - Pool Snack Bar – could it be opened on Saturdays and staffed by community organizations?
 - Any prepared foods would require training, bagged foods would be easiest and require less effort – Jan to advise
 - Previously Taco truck on a timeframe was a nice extra to know was available
 - Goes against zero waste effort?

Secret Shopper Reports

All

- Rob December – Caroll Center – exterior panels cracked (possibly over tightened or kids using balls against the walls), this was brought to Chris Ls attention (talking with contractor on repairs)
 - Park looked good
 - Tried to register for a Bridge club
 - Somehow was double registered when registering for the Friday afternoon club, could not register after attempting again (membership expired)
 - Yolanda helped and was very patient in helping get signed back up for Bridge Club
 - Suggestion on form to say Non Applicable for sign up Secret Shopper? Activities on PDOP website for sign up, etc.
 - Comments are more important – should a note be sent before expiry date to capture comments
 - While browsing activities there were a lot of old activities that did not go away (malfunction to be performed by staff by cleaning our sessions unless a class is canceled – Amilia makes it permanent on the page)
 - Aaron – continues to be happy with Ryan London and Payton coaching basketball
 - Communication is great, pleasant and his goals for the league to be a better place
 - CRC continue to be awesome!

General Program/Special Event Updates

Maureen

- Camp brochure will be out Friday
- School district came back with locations vs camps in partnership
 - School of nature at Hatch
 - Brooks utilized as well

- Feb 3rd registration opens
- March 1st Spring/Summer brochure releases – March 9th registration for classes begins
- End of January – require bands to play the concerts in the [ark all summer – submissions through the 31st of January
 - Priority to OP based bands (depending)
- Ice show at the rink is March 15-17th
- Feb 3rd slated for winter fest at Austin Garden
- Valentine's programming coming in full swing – Wednesday blast from marketing all ages
- Indoor playground 150 passes sold
 - New Moms bought 20 passes to distribute
- CRC numbers 4399 members (breakeven is 3500), 4415 track only members, 1075 afterschool signed up (300 a day)
 - Financial assistance update for the board – substantial number of adults with financial scholarships at CRC taking advantage
 - Approximately double what was given previously, serving persons from 0-78
 - 112 scholarships for fitness center – includes walking track

PDOP Updates

Jan

PDOP Comp Master Plan Meetings

- 5-year comprehensive plan
- Kick off with board and staff Feb 15th
 - Focus groups, community meetings to be planned
 - Schedule will be released when able

Community Survey Results

- As of Jan 11, 98% surveyed participated in a program of facility
- 5 years ago, was around 91%
- Information will be shared – review of top line information in next meeting with Ann Marie

2024 Secret Shopper

- Discussed previously

Field Center Design Competition

- Design packet toward mid Feb
 - Competitions were held to build the previous centers
 - This will be for the field center
 - Previous 10 year plan Carroll and Field were supposed to be torn down
 - Instead they expanded the Carroll center
 - The field center as part of the previous 10 year plan will now be completed after a competition is had
- State conference is coming up – Maureen to present
 - Awards being received for staff excellence and an award for the CRC – Yay!
- Reem Pool master plan Phase 1 begins Sept 2024 – diving well will be turned into 3' fun pool and open next year once able
 - Out to bid around March 2024