



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

Park District Citizen Committee Agenda

Monday, November 27, 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82946324486?pwd=MVJKUzRNcXFUM2NMb0VLZTFMcS8vdz09>

Secretary: Kathleen Lorden

Welcome

Lauren

Attendees: Steven Miller, Kathleen Lorden, Lauren Johnson, Kavita Vermani, Andrew France, Aaron Stigger, Suzen Riley, Kevin Lee, Jay Rowell, Rob Kleps, Virgil Woods Jan Arnold (PDOP), Maureen McCarthy (PDOP), Sandy Lentz (PDOP)

Public Comment

Lauren

None.

Review of Minutes

Lauren

Approved.

Recreation Program Update: Dance/Fitness

Erin Coffman

Erin Coffman update:

- Erin runs the fitness and performing arts classes.
- She has been with the PDOP for 3 years, but took over fitness this past March.
- 2023 has been their best year thus far.
- There are 9 weeks of full day camps this year.
- The performing arts portion keeps growing. They keep adding classes and they keep filling up.
- New instructors were hired for Summer Camps, they did a fabulous job. We moved them into seasonal and part-time jobs this Fall.
- We've had a few contractual programs - Dancing at the Mansion and Kumba Kids.
- Every year we perform the Nutcracker. There are 250 kids performing this year.
- The CRC opened in May and we have more than doubled the unlimited fitness members.
- We hired 5 new instructors and added 10 new classes.
- Lauren: Are you bringing back adult classes?
Erin: Instructors are the issue.
- Steven: Have you done any everyone can dance programs?
Erin: We have not because we have youth and adult classes, less intergenerational.
- We have great dance instructors (Miss McKenzie, Miss Sophie) that keeps engaging the kids. Erin comes from the dance world.

Discussion/Updates:

Community Comments/Feedback

All

None.

Secret Shopper Reports

All

- Virgil: I went to the ice rink at Ridgeland Commons for the first time. It was beautiful and clean. Friendly staff. The only thing I wondered about was concession stands.
- Jan: They set up portable stands in the lobby during special events. We didn't want to take up any space.
- Lauren: Barry Tot Lot is so thoughtfully designed. Great for a wide variety of abilities in the 2-5 age range. I've heard so many great things.
- Steven: I visited the CRC over Thanksgiving. My daughter from Georgia was given a pass. My daughter loved all of the flyers (design, etc.) Todd at the desk was fabulous, answered our questions and showed us around.

Fox Master Plan Review

Karen

- Karen was absent so Jan covered this.
- Jan: We had a virtual meeting. It's posted with the presentation deck online. We focused in on the playground, mainly the splash pad and monkey bars. It would eliminate the swings, but there are nearby options available. Oak Park baseball and softball folks were there wanting synthetic turf and lights. We did a study and have four in our system now. There are lights at Julian, not at Brooks because of neighbors. In 2018 the neighbors wanted grass because of dogs. We have not budgeted for that large expense and it is not within the planning scope for now.

General Program/Special Event Updates

Maureen

- CRC: We did a Thanksgiving schedule adjustment. We will do the same thing for the winter break.
- There was huge uptick in the pickleball players. We're going to see how our busy season.
- On December 2nd there is Teen Night. The social marketing just came out. It'll be holiday themed with basketball and eSports. It needs a push.
- We had a walk and talk. We partnered with the health dept, the mental health board, and had blood pressure screenings. The first one was on Saturday.
- The Winter Greens Market is open!
- Our Black Friday Sale goes until 11/28 (fitness passes, seasonal and annual rink passes).
- 12/16 is the holiday skate exhibition.
- 314 active adults are registered at Dole and it continues to grow.
- The teen committee meets every week so we might shift things in January and have more face-to-face discussions. Slime-making was a big hit last week.
- For around \$54 a year, seniors can take classes (art, Spanish, etc.).
- Sandy: Will there be an opportunity for indoor soccer?
Jan: No, there are other facilities for that and it won't work with the windows.

PDOP Updates

Jan

PDOP Comp Master Plan Meetings

Community Survey Results

2024 Master Planning Meeting

- The 5-year comprehensive master plan will be presented to the board during the December meeting. It will allow them to kick that off in January. There will be a list for focus groups in the near future.
- We had 550 of participants fill out the survey, 500 was the goal. It was highly positive toward increasing taxes to get an indoor pool.
- There will be some additional Master Plan Meetings in 2024. Next year it will be at Carroll Field and Austin Gardens. Both will be virtual, though Field may be in person. It will include the center, as it was recommended that it get torn down. We know it needs to be expanded.
- Our staff has been assisting asylum seekers. They have been transported from Grace Episodical to St. Catherine's for showers. They also moved luggage from a church to the Carleton. They are welcome to utilize our scholarship programs (Clubhouse childcare, etc.)
- We're actively working on camps. That information will come out in January and registration will be in February.
- You and your family are invited to the Candlelight Walk on 11/30
- We're celebrating the 9th year of the ice rink!
- Rob: I have a suggestion, that you establish an email on the website where anyone can give suggestions.
- Jan: We have that. It's the "Contact us" button on the website.
- Jay: The staff is always excellent at fielding emails.
- Maureen: 30% of all participants get a survey. Maybe we need to post about it more though. Our foundations also set up tables at community events (i.e. Fall Fest).
- Steven: I support Maureen in sticking with the plan (of staying strong with pickleballers).

2024 Secret Shopper

Lauren put link in chat and emailed it.

Adjournment

Lauren

Next PDCC meeting:

- No December Meeting
- January 22, 2024 – 7pm – Virtual – Virgil Woods II
- February 26, 2024 – 7pm – Virtual – Kevin Lee