

Park District Citizens Committee September 18, 2023 7pm meeting minutes

Attendees: Steven Miller, Kevin Lee, Andres France, Maureen McCarthy (PDOD), Karen McMillin, Laura Stamp, Patti Staley (PDOP), Sandy Lentz, Rob Kleps, Kathleen Lorden, Lauren Johnson, Jay Rowell.

-No Public Comments

-Previous Meeting notes approved

Conservatory Update – Patti Staley

- Super Busy Fall
 - Fall Fest Sept 23 11am-2pm, sponsored by the Friends of the Conservatory
 - Live Animals, Professional Pumpkin Carving will be making a Venus Fly Trap and George the Parrot designed pumpkins
 - Crafts
 - Storybook Walk in Discovery Garden and many more activities
 - Fall Bulb and Mum Sale
 - Winter Green Sale (Before T-Giving)
 - Santas Mailbox will be in the Discovery Garden

Community Comments/Feedback

- Very Positive reviews of CRC, great staff
- Sandy L had discussion with high schoolers at CRC and they were all very positive
- CRC Youth committee started and is having growing pains
- Suggest all youth activities need more advertising, especially on Friday family night
- PD evaluated space use at CRC, i.e. babysitting room
- Suggestion: Divide open gym pickleball schedule at CRC based on skill level.
- CRC locker issues are scheduled to be fixed soon
- Many kids are doing homework at CRC after school
- Optical night course at Rehm? Pool had a calendar issue. Originally it was for Aug 13 but moved to 11th, Why?
- Why are Taylor tennis courts being repainted?
- Campout at Lindberg park was a big hit

General Program Updates/Special Event Updates – Maureen (PDOP)

- Cubs House in basement of Stevenson Oct-Nov – for kids under 5m
- Scholarships are available for everything
- CRC membership update, 2,985 full memberships, ~2,500 track memberships, 213 Junior memberships, 150-200 kids come after school, 773 school kids are registered
- Triton tutor will start coming after school Sept 26-27
- 65,100 people have registered for PDOP classes year to date, 63,860 people registered for classes in 2022
- FLW Race October 15 – Need many volunteer, Kids race moving back to the street which will require 20 additional volunteers, GET THE WORD OUT!
- PD desperate for after school staff, 3-6pm, must be 18+
- Oct 7 OP resident registration for holiday stuff
- Many Halloween activities, Sensory Boo Bash, Hocus Pocus High Tea, Day of Dead dinner by Maya del Sol at Cheney

PDOP Update – Jan

Grants

-Received \$100k for after school program support

-Applied for \$1.5 million for Rehm Diving pool conversion in fall 2024

-Applied for \$525k OSLAD grant for Andersen Park

Master Planning

- Two Masterplan review meetings coming up this fall: Longfellow (October 4) and Fox (Nov 1), both Virtual

- 5yr Comprehensive Strategic Plan is going out for bid. This will involve sending questionnaires to randomly selected individuals. PD needs 500 completed surveys for a statistically valid survey. After 500 completed surveys are received, they will accept additional completed surveys from any OP resident.

- Indoor pools are VERY EXPENSIVE TO build and operate. As a result, a referendum would be required if there is sufficient support.

- 2024 PDOP construction plans: GRC flooring replacement, Dole window replacements, Cheney tuckpointing and fence, Conservatory Historic door repair, Stevenson field shade structures, Irving field synthetic turf replacement (split costs 50/50 with D97), and Field Center considering new designs

Tax Efficiency Task Force

- IL govt requires 10 year review
- PDOP Board appointed a group to perform this review. The group has two OP residents that work for other PD in the Chicago area. Their first meeting was Sept 7 and they have two additional meetings planned for Feb 1 and April 4, 2024. These meetings are open to the public

Capital Projects

- Barrie Park – replace playground equipment. The tot lot will have some really cut make believe stuff that is OP themed. Jan's excited about the new equipment.
- RCRC Field replacement Oct 16-Dec
- S. Miller discussed the concerns about using PFAS containing synthetic turf. He emphasized get replacement turf that is certified PFAS free. PFAS is a class of chemicals called forever chemical. It was used in Teflon, other synthetic materials, and firefighting foams.

PDOP is a Gold Medal Finalists for the Best Park District in the US. This is the third year in a row that they have been a finalist. The announcement will be made on Oct 11.

Secret Shopper Reports

- Rehm pool staff were ask many questions and they provided thorough answers and were very knowledgeable and courteous.
- Dole is so much better since PD took it over.
- Scoville park is super clean
- Longfellow is getting litter picked up earlier and garbage cans were added

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm