

MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES: The Parks and Recreation Board will meet in person and physical spacing will be observed. Any individual with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Director of Parks and Recreation Ron Malchiodi at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (708) 442-7025. Public comments are welcome on any topic related to the business of the Board during the portion of the meeting devoted to a particular agenda item, or during the period designated for public comment for non-agenda items. Individuals who wish to comment must be recognized by the Board Chairperson and then speak at the podium, beginning by identifying themselves.



**VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 24, 2023
Community Center, 43 E. Quincy Street, Riverside, IL 60546
7:00 pm**

Minutes

I. Call to Order - The Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on July 24, 2023. Chairperson Kos called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Motion made by Sean O'Brien. John McGlennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

II. Roll Call –

Present: Elizabeth Kos
John McGlennon
Jennifer Dvorak
Sean O'Brien

Absent:

Also Present: Ron Malchiodi, Trustee Jill Mateo, & guests Paul Schmeling (408 Fairbank), Dave & Beth Strong (402 Fairbank), Cathy & Mike Maloney (290 Scottswood), Steve Robbins (372 Fairbank)

III. Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2023 Minutes - Sean O'Brien made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by John McGlennon. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentations and Public Comment

Director Malchiodi recited the letters sent to him from Mr. & Mrs. Pruett-Jones, April

Starr, and Cheryl Dowling regarding the Disc Golf update. A request from Paul Schmeling with regards to where the Disc Golf is at was also made. The last update per Chairperson Kos is that the preliminary leg work for the disc golf course was completed. [ESI] The past meeting minutes Chairperson Kos are on the Village website.

Paul Schmeling of 408 Fairbank stated that he is opposed to the disc golf as it presents a noise issue, parking issue, aesthetics, uninvited guests and litter. He doesn't see any upside for the residents of Fairbank Road. He likes his neighborhood how it is peaceful and quiet. The space is not unutilized space, it is used for people playing with their dogs, catch with their kids. Doesn't see any natural beauty in the metal posts and chains around the posts, and inviting people here who don't pay taxes here and aren't living here. Schmeling was concerned with the noise and didn't want another thing near that area. Schmeling did not think this benefits the area.

Dave Strong seconded everything Schmeling said. Strong mentioned that no one is moving to Riverside for disc golf and that with the Scout cabin being there, the parties sometimes cause issues. Strong imagined the amount of traffic and the people showing up here for disc golf. Strong said his kids used to play frisbee, catch in that area and doesn't see how this is so needed. If anything, Strong suggest putting up workout stations along the walk. They have enough going on across the street with the Scout Cabin, showed the previous village president what was going on with parking and people parking in their driveways. The Village has been trying to get things back to the way they were with natural flowers. Strong stated that this is just not what Riverside is about, including Olmsted's vision for natural beauty.

Mike Maloney of 290 Scotswood stated he is not in favor of disc golf in the proposed location due to the previous reasons stated by residents Schmeling and Strong. Maloney stated that the area around the ball parks is a reasonable place to put it.

Cathy Maloney of 290 Scotswood stated she agrees with what has been said by the other residents. Maloney stated she sees a lot of people from the Village who walk in the proposed area. That is the only natural area that is left in Riverside, along the Scout Cabin to the swimming pool. Maloney is concerned with putting in unnatural items, and is concerned with wildlife and the effect disc golf will have on wildlife. Maloney is also concerned with the effect that disc golf will have on the oak trees and 400 species of birds in the area. Maloney recommended that it not be open during migration season. Maloney wants to know if there will be disc golf tournaments and if so, where will people spectate.

Cheryl Dowling of 368 Fairbank stated that it is already crazy over on Fairbank with parents driving so fast because they are late for soccer and baseball. Dowling stated she doesn't see where people are going to park and that trash is going to be a big issue. Dowling stated that she can imagine the disc going in the road, and it impacting the animals.

Steve Robbins, at 372 Fairbank stated that he is on the committee for disc golf and has spent time looking outside during the winter, and is trying to imaging the disc golf holes in the winter. Robbins is concerned with the sound.

V. ***Unfinished and Deferred Business***

- A. **Disc Golf Update** – Commissioner Glennon is working on forming a committee with 25 people. The committee had their public comment asking for people’s opinions which went out last week. The first kick off meeting will be this Wednesday with the committee. They are going to discuss the input received and discuss design. They are also going to do some research. The last two weeks of August will be their first initial pass on a layout, and then they will continue to review and revise as needed. In Mid-August, they will start to see where this will go. Commissioner O’Brien asked what the actual time line will be and if funding is available. Glennon responded that it would be late fall or early winter. Ron stated that parking will be in the Indian Gardens parking lot. Ron mentioned the consistent feedback he and his staff receive from residents is that there isn’t a playground in the first division. He also mentioned the Department is limited in what they can do because that area is in a flood plain. Glennon mentioned he had contact with Zach Taylor from the Berwyn, Summit, and Chicago disc golf clubs.

The meeting is on Wednesday, July 26, and they are planning to meet every two weeks. John distributed the schedule to the committee and is making a list of the negative feedback received and is also collecting positive feedback as well.

- B. **RFP for Department Survey/Assessment/Master Plan** – the RFP will fall into three phases: the community survey, assessment and master plan. The Department will work with whoever is contracted to get feedback from the survey. Chairperson Kos asked who the Department would be targeting for the community survey. Malchiodi stated that that the Board will need to confirm what is wanted out of all three phases and what the deliverables will be. This Board will be the leaders on this initiative. Director Malchiodi stated that the assessment should go back 5 years to see how the demographics have changed within the community. Malchiodi stated that the project will determine what the Department is doing, who the Department is serving, and who the Department should be serving. In addition, the project will determine what residents, younger families, families with older kids, families without children, etc. want to see within the Village in terms of programming, parks, and facilities. North Riverside has a large retired population and they have a lot of successful trips, and that’s not something we’ve had a lot of success with. When the Department is offering things, there is a tendency to throw a lot of things out there and we see what works. The Department has received a lot of feed back on programs and there are things that are unable to be completed.

The Village Board had a general consensus on pursuing all three phases. Malchiodi asked if the Board would be in favor of a survey in smaller subjects. Chairperson Kos stated it would be nice if it was one large survey that accommodated the entire community. There should be a workflow within the survey so that those filling out the survey who don't have children aren't required to answer related questions. Commissioner Dvorak asked if is this something that other Parks & Rec departments in other areas have done. Malchiodi stated that there are other Parks and Recreation departments who have done a master plan.

Malchiodi requested the Board to provide red lined edits to the RFP. Chairperson Kos would like a break down by age group (PreK, grade school, junior high, high school, 20-30's together), including any concerns they would have with staffing. The Board also would like to know where staffing and funding would be needed most in a master plan. The Board would also like a better understanding of demographics in the area, including an idea of income levels and where need within the Village is.

- C. **501c3 Update** No update.
- D. **Board Goals Update** Commissioner O'Brien stated that he talked to Jorie Burns to try to get some visuals for redoing the Scout Cabin, but needs a budget before she can determine what things might look like. Malchiodi knows what the remaining balance is for that project, Sean is wanting to know what 2024 numbers might be for the project. Malchiodi and O'Brien will continue working together on this project.
- E. Sarah Magner came and spoke about bike repair and maintenance stations. Chairperson Kos will contact her to see when she can come back to another meeting. Malchiodi confirmed with that wherever they put the structures, it would need to go before the Preservation Commission. The Board agreed that Big Ball Park would be a good central location since the bikeway goes near there, and the other place would be near Indian Gardens or the Scout Cabin. Malchiodi stated that wherever it goes, the information will be shared with everyone in Riverside. If it is at Big Ball Park it will likely require a concrete foundation be installed, whereas the other locations may be able to fix it to existing concrete. Malchiodi showed the picture of the setup with the air pump, the bike stand with the tools on it. Per Chairperson Kos, this is something that would be used by more adults rather than children.

VI. New Business
None.

VII. Program and Facility Updates

- A. **RAC Collaboration** – Event and Programs – met with Liz Chilsen from the Riverside

Arts Center to try to ramp up the collaborative programming. We did co-op one of their classes, it was an indigo dying class. There was an idea for a pop-up event that would be held in the parking lot. The Art Center would be open for tours and do a larger scale “paint and sip” program. A half a day event with two different sessions, one in this building and one in the art center. The Board imagined a Saturday afternoon from 1-5 and would be a nice way to bring everyone down to this side of the street. Sometime in Sept or October if that worked, and if not would move it out to spring. Malchiodi proposed that we would take on the registration, the art center would still teach their program, we would handle registration, to make it a true collaboration.

VIII. Director Report

- A. Financial Report – The Department was able to provide summer camp to more participants than in the past. Staffing was not an issue this year and there was plenty of coverage. Record numbers of enrollees.
- B. Operational Report – RPC is good with most of the programs they sent over. Registration for before and after school begins tomorrow. Fishing Derby is August 5, hoping to pick up a few more. Starts at 9:30. Lacrosse program is underway, they had a good initial turnout. Posted pickleball hours, they are posted at Indian Gardens during designated hours for the skill level. Did this in hopes of building a network. Concert in the park Friday the 18th, the Redmond’s. Cori’s triathlon is August 19th. Appreciate any volunteers for the events.
- C. Maintenance Report – The window replacement will start next week and shortly thereafter will be the awning install. Monofilament will be placed near Swan Pond as a receptacle for the placement of fishing line and will be rolled out at the fishing derby.

IX. Trustee Report – None.

X. Chairperson Report - Malchiodi did mention that lacrosse started last week and this is to be the first of many collaborations of many clinics for learning to play lacrosse. May see at the next meeting the resurrection of the Dark Sky community. The Kos boys are interested in moving forward with this and becoming a dark sky community. It will involve suggestions, they would like to bring it to the P&R Board. Chairperson Kos would send out the Dark Sky presentation from when it was last presented. Kos recommended going to the Dark Sky website to find out more. Commissioner O’Brien stated that there is also a 60 minutes presentation on dark sky.

XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm by Chairperson Kos, motion made by Commissioner O’Brien and seconded by Commissioner Glennon.