

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

June 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Ryan. Upon roll call the following were:

PRESENT: Commissioners Anderson, Deal, Kennedy, Larson, Ryan. (Absent: Rodas, Toth) Staff: Splitt, Regnier, VanZant. Guest: Denny Salomonson. Board Recording Secretary Shari Raven.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the June 19, 2024 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Comments from the public:

Denny Salomon, president of the Grayslake Park Foundation was present to discuss the revamping of the Park Foundation. The tree memorial program has been temporarily suspended due to having no more room in Central Park to plant trees. The staff will evaluate other Parks through the District for the memorial program. The staff will evaluate other Parks throughout the District for the Memorial Tree Program.

Salomonson presented the Park District a check for \$3000 from the foundation to go for the scholarship fund for children’s summer programs. The board thanked him for his generous donation.

In August, a Park Foundation meeting will be held to redo the election of officers and re-energize the foundation.

MOTION: by Deal that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda to include:

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 05-16-24 thru 06-19-24 in the amount of \$574,300.51
- Approval of the May 15, 2024 Budget & Appropriation Hearing Minutes
- Approval of the May 15, 2024 Park Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the May 15, 2024 Annual Park Board Meeting

Second by Larson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Board Members reviewed the bid summary for the Cambridge Park Tennis & Basketball Courts project and recommendation from Terra Engineering. A total of 6 bids were received with Chicagoland Paving having the low bid.

In order for this project to be completed as close to our allotted budget we have removed one-line item from the original bid which includes the seed and blanket turf restoration once the project is complete. The Park District's Park and Maintenance team can accomplish this task at a much lower cost.

This project is budgeted within the Capital Improvement Fund.

MOTION: by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the bid and authorize Director Splitt to sign all contracts from Chicagoland Paving for the Cambridge Park Tennis & Basketball Courts Project in the amount of \$185,500. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

Splitt stated that the annual Family Picnic and Fireworks Event will be taking place in Central Park on Saturday, June 29th. Staff will be meeting on Friday, June 19th to discuss safety and meeting with the police and fire departments along with the fireworks and ride companies. This year we will be offering larger carnival type rides along with 2 bands (Wild Daisy from 5-7pm. and GooRoos from 7:30-9:30pm.) Currently there are 21 food vendors and the Park District will be running the beer tent again.

Splitt stated that the district has received a few phone calls and emails regarding dead carp washing up on the Grays Lake shore around the lake as well as algae blooms happening near the shorelines. Residents have turned to social media to complain.

Splitt reached out last week to Illinois Department of Natural Resources-Fisheries Division and spoke to our area biologist, Andy Plauck.

He explained to Splitt that this is a perfectly natural occurrence with Carp this time of year. They are at the end of their spawning season and during the spawning activities they tend to move closer to the shoreline to shallow waters where they flail themselves around; during this time of mating they can beat themselves up, causing them extreme stress. When this species are in a stressed state, they are more susceptible to catching a certain bacterial infection that negatively impacts the carp population. These bacteria are ever-present in lakes and does not impact other species of fish or humans. Aside from the clean-up of dead fish, there is really nothing else that can be done.

Plauck reassured Split that this has nothing to do with the recent lake treatment for invasive aquatic plants. In fact, he mentioned that this same thing is happening around the Chain of Lakes and other lakes in the area. Some years there are larger carp die-offs, than other years.

As far as the algae blooms, this is a common occurrence in a lake. Grayslake is completely fed with nutrient rich runoff from a watershed that is completely residential. Folks have fertilized the watershed this spring and with all the rain we have had, it is likely lots of nitrogen flowed into the lake. In addition, the ever-present geese and their nitrogen/phosphorus rich feces also do not help. All of these things contribute nutrients to the lake and create excessive algae growth. These algae blooms will eventually die off and dissipate with changing weather conditions.

Splitt and Regnier will be meeting with the Grayslake Park Foundation board and new comer, Nathan Hintz on Monday June 24 to discuss the future of the foundation, establish a board of directors and discuss new leadership.

The 30th annual golf outing benefit supporting SRACLC will be taking place on Monday, September 23rd at Hawthorn Woods Country Club. The outing will be a tournament style start again. The tee times are 11:20pm and 11:30pm. Board Members should let Splitt know if they can attend.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing will be taking place on Thursday, August 1st at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club. Board Members should let Splitt know if they can attend.

Splitt has been working to finalize the decennial local government efficiency report for the district. She is hopeful that we can have our 3rd and final meeting of this committee in July prior to our board meeting and officially approve the report. Mark your calendars for 6:30pm meeting on July 17th.

Splitt will be meeting with representatives from ATYB, the Round Lake Park District and Avon Township to discuss the future of Avon baseball and updating our property use agreement. Avon baseball complex is owned by all 3 entities: GLPD, RLAPD and Avon Township. Numbers have decreased with Avon Baseball and they are looking for additional help and financial resources for their program. Splitt will keep the board posted if anything significant comes out of this meeting.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Regnier stated that Summer Camp 2024 season is off and running. Day Camp and Sports Camp are both moving towards their camps max capacity with 90 campers daily. Teen Sports Camp averaging 35 campers daily at the Middle School. Adventure Camp is located at Woodview School for ages 5-7 and is averaging around 100 campers for the first few weeks of camp. Staff have continued to give parents a variety of camp options, such as weekly or daily options and they can select if full or half day works best for their schedules for children 5 years and older.

The 10th Annual George Weinert Fishing Derby was successful with 131 pre-registered fisherman, 86 walk ups in attendance along with many supporters. The event received financial contributions from 2 sponsors: Better Homes and Gardens and the

Weinert Family. Our sponsors make it possible to provide t-shirts, breakfast, raffle prizes and trophies. The event remains a free family event for all ages to participate.

The golf course has been very busy with 1,752 rounds of golf played. June begins the season of Jr. Golf Camps at the course. Upcoming golf tournament is our Red, White, Blue Tournament which has been a very popular tournament the past two years, and is being sponsored by Kira Cole of Edward Jones.

Upcoming Events:

- Taste of Grayslake & Fireworks: Saturday, June 29 from 3-10pm at Central Park
- Free Events at Central Park Performance Pavilion: July 11, Gina Gonzalez at 6pm; July 14-Grayslake Community Band at 10:00am; and July 19, Jason Kollum Juggling show at 10am.
- Birdie Buddies will be Thursday, August 29 from 5:00-8:00pm at Grayslake Golf Course

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Parks.

- On June 5th, the grand opening of Jones Island playground took place.
- Two new swings were added: An expression swing and a harnessed toddler swing
 - The crew installed two signs to help compliment the park: Interactive Communication Panel for children who are non-verbal and our sign thanking park sponsors

Over the past month, the crew has been working on field improvements to some of the ball fields around town and at Alleghany.

- Turface was added to aquatic softball, aquatic baseball, old central softball and falcon to help further condition the dirt which will help rain water soak in more quickly.
- Alleghany field two had the batter's boxes edged and crushed limestone added.

In the upcoming weeks, Thrifty Nickel Handyman will sand and stain the Golf Course, Central Park Performance Pavilion, Central Park Concessions, and Alleghany Concessions.

Two weeks ago, the window in the upstairs classroom was replaced due to the inability to close anymore given the buildings age. We are also in the process of getting quotes for the windows in Kris's office, Shelly's office, and the two windows in the conference room.

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated that Revenue and Expenditures are as expected for the end of the fiscal year. It's possible more will be reported after the audited numbers are available.

Negotiations are underway for a new payroll Human Resource Information System, Paycom.

Ryan announced the July 17, 2024 Park Board Meeting will be at 7:00am.

MOTION: by Deal to adjourn at 7:30pm. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:30pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners