

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BLUE ISLAND PARK
DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS HELD MARCH 1, 2022, AT 7:00PM

Call to order: 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Ochoa

Roll call of Commissioners: Michael Powers, Vincent Franchetti, Michael Sinde and William Ochoa

Commissioners Absent: Brandon Richardella

Staff / Others Present: Executive Director Theodore Ruthenberg, Director of Operations Octavio Carbajal, Director of Recreation Joshua Edwards, Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Ken Bereta and Minutes Secretary Karen Zielinski

Public Comments: None
** Public comments are welcome. All comments should be kept to 2 minutes to assume time for all to speak.*

Additions or Revisions to the Agenda: None

AGENDA:

1. **DISCUSSION** – Department Updates.
 - a. Department reports were reviewed. Front Office - Rental pricing. 2022 rentals opened in October 2021 with an increase to picnic pavilions. Other increases would have to be made prior to the start of the new season.
 - b. Baseball parks need to be worked into the maintenance schedule. Outsourcing lawn maintenance has been reviewed in the past, cost is the main obstacle at this time. Looking into what is common in the industry. Memorial, Centennial and Hart would be target parks for this.
 - c. 127th Street fence update. Once the weather is stable and ground thawed, the panels will be installed.
 - d. Upper Pavilions roof needs repairs. Structure is 25 years old, original builders were out of New York.
 - e. Other large projects are pool heater and Memorial Park field house boiler. Director Ruthenberg said that the park district currently has no bonds out and would investigate a bond for the larger projects. Infrastructure has not been a top priority in the past, this needs to be corrected.
 - f. Recreation Department: Joshua Edwards updated the board regarding basketball that is currently running and the baseball and soccer seasons that are quickly approaching. Rec Center calendar needs to be updated by the 15th of the month. Commissioner Sinde asked regarding online marketing and if is increasing enrollments or decreasing. All agree that marketing needs stay consistent. Recreation goal for next couple weeks is to go through all storage areas and organize equipment and remove broken and outdated equipment.
 - g. Job descriptions are currently being worked on for the upcoming festivals. Establish a plan for each event. Searching for sponsors for baseball and other programs, focus will be on local businesses. Commissioner Ochoa suggested a letter be sent to all Blue Island businesses to encourage sponsorships for sports and festivals.
2. **DISCUSSION** – Summer Camp update. Reviewed enrollment, prices and expenses for 2021. Suggestion of have two 4-week session was made instead of the three 3-week sessions. Budget for camper shirts and supplies will be worked on. Updating of fees will be considered, last increase was in 2018. Would like to bring Blue Island fees up closer to the surrounding district fees. Many other camps do not offer daily swimming, which is a plus for our district. Camp director is waiting on Chicago Public School district calendar to held plan camp dates. Question on capping number of campers was also addressed.
3. **DISCUSSION** – Summer Camp update. Reviewed enrollment, prices and expenses for 2021. Suggestion of have two 4 weeks session was made instead of the three 3 week sessions. Budget for camper shirts and supplies will be worked on. Updating of fees will be considered, last increase was in 2018. Would like to bring Blue Island fees up closer to the surrounding district fees. Many other camps do not offer daily swimming, which is a plus for our district. Camp director is waiting on Chicago Public School district calendar to held plan camp dates. Question on capping number of campers was also addressed.

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4. DISCUSSION – Festival review.

- a. Dragon Boat. Double Play has agreed to be one of the food vendors and has agreed to run the beer tent. One other vendor was approached, but no firm commitment yet. All vendors will remain in the city parking lot. Agreement that \$150 will be charged for each vendor and letter of approval has been sent to the City of Blue Island. Question regarding selling tickets was brought up, park district is short of volunteers and staff at this time, may not be feasible. Carnival companies are booking early, getting harder to find companies that would have available equipment. Boat pricing has not changed, still looking at 20 teams. Event logistics will be reviewed.
- b. BBQ on the Hill – Options for music, vendors, and possible carnival rides to be added. Looking for suggestions on bands.
- c. Skate Park. Suggestion for adding an event for the skate park was given. Details to follow. Commissioner Powers suggested meeting next Friday, March 4th.

5. DISCUSSION – Hours for Main Office: Closed on Saturdays since September. Getting more calls for programs and rentals from people who cannot come in prior to office closing. This will also bring up the whole hiring aspect. New hours will start on March 12th.

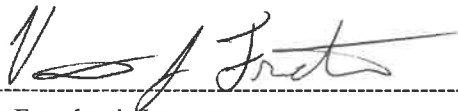
6. DIRECTORS REPORT:

- 1. Recreation: Magic class will be held on March 2, 12 children enrolled. March 10th is the free St. Patty's craft class, 20 children enrollment. Ice rink is about to be broken down. Was used more this year than the last couple of years. Several posts were shared to Facebook.
- 2. Centennial Park field house needs to be painted. Would like to open back up for rentals. Commissioner Sinde asked regarding the use of the bathroom when the Centennial pavilion is rented. There are dedicated bathrooms near pavilion
- 3. March 19 will be the annual snowman burn at the Blue Island Library. Park District will park will have an information table and tent set up.
- 4. Untouchables. Organization's banner has been removed from the fence on 127th Street. They also have equipment in multiple storage areas and needs to be removed and returned to the Untouchables organizers. They will be given a certain amount of time to remove equipment, but it needs to have it removed from park property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Motion adjourn the Committee of the Whole was made by Commissioner Powers and seconded by Commissioner Sinde. All aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Approved



Vincent Franchetti, Secretary
Blue Island Park District

4-19-22

Date