

Minutes

COMMISSION:	Recreation	DATE:	January 22, 2009
MEETING:	Regular	CALLED TO ORDER:	7:38 PM
QUORUM:	No	ADJOURNED:	9:15 PM
ATTENDANCE:		PRESENT:	Commissioners Cavanagh, Forman, Rosley, Dwyer and Girsch; Recreation Director Pekarek Eric Peterson (Public Comment)
		ABSENT:	Commissioner Gallagher; Trustee Liaison Thorsell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Girsch called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Peterson, Glen Ellyn resident, suggested the use of Village Links for cross-country skiing. Eric shared his cross-country experience at Arrowhead Golf Club (Wheaton Park District). His family had a wonderful time at Arrowhead and felt that Glen Ellyn could provide the same quality experience at the Village Links. Skiing is free if you have your own equipment; however, adult skis are available to rent for \$10.00 a day. He contacted the Park District Executive Director, who was willing to share their experience with Glen Ellyn. He said that the Wheaton Park District viewed cross country skiing more as a way to attract people to Wheaton than to make money. Matt Pekarek summarized research into cross country skiing that he conducted in 1980. That study concluded that there was not enough snow fall or interest in the sport to operate a cross country ski program without incurring a loss. Discussion ensued. Commissioners voiced several concerns, including the lack of snow in many years, safety issues related to the storm water detention ponds, a lack of benefit to the golf course during a period of economic difficulty, and the fact that several quality cross country ski options already exist in the immediate area. Some Commissioners indicated that they could support allowing cross country skiing in a limited area away from any ponds. No one indicated support for an extensive program that would include renting ski equipment and grooming trails. Matt Pekarek, noting that his research was done over 20 years ago, said that he will touch base with people at area golf courses and park districts over the next several months to see if anything has changed with respect to cross country skiing and report back to the Commission.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Cavanagh moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Rosley. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forman moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Dwyer. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING REPORTS

A. MANAGER REPORT

Matt Pekarek reported that December financials indicate the year finished on a positive note. Discussion occurred regarding the impact the economy may have on upcoming golf season. Matt reported that many courses are predicting a decline of approximately 20% for the upcoming season. There is a concern that business from non-residents will be lost. Matt is finalizing this year's plan with the assumption that it will be business as usual; however, a plan B is also being created.

Chairman Girsch reported that the Swingin' Set Ladies 9-hole league is full and that membership in the 18-hole league is up. She felt that the Village Links' website is attracting new members.

Commissioner Rosley suggested that non-residents may play the Village Links less as this might be considered a luxury item. He also suggested that people might not have the free time to play as in previous years. Matt responded that if price becomes an issue, they might experiment with lowering prices at certain times. Also, if there is little traffic on the course, the plan is to react as needed, reducing services but remaining functional.

V. CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

As referenced in the Public Comments section of this document, Matt Pekarek will further investigate the possibility of using Village Links for cross-country skiing in future years.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Rosley stated that he missed the holiday party because the newsletter announcing the party was received four days after the party. He suggested that future newsletters be sent out three weeks earlier than the current schedule. Commissioner Girsch suggested that newsletters be converted to PDF (Adobe Acrobat) and sent via e-mail. This would eliminate the delay in newsletters being delivered via U.S. mail and still provide recipients the opportunity to print the newsletter if necessary. Matt Pekarek mentioned that the Holiday Open House was promoted in an email blast that went out before the event and was listed on the website. He said that the post office had assured him that the newsletter would be delivered before open house. He will pursue several options including mailing earlier and use of a mailing service.

Commission Dwyer inquired about the outstanding bond issue. Matt Pekarek responded that the bonds carry a fixed payment of about \$340,000 a year through 2023. 30% of the payments have been made. \$4,800,000 in principal and interest is owed through 2023. There are no administrative fees and the bonds can be paid off early. The bonds paid off in 2008 carried an interest rate of 3.6%. The interest rate gradually increases to a high of 4.45%. We are not looking to retire any bonds early at this time. Our investments are in a secure State of Illinois pool earning minimal interest.

Extensive discussion occurred regarding the permanent time drawing system and the number of prepaid green fees required to enter the drawing.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cavanagh motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM, seconded by Commissioner Forman. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Karen Korabik

Revised by: Matt Pekarek, Recreation Director 2/11/09

Approved by the Recreation Commission 2/18/09