Minutes of Chester Park & Rec Commission:

Monday, May 21, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

Motion to accept the minutes from April 17th was made by John Saunders; 2nd by Linda Carlson; All in Favor

In Attendance: Linda Carlson, Kristin Dean, Paul McAndrew, Tom Enright,  Dawn Saunders, John Saunders, Aaron Page

Absent: Keith Lundgren

Directors Report:

1. Summer Program/Cedar Lake Update
   1. Staffing
      1. Tyler Saunders returning as on-site Camp Director.  Tyler is responsible for overseeing the camp on a day-to-day basis for the 5 one week sessions of Chester Parks and Recreation Summer Camp.
      2. Many returning staff members, including: Abby, Kyra, Jackson, Reece, Jack, Chloe, Will, Cooper, Erin.  New staff include Lilly, Owen, and Kenny.
   2. Policies/Procedures
      1. Some logistical changes to Cedar Lake including: a)  Moving the lifeguarding hours from 10a-6:30p to 10a-5p.  This allows for 3 lifeguards to work a 7.5 hour shift instead of 6 lifeguards working a 4.5 hour shift.  Generally this will alleviate schedule distress and save the department money by eliminating approximately 4.5 man hours from each day = $75 per day  b) Camp staff working the entire week ONLY at camp instead of floating back and forth with lifeguarding one day, camp the next, etc..  This allows for more consistency with the children and easier communication amongst the staff.
2. Chester Elementary Ball Fields/ NQP
   1. PTO Shed installation update and Bounce House plan 5/26/23
      1. Zoning permit accepted and issued. Shed to be placed on opposite side of porto potty from existing little league shed.  Must be 5 feet from the fence (overgrown with bittersweet vine).  PTO to place 10x14’ 5”of ¾” crushed stone base for the shed to sit upon.  Delivery estimate is week of June 12th.
      2. Bouncy Houses to be at infield on Friday May 26th from 10a-1p, staffed by parents from CES community.  Requesting one commission member to be present.
   2. Lawn Science maintenance CES and NQP
      1. Crabgrass/fertilizer/weed control completed for NQP
      2. Chester Elementary spray was postponed due to Spring Music Concert. I’ve also asked them to spray for Poison Ivy underneath the bleachers.
   3. Status of NQP Path?
      1. Funds were spent out of the capital budget for a NQP Boardwalk survey.  I’ve reached out to John Williams for more information.
3. Current Programming and Fall Programming Ideas
   1. Lacrosse program on 4/26 from 1-3pm had 23 students attending for a total of $460
   2. Body Weight Burn class= 4 registrations;  ends June 1st
   3. Yoga= 28 registrations; ends May 23rd
   4. FALL IDEAS:
      1. Recdesk implementation- online portal that gives residents one place to: find information on programming, register for programs, see how many spaces are left for a particular program, etc.  Both Deep River and Essex P&R Depts use Recdesk with great success.
      2. Programming ideas:
         1. NO COST Bridge, Mahjong, Bingo, Cribbage, Board Gaming, etc.. at the Town Hall 2nd floor meeting space.  Start with one or two weekly options during the day (10am-11amTuesdays Thursdays for example) with drop-ins welcome.
         2. NO COST Weekly Walkers during the day, meeting at North Quarter Park.  Options include walking path at NQP, down to Carini Preserve and back, or to Laurel Hill Cemetery and back.  Potentially Mondays, Wednesdays at 10am.

Next meeting is September 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Motion to close the meeting Tom Enright; 2nd by Linda Carlson, All in Favor

Dawn Saunders, Chairwoman