

CITY OF BERKLEY
PUBLIC NOTICE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M. OCTOBER 10TH, 2024 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Present: Mike Kerby, Melissa Hammond, Betty Smith, J.D. Otto, and Dan Terbrack

Also, present: Dan McMinn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved by Daniel Terbrack, support by J.D. Otto

APPROVAL OF 8/8/24 MINUTES: Approved by J.D. Otto, support by Dan Terbrack

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Program Updates

- Yoga has been a big program, roughly 20 people per class.
- Have a 4-session class DNR Hunter Safety course, which sold out quickly (25 people).
- Teaming up with Huntington Woods Parks & Recreation and were able to help them get the numbers they needed to run the Pistons Academy (30 people). Will continue partnership moving forward.
- Bobby Green is looking at doing Saturday programming in the morning.
- Senior events are going well. They just went to Westview Orchards yesterday, and took 22 seniors to the Detroit Princess River Cruise, which included a lunch.

2. Event Updates

- Touch-A-Truck was successful. Dan thanked DPS and DPW. DPW took the lead on the event.
- Halloween event at Oxford Park taking place tonight. Amanda is doing a great job with all of the events.
- Christmas movie event details are in progress.
- Winterfest is February 1st.
- Dan Terbrack commented there was a good turnout to concerts events over the summer.
- Mike noted his overall appreciation for the events put on by the Parks & Recreation Department.

3. Community 1 Update

- At our last Parks & Recreation Board meeting, we learned the City had just communicated that nothing was moving forward with Community 1 at that time, but the parties would continue to work together.
- They continued working together and have come up with a plan to re-do the field. It will be a natural turf and the work started yesterday. They will add drainage, and new sprinkler system. Deadline to complete the work by 11/30/2024.
- There is a collaboration between Parks & Rec, Berkley School District and Dad's Club. A permit system will be put in place, and the permits will come with a cost. \$35K per year for 5-years, with a 3% annual increase for Dad's Club and Berkley School district.
- The city has established an enterprise fund for the field. All monies raised go into the enterprise fund to be used toward the field.
- The city has paid for construction up front. City maintains ownership of the field.

- Goal is to have a separate project to update bathrooms and concession stand. Looking into costs.

4. City Manager Search Update

- On Monday, City Council unanimously selected Crystal VanVleck, pending a background check and successful contract negotiations.
- Ms. VanVleck is currently the Deputy City Manager of Community Services in Oak Park. Dan noted she has done a lot of work with their Parks & Recreation Team in Oak Park.
- The Berkely Parks & Recreation staff were able to meet with each candidate for 45 minutes (each candidate was able to tour with each city department).
- The Parks & Recreation team is looking forward to moving forward with Crystal.
- Tentative start date for Ms. VanVleck is 12/2/24.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Dan is glad to see the partnership taking place with Community 1 field. Proud of all the events that the Berkely Parks and Rec Department has had over the summer and into the fall.
- Betty is also excited about the Community 1 field updates. Would love to see the concession stand and bathroom updates.
- Melissa shared that the Friends of Parks and Recreation group, which has been running for 10+ years, has decided to pause group activity for the time being. There are a small number of volunteers for this group who have prior commitments which do not allow full attention to the group. For the remainder of 2024, the group will sponsor the remaining Parks & Recreation events that they have in the past, and use their remaining bank account balance to purchase a bike rack for Oxford Park. The group does not currently have a projected restart date; however, hopes to resume at a later time (once there are enough people to help support the needs of the group).
- Dan can't thank the Friends of Parks and Rec group enough. The Parks & Rec team appreciates everything they have done for the department in the past and are looking forward to the group getting back going.
- J.D. noted that everything feels very encouraging. Programming has been great. Looking forward to having Saturday events.
- Mike really appreciates all the events, and is excited about the city manager.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 12, 2024