

West Suburban Special Recreation Association

July 12, 2022

Zoom Meeting conducted from

WSSRA Offices

2915 Maple Street, Franklin Park

MINUTES

- I. Chairman Jackie Iovinelli called the **meeting to order** at 4:02pm those present included:

Mike Sletten, River Forest Park District
Sandy Lentz, Park District of Oak Park
Jackie Iovinelli, Park District of Forest Park
Dan LoCascio, Park District of Franklin Park
Ted Gruber, Elmwood Park

Greg Stanczyk, Veterans Park District
Nicole Collier, Village of North Riverside
Sandy Fejt, Berwyn Park District remote
Ron Malchiodi, Village of Riverside
AnneMarie Flaherty, Norridge Park District

Others in Attendance:

WSSRA staff: April Ryan, Annie Hart, Marianne Birko,
WSSRF, Geri Estvanik

Not in Attendance:

Village of Harwood Heights EA
North Berwyn Park District EA

- II. **Approval of Agenda** Lentz/Fejt motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.
III. **Approval of the Consent Agenda** Malchiodi/Lentz motioned to approve the Consent Agenda including the May 10, 2022, Minutes, Financial Report & Disbursements. Roll call vote showed 10 yes votes, and the motion was approved
IV. **No Public Comment**

- V. **Under the Foundation Estvanik, a Foundation Board member and resident of NBPD reported, The WSSRF is currently focusing on three upcoming events:**

Event 1 The Foundation and WSSRA completed a successful In-person Derby Gala which took place on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub in River Grove. It featured special presentations, Cup & Ad Sponsorships, Cash Raffle, and the Silent Auction. We topped out at our highest profit margin of \$52,000, biggest year yet! Thank you all for your support and participation.

Event 2 The John Lannefeld Memorial Bocce Tournament to be held On September 10th at the Village of Elmwood Park's. WE are excited to be collaborating with them again this year. Plan to get a team together and join us!

Event 3 WSSRF will welcome back the in-person "Fallin for Our Stars" Casino Night at the Cheney Mansion on Friday October 14, 2022. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us. The Foundation will have their first in person meeting on Monday, July 18th to continue their planning for these events. **The Foundation Board of Directors thanks for your continued support.**

- VII. **Under Committee Reports**
A. **No Report**

- VIII. **Unfinished Business**

A. Acceptance of the 2021 Audit by Lauterbach & Amen

The 2021 annual audit was reviewed at the May 10th board meeting by Courtney Clement partner with our audit firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP. **Sletten/Fejt motioned the Board accepts by roll call vote, the 2021 Annual audit as presented by Lauterbach & Amen. Roll call vote showed 10 yes votes, the motion was approved**

B. Park District of Forest Park Building & Land purchase Update

Iovinelli updated the WSSRA Board of Directors on the Park District of Forest Park's land purchase agreement. They have secured the perimeter of the property and will begin demolition once the current lease is up September 30th. Property development and discussions of a capitol campaign have begun with the board.

C. WSSRA Vaccination Policy Update

Based on the Governor's vaccination mandate being lifted WSSRA staff are recommending the required vaccination/testing policy be lifted. It can be reinstated if the Governor's Order changes. Note, WSSRA will continue to have procedures in place for masking as needed. **Gruber/Fejt motioned the WSSRA Board of Directors lift the required vaccination/testing policy be based on the Governor's order being lifted. Staff can reinstate if the Governor's Order changes. WSSRA will continue to have procedures in place for masking as needed. Roll call vote showed 10 yes votes, the motion was approved**

D. No other

IX. **Under New Business:**

A. **2022 -2023 Lease Agreement with School District #84** Lentz/Malchiodi motioned to accept the **2022-2023 District #84 Lease Agreement which includes a 7% increase due to the December 2021 CPI. Roll call vote showed 10 yes votes, the motion was approved**

B. **No Other**

X. **Under Correspondence-** No comments

XI. **Under Board Reports – Fejt reported the Berwyn Park District's** summer camps are moving along and they are busy working at keeping the parks in order and hiring staff. They started their summer concert series in the park which all are enjoying. Mark your calendars if you can give a few hours and volunteer for the Kaboom playground build in collaboration with the school district and CarMax. The build will take place on August 2-4 at Freedom Park. **Gruber reported the Village of Elmwood Park's** summer is having great success selling over 1900 pool passes both digital and printed formats. Putting the final changes on the skate park including special flooring and outdoor lighting. Of course, Bocce is booming with 120 teams outdoors and thirty-two teams indoors. They are excited to support WSSRF/WSSRA in the upcoming tournament in September. **Iovinelli reported the Park District of Forest Park "Where Every day is a Walk in the Park"** has had some speed bumps. They had a major rule change with Aquatics and only Forest Park residents or pool pass holders are allowed in the pool after the major incident that took place at the pool in early June. They believe the greater pool demand has been created by the Chicago Park District not opening their pools. Forest Park also chose to postpone their July 4th fireworks show to manage the potential crowd control with everyone in the surrounding area cancelling. Notice will go out soon on the re-scheduled date soon. They are currently going to bid on the rebuild of the two pocket parks and are excited to announce they are one of the OSLAD winners and will be rebuilding the third park as planned. The Splash pad project continues with a hope for an end in sight in August. Plan to join Forest Park for some great 16" Softball at the National No Glove softball tournament taking place July 28 – 31. Volunteers are welcome. **LoCascio reported the Park District of Franklin Park's** camps are going great as they are back to pre-pandemic levels. Everything at the pool is going smoothly with the typical challenges with the public. They are having a great summer concert series and recently hosted their annual street party outside of the community center. **Flaherty reported the Norridge Park District** is having a great summer with the return of the movie and concert series in the park. The community is thrilled to be back. They also recently completed their 4-day Island in the City with no issues. They worked hard to collaborate with the local police with great action plans in place. They are also working closely with Norridge and Harwood Heights police to host the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2 to support youth in the community. Norridge is also proud to announce they passed the Pool Referendum which is a major move forward for the community. Next steps include getting community input on the pool design phase, going to bid with a plan in December with construction scheduled to begin in August of 2023 with the Grand Pool opening planned for June of 2024! **Lentz reported for the Park District of Oak Park** is also having a busy summer. The CRC project is moving along on schedule working towards a ribbon cutting at the end of March 2023. They hosted an unplug Illinois event last Saturday with a series of free events throughout the community.

Their pools are busy too and they are very proud to announce their lifeguards received a 2nd place recognition from the second Ellis Lifeguard audit. A tremendous achievement by their pool and lifeguard staff. Festival Theatre opens with Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale" and the Frank Lloyd Wright running race registration opens shortly. They are also hosting a job fair tomorrow in hopes to fill some of their vacant positions. **Sletten reported the River Forest Park District's** Summer is moving along. They are finalizing everything with WYND and the village, they will be sending out a request for qualifications for land design services, looking at design projects for some of our parks, and are also planning an inclusive playground at Washington Commons. They will be sending out a community survey in late fall and are currently updating their Strategic plan. Sletten invited everyone to their Annual Food Truck Rally event taking place on August 27. All are welcome! Collier **reported the Village of North Riverside's** summer camp is in full swing with 6 weeks completed and 3 more weeks remaining. They too are close to pre-covid numbers. The community is enjoying their summer concert series with 3 complete and one left on August 4. They will also be holding a Car Show on July 21st as well. They successfully hired a Youth Coordinator, who is assisting with camp and preschool. They are currently also focused on completing their Fall book. **Malchiodi reported the Village of Riverside** is enjoying an increase in their pre-covid camp numbers thanks to the collaboration with District 96. They too are still hiring summer staff but have made it through the surge of July 3 & 4th events. They will be hosting a Cruise Night on July 21st. Their concert series continues, and they will be hosting their Triathlon on August 20th. The Village of Riverside hosted WSSRA at the Scout Cabin for a successful June BBQ and are excited to host another event with WSSRA in the Fall as well as other collaboratives that are planned. **Stanczyk reported the Veterans Park District's** campers helped celebrate the ribbon cutting at Bataan Park. Renovations include ADA accessible playground and pickle ball court. Their Fall Program guide went to print as they are gearing up for fall registration. Their Music and movie nights on Wednesdays continue through mid-August and they are currently hiring a full-time lead pre-school teacher that is DCFS certified.

XII. **Executive Director's Report-** Birko Reported

- A. **WSSRA Derby Gala Final 2022** The Derby Gala 2022 was an enormous success! The transition to the new venue; D'Agostino's went perfectly, the staff was wonderful to work with, the weather was perfect, and the food and drink were delicious. All reports from the 130 guests in attendance was they had a wonderful time! Despite the lower attendance numbers, we report our largest profit in the 21 years running the event, \$52,565. A special thanks to all our partners for your continued support.
- B. **Director attends NRPA** Birko will be attending the National Recreation and Park's Association Conference September 20 – 22. She has not been to NRPA since 2018. For your information Birko will be extending her stay by taking some vacation days at the end of the trip at her own expense.
- C. **Recognition of Joe Modrich's Retirement** will take place at the September 13, 2022, Board meeting.
- D. **Staff Training updates** In light of the recent tragic events, WSSRA is currently reviewing the Safety Manual and updating the procedures and will train staff further based on these changes.
- E. **Staff Report: April Michalski reported**
 1. **Program Highlight** WSSRA offered a new program in the winter, Dobbins Theater. We had eight participants registered for the program, the group developed and preformed a short musical production based on the movie Grease. The program was a tremendous success, and the participants did an amazing job. The production can be viewed on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BNbuWgv6uQ>.
 2. **Summer Programs** Summer program are underway and run until July 23, we have approximately 215 participants and family members participating in programs and special events. WSSRA

cancelled three programs *Healthy Start, Wildcard Wednesdays and Club Wellness* due to low enrollment.

3. **Summer Programs** Summer program are underway and run until July 23, we have approximately 215 participants and family members participating in programs and special events. WSSRA offered two overnight trips in August. We cancelled one trip due to low enrollment and we have 10 participants registered to go to Camp Henry Horner on August 12-14. Participants will have to opportunity to participate in archery, team building activities, lake activities, swimming, climbing wall and more!
4. **Day Camp** WSSRA has completed Session 1 (3 weeks) and all as gone well, Session 2 began on July 5 and goes until July 29. We have 95 different participants participating in Summer Day Camp and Community Cruisers and have a waitlist of 28 participants for session 2. We are continuing to interview staff to hire and remove more participants from the waitlist.
5. **Special Olympics** WSSRA has 12 athletes competing on the Special Olympics Regional Bowling Tournament on July 23 at Stardust Bowl in Addison. We have 14 athletes competing in Special Olympics Golf Skills on August 2 at Springbrook Golf Course in Naperville.
6. **Staff Updates:** WSSRA is hiring seasonal staff for all summer positions, if you know anyone who might be interested, please direct them to apply on our website at www.wssra.net.
7. **WSSRA is hosting the ITRS Softball Tournament** on Sunday, July 17 at Veteran's Park in North Riverside and is seeking volunteers to help with scorekeeping. Anyone interested can reach out to our Staff Manager, Maria Losselyoung at marial@wssra.net.
8. **Inclusion** We currently supporting 73 participants in 230 inclusive programs and day camps. Please note any requests coming in will take a minimum of two weeks to secure staffing. Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we navigate through the staffing shortage together.
9. **Special Events**
 - a. **Bunny Bonanza** WSSRA is hosting a Spring family event on April 2 at North Riverside Recreation Center. Participant and will enjoy games, crafts, face painting and a visit with the bunny.
 - b. **Family BBQ at the Cabin** WSSRA is hosted a family BBQ at the Scout Cabin in Riverside on Friday, June 24. Families enjoyed food and games, a campfire, smores and a special dance lesson from dance instructor, Sydney McNeal. Thank you to the Village of Riverside for hosting our event.
 - c. **Family Swim-** WSSRA is hosting two family swim program this summer, the first will be held at the Elmwood Park Aquatic Center on Sunday, July 10 from 10:00-11:30am and the second family swim will be held at Rehm Pool in Oak Park on Sunday, August 7 from 9:30-11:00am.
 - d. **Splish Splash Summer Bash-** Our annual pool party will be held on Thursday, July 21 at the Forest Park Aquatics Center from 6:30-9:00pm. The event will feature our Wacky Quacky Duck Splash, ducks can be purchased online at www.wssra.net.

F. Staff Report: Annie Hart, reported

1. **Transportation** We are currently transporting 59 participants daily to/from Day Camp. We are working with RichLee Bus Company, and they continue to be easy to work with. The second session has started smoothly with several changes to individual transportation needs. We are still requiring all to wear masks while on our buses. We have officially started wrapping the buses with

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WSSRA's updated logo and hope to have them all complete by the end of the month. One of the buses was in a minor accident while a staff member was transporting equipment to an offsite location. We are still awaiting the estimate of repair. Only one other staff member was on the vehicle at the time, and no one was injured.

2. **Safety** We made the tough decision to take a pause from our 22 and older camp that meets 3 times a week, due to 4 individuals testing positive for COVID-19. The camp was closed for 6 days (2 actual camp days were missed). The group will continue to wear masks until July 8th. Families were disappointed but understanding. We have had a few other campers and staff test positive throughout the summer. When this has happened, we notify families of their exposure and let them know they are still eligible to remain in programs unless they start having any symptoms. In the event they start having symptoms we ask them to remain home and to notify me asap.

G. No Other

XII. Closed Session None

XIII. Possible Action following closed session

XIV. Adjournment Sletten/Fejt moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:47pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Birko, Executive Director

mb/ July 10,22 minutes