

Village of Richfield
4128 Hubertus Road, Hubertus, WI
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Meeks called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Meeks and Commissioners Bernard, Ludovic, Murray, and Sommers.

Also Present: Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) Katherine Gehl, Administrator Jim Healy, Director of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor Brett Thicke.

Excused: Commissioners Staton and Wallenkamp

2. Verification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

ASC Gehl stated the agenda was posted at all three (3) local U.S Post Offices, Village Hall, and on the Village website. Copies of the agenda were also digitally sent to the West Bend Daily News, Hartford Times Press, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Meeting Minutes

a. January 19, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Bernard to approve the meeting minutes from the January 19, 2022 Regular Park Commission meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Murray; Motion passed without objection.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Discussion regarding a General Park Operation Report

Representatives Mr. Andy Kaul and Mr. Ryan Butzke were in attendance at the meeting and Chairman Meeks invited them to speak on their organization. Mr. Kaul noted that he and Mr. Butzke took over leadership for RYBSA/RAGE in 2020. RYBSA is a recreational youth baseball program and RAGE is a select baseball organization. Prior to 2020, these two programs were interconnected and had players from each program playing together. However, due to safety concerns, they became two (2) separate programs where the players from each program only played for their own program. Mr. Kaul spoke on the engagement of RYBSA and shared that the number of players has grown from 95 in 2019 to 187 players in 2021 and finally to 212 players in 2022. Each year there is a weekend RYBSA tournament hosted in Heritage Park which will be held on June 11th to June 12th in 2022. There are also two (2) annual RAGE tournaments in Heritage Park which will be held on May 6th to May 8th and June 24th to June 26th in 2022. Mr. Kaul noted that these tournaments bring between 1,500 to 2,000 people to our community. Mr. Kaul and Mr. Butzke praised and thanked DPW Supervisor Thicke and his crews' work on the baseball fields and other baseball facilities.

Commissioner Murray inquired if they see any impact to our local businesses on these tournament weekends. Mr. Kaul shared that these families often ask himself and Mr. Butzke for restaurant

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recommendations and they always encourage people to stop into our local restaurants and businesses while they are in town. Commissioner Sommers inquired about the growth of the program and if a majority of the players are from Richfield. Mr. Kaul shared that although it is a Richfield-based program, they do see players from area municipalities because they see a lot of cousins who like to play together who may not live in the same municipality. He also noted that because there are so many school districts in the area, there are sometimes players that come from neighboring municipalities to play with their school friends. Chairman Meeks asked Mr. Kaul and Mr. Butzke what they see as their main “need” or “want” regarding capital projects. Mr. Kaul and Mr. Butzke noted that they see updating the fencing or adding permanent netting near Fields 1 and 2 is their main concern for safety reasons associated with foul balls.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Mr. Mike Kolb, the President of the Richfield Rockets baseball program. The Richfield Rockets are currently in their 14th season and Mr. Kolb is in his eighth season as President. The Richfield Rockets have 11 teams total, three (3) high school teams and eight (8) youth teams. Mr. Kolb noted that the “home” field for the Richfield Rockets is the baseball field at Fireman’s Park; however, they do use Field 7 at Heritage Park as well. Mr. Kolb also praised and thanked DPW Supervisor Thicke and shared that the partnership that his organization and the Village has is fantastic.

Chairman Meeks asked Mr. Kolb what he sees as their main “need” or “want” regarding capital projects. Mr. Kolb noted that it would be beneficial to have a long-term comprehensive plan for field maintenance that would make it easy for the baseball organizations to reference when trying to understand the Village’s planning and maintenance efforts. Mr. Kolb also noted that the replacement of the lights at Fireman’s Park or adding of lights at Heritage Park would be very nice, but he understands that it would be a very expensive project and there could be public opposition.

Finally, in attendance representing the Richfield Soccer Club was Mr. Mike Bolcek, the Richfield Soccer Club President. The Richfield Soccer Club has existed for 20 years and this year, there are 280 players making up 29 teams. The Richfield Soccer Club hosts two (2) seasons every year, a spring and a fall season. Mr. Bolcek noted that the DPW crew is great and does a great job in the park. Mr. Bolcek shared that the Richfield Soccer Club has a long-term plan for the replacement of the soccer goals used by their organization. Each year, the Club plans to replace some goals in Heritage Park. The current goals are approximately 20 to 30 years old and with this replacement plan, they are also planning to do continued maintenance on the goals to extend their useful life even further.

Following the presentations lead by Mr. Kaul, Mr. Butzke, Mr. Kolb, and Mr. Bolcek, Chairman Meeks and the Commission thanked each of them for coming and representing their organizations.

ASC Gehl shared with the Commission that the Village is again hiring for a full-time LTE Summer Employee in the Parks Division of the DPW. Similar to last year, the Village has yet to receive any applicants for this position. ASC Gehl noted that Staff will continue to advertise this job opportunity.

ASC Gehl shared that the submission period for donating to the spring planting season of the 2022 Community Roots Program has concluded and the Village received eight (8) donations. Two (2) donors also expressed their interest in donating a tree for each planting season in the future. Since the start of the Community Roots Program, 36 trees have been donated to the Village.

b. Discussion regarding the future potential recommendation to the Capital Improvement Plan Administrative Committee for the earmarking of Park Impact Fee funds

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Chairman Meeks introduced the item and shared that due to the collection of Park Impact Fees with every new home that is built in the Village, the Park Commission has a Park Impact Fee Fund available to use to support capital projects in the Village's park system. As it stands, there is approximately \$40,000 available in these funds. Each year, there are approximately 40 new homes built who each pay \$1,139 in a Park Impact Fee, adding approximately \$45,460 to the fund balance each year. As the last capital project, the Fireman's Park Pickleball and Tennis Courts, has been completed, the Park Commission is having the discussion as to what capital projects they would like to earmark these funds towards.

To begin the discussion, Chairman Meeks stated that he would like to see these funds used to support our volunteer organizations, such as RYBSA/RAGE and the Richfield Soccer Club. Chairman Meeks is in support of looking further into the cost to extend the netting by Fields 1 and 2, as discussed by RYBSA/RAGE. Chairman Meeks also mentioned that he would be interested in having a discussion on constructing tennis courts at Heritage Park, to replace the courts that were torn down to accommodate Fire Station No. 2 when it was built. Commissioner Murray also expressed his interest in listening to what these volunteer organizations recognize as "needs". Commissioner Sommers inquired about the long-term planning for these courts and noted that she would like to look at demographic trends of the Village and see what kind of residents are using our park system and what they would be looking for. ASC Gehl mentioned that there is potential for a smaller expense to redo the basketball court at Fireman's Park, which is already located there but would need to be repaved and have new basketball hoops purchased. ASC Gehl stated that there is not; however, a Master Plan for Fireman's Park, so if any capital projects were being considered for Fireman's Park it would be helpful to have Staff create a Master Plan. The Commission expressed their interest in moving forward with beginning the creation of this Plan. Commissioner Ludovic stated that he agrees with Chairman Meeks and would like to focus our efforts at this time to supporting our volunteer organization and addressing what they see as needs.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sommers to Adjourn at 7:20PM; Seconded by Commissioner Murray; Motion passed without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Gehl
Administrative Services Coordinator