

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Call to Order

President Gunsteen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Roll Call

President Gunsteen called for roll. Commissioners answering present were: Diana Gunsteen, Theodore J. Lewis Stephen Eckelberry, Lori Palmer, Susan Stocks, Dale Ann Kasuba and Jody Fagan.

Staff members present were: Executive Director, Rita Fletcher; Superintendent of Recreation, Kimberly Dasbach; Superintendent of Parks & Planning, Kelly O'Brien; Superintendent of Business Services, Eric Leninger; Superintendent of Special Facilities, Katie Mix; Superintendent of Villa Olivia, Bobby Pierobon and Executive Assistant, Maureen Carter.

Guest: Jeff Andreasen with aQity Research

Pledge of Allegiance

President Gunsteen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

None

Finance Committee, Mr. Eckelberry, Chairperson

Ordinance 23-11 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance

Mr. Eckelberry presented the annual Tax Levy Ordinance and reminded the board of the estimate resolution that was approved at last month's board meeting. Finance committee is requesting approval and Mr. Eckelberry made a motion. Ms. Palmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Purchases Orders Between \$6,000 and \$20,000

Mr. Eckelberry recommended approval of the purchase orders between \$6,000 and \$20,000. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Kasuba. **Motion carried.**

Planning Committee, Mr. Lewis, Chairperson

Community Survey

Mr. Lewis introduced Jeff Andreasen with aQity Research who presented the Community Survey for the Bartlett Park District. Mr. Andreasen began by explaining the research methods used, the random sample that was collected, and how the sample compares to the demographic of the Village of Bartlett. Post cards were sent to a random group of residents who were invited to complete the survey online, by phone, or by requesting a printed copy that was submitted by mail. The target sample size was 300 and a total of 352 surveys were collected. Residents who completed the survey were asked to submit demographic information including region, age, gender, race and ethnicity, and whether there were children in their household. These demographic responses were weighted against the information from the 2020-2021 census data for the Village of Bartlett and resulted in a 95% confidence level. A 95% confidence level means that based on the demographic information provided, the random sample has provided a good representation of the residents of Bartlett, compared to the census information.

Mr. Andreasen continued with the results of the survey. Overall opinion of Bartlett Park District came in at 7.6, on a scale of 1 to 10. This rating is slightly lower than the survey conducted in 2014, but other questions on satisfaction had higher results than 2014. The overall satisfaction score came in higher than the statewide average and is in line with neighboring park districts. When asked how residents value the park district based on their tax contribution, the score received was higher than the score received on the 2014 survey. Respondents were asked to list strengths and weaknesses of the park district and the top response for strength was programs and community events, while the top weakness responses were programs for adults and available hours of operation for facilities.

Respondents were asked to share which parks or facilities they or someone in their household has visited in the past 12 months and virtually all respondents had visited one or more in the last 12 months. Mr. Andreasen also pointed out interesting findings of neighborhood parks that draw from all areas of Bartlett and not just the neighborhood they are located in. The most visited parks from the responses were Bartlett Park, Apple Orchard Community Park, and Beaver Pond Park. For residents who answered that they did not visit a park or facility in the past 12 months, the most common answer was that they had children who were now older and no longer participated in programs. Overall satisfaction scores for parks and facilities came in at over 7.9, on a scale of 1 to 10.

Respondents were asked about their interest in a list of several ideas for new indoor facilities including pickleball courts, golf simulator, and synthetic turf fields. The results showed that none of the ideas listed had a majority interest and all reported less than 13% over all interest from respondents. 42% of respondents were not interested in any of the ideas for new indoor facilities. Similarly, respondents were asked about their interest in ideas for new outdoor facilities including an outdoor concert space, adventure/challenge course, outdoor pickleball courts and other outdoor sports courts/fields. Again, the results showed no majority interest in any of the ideas, with the highest interest being for the outdoor concert space, and 31% of respondents answered that they were not interested in any new outdoor facility ideas.

Mr. Andreasen concluded by providing information on programs and activities that were most popular with respondents as well as how respondents got their information about the park district. The overwhelming response from residents on how they get their information on District programs and events was the printed brochure, followed by the website.

Board members responded with their take aways from the result of the survey. Ms. Palmer noted that she was surprised to learn that 62% of respondents stated they do not have children in their household. Mr. Andreasen added that the figure correlates with the census information of the Village of Bartlett. Ms. Palmer add that it was surprising to see that there was no majority response for any new indoor or outdoor facilities or fields, when the board has received requests from several groups for new facilities. Mr. Eckelberry agreed the response was surprising. Mr. Andreasen noted that the survey shows that the requests from these groups do not reflect the majority need or want from residents. Ms. Gunsteen added that it is eye opening to see that requests that do have a majority are not big price tag items and this will help the District focus funds that are available. Majority needs or wants that were discussed amongst the Board were more programs and events for adults and additional hours of operation of facilities, such as the LIFECENTER. Ms. Palmer added that over the years there has been focus on senior programs but, from the results of the survey, there is a need to focus more on adults ages 45 to 60. Ms. Kasuba was happy to see that Beaver Pond is one of the most used parks, knowing that there was initial push back from residents on that project. Ms. Kasuba continued that there were comments about dissatisfaction with Villa Olivia and feels there is more opportunities there. Ms. Palmer commented that the current outdoor patio project at Villa Olivia will allow for outdoor events there and possibly live entertainment in the summer which would appeal to the adult residents.

Ms. Gunsteen thanked Mr. Andreasen and aQity Research for an enlightening and well put together survey results report.

Building and Grounds Committee, Ms. Stocks, Chairperson
Marianne Cordell Park - Creek

Ms. Stocks informed the board that a resident who lives next to Marianne Cordell Park has volunteered to work with the Conservation Foundation to test the water in the creek that runs through the park. The resident will collect samples monthly and send the samples to be tested for levels of chloride. Staff will receive a final report showing results.

Recreation Committee, Ms. Fagan, Chairperson
Winter Break Activities

Ms. Fagan highlighted the winter break activities happening at the Bartlett Community Center and the Nature Center. These activities include School Day off Camps, Sports Camps, Kids Life Coaching, Open Gym, Drawing Workshop and Exploring Nature.

Special Facilities Committee, Ms. Kasuba, Chairperson
LIFECENTER Marketing

Ms. Kasuba explained the new marketing videos created by LIFECENTER's fitness coordinator to promote the different classes being offered. The videos have been recorded over the past two months and highlight what to expect from each class. The videos will be posted on social media and will also highlight the instructors for each of the classes.

Villa Olivia Committee, Ms. Palmer, Chairperson
Tree Removal & Planting

Ms. Palmer touched on the tree removal and planting project completed at Villa Olivia this past season. Staff is following guidance from the tree inventory report that was received from Great Lake Urban Forestry Management to help prioritize what trees to remove from the course due to the conditions and risk level of the trees. A chart was provided of all of the trees that have been removed as well as a chart of new trees that have been planted.

Personnel Committee, Ms. Palmer, Chairperson
Illinois Equal Pay Act Amendment

Ms. Palmer summarized the new amendment to the Illinois Equal Pay Act that requires employers to include certain information in job postings. While the District typically includes this information in its postings already, Mr. Leninger and his staff will monitor any further guidance that is released and ensure job postings remain compliant.

Community Relations and Legislative Issues Committee, Ms. Gunsteen, Chairperson
Public Input Meetings - Playgrounds

Ms. Gunsteen shared that Staff and Upland Designs will be hosting a public input meeting to get input from residents on the three new playgrounds the district will be building in the spring. The meeting will be held over Zoom at three separate times, one for each of the parks. Signs will be posted at each park, Firefighters Park, Schoppe Park, and the Eastfield Property, with information on how to participate in the input meetings. Ms. O'Brien added that signs will be posted soon at each park, staff is expecting the banners to arrive in the next day or two.

Old Business
None

New Business
None

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Gunsteen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Eckelberry made a motion, and Ms. Palmer seconded. **Motion Passed at 8:49 PM.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on December 19, 2023.

By: Rita Fletcher

Rita Fletcher, Board Secretary