

**VILLAGE OF SUSSEX
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
6:30 PM TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
SUSSEX CIVIC CENTER
N64W23760 MAIN STREET, SUSSEX, WI 53089**

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Chairman Bob Fourness, Chuck Vojtas, Trustee Ron Wells, Mike Waltz, Nadine Coenen, and Kelly Tetting

Members Excused: Chris Kostka

Staff Present: Park & Recreation Director, Halie Dobbeck

2. Consideration and action on minutes from the June 20,2023, meeting.

Motion by Vojtas, seconded by Waltz to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

3. Tree Preservation Easement for Hidden Hills

Dobbeck presented Gilbertson's memo regarding the request from Michale and Sharon Hilgart, N75W23862 High Ridge Ct., for removal and treatment of trees in the Tree Preservation Easement. Motion by Fourness, seconded by Coenen to approve the plan as presented.

Motion Carried 6-0.

4. Parks and Open Space Plan Review of Chapters 1-3

Dobbeck provided an initial recap of the process thus far in the Park and Open Space Plan and then introduced Robbie Robinson of the South Eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to overview the chapters. Chairman Fourness requested that the project involving the daylighting of the Sussex Creek by Kneiske Dr. be added to the plan.

5. Coldwater Creek Park Plan

Dobbeck provided a brief overview of the June 20th neighborhood meeting and then presented the rendering of the park utilizing the feedback from the neighborhood meeting which included the addition of an accessible gaga ball pit.

A motion was made by Fourness and seconded by Tetting to suspend the meeting rules and allow for public comment.

Motion Carried 6-0.

Dave Johnson

W230N7945 Bluebill Drive.

Expressed concern about sand in the gaga ball pit.

Dobbeck explained that the bottom of the gaga ball pit is rubber matting with holes so any sand in the pit should fall through and not cause an issue.

Matt Kamenick

W231N7902 Martin Ct.

Feels that the addition of the gaga ball pit meets all needs by keeping the sand and added gaga ball. Suggested stone blocks be put around the sandbox to add seating to the area.

Greg Bodensteiner

W231N7866 Martin Ct.

Was not sure how much kids will use a gaga ball pit.

A motion by Fourness, seconded by Tetting to resume meeting rules and suspend public comment about the park.

Motion Carried 6-0.

Dobbeck stated the intention is to complete this park's updates Fall 2023 but may need to finish some items up in Spring 2024.

A motion by Vojtas, seconded by Trustee Wells to recommend to the Village Board the approval of the Coldwater Creek Park Plan as presented.

Motion Carried 6-0.

6. Comments from Citizens Present

John Barnes

Representative for the Sussex Cardinals Baseball Club that plays in Village Park

Barnes complimented Parks and Recreation staff on always being accommodating to field concerns. Barnes is concerned about the lack of allocation of resources to the fields, especially the Hardball Diamond in Village Park. Barnes stated that SLYBA used over 50 times this season, Jr. Chargers over 50 times, and the Sussex Cardinals 10 times. It was impossible for the Cardinals to make up rainout games because the field was booked solid – their rainout make ups had to happen in other communities. Barnes said that due to conditions of the field, they almost lost the ability to host playoff games. Barnes said that staff were able to get things ready for the playoffs and they were able to hose. Barnes stated that the biggest issue is that the other clubs do not know how to maintain the mound, and it needs to be better cared for. Barnes ended by stating that building fields is a present need, not something that can be done down the road.

7. Park & Recreation Director's Report

-Fall registration opened for Residents on Monday August 7. This is the largest registration enrollment week we have seen in the department. Spooky Sussex has a capacity of 1,800 tickets this year and only has 300 spots left.

-Nancy A. Whalen Trail in Prides Crossing has been successfully base-mulched using the trees we took down this past winter.

-The Eagle Scout working on the Armory Park Dugouts has started the installation phase of his project. A1 and A2 dugouts will have shade very soon.

-Melinda Weaver Construction is progressing nicely. The contractor has a few items to finish up prior to completing this park project. We are hoping to open in September and have the courts remain open play for the duration of this season. We will announce on our website and social media when the park is open for play.

-We're working with the Pickleball Advisory Committee on a restructure of rec-offered pickleball programming for 2024 to accommodate more players and provide opportunities for skill growth for new and loyal Sussex Rec players.

-We had a successful ball field rental season with a few teams still practicing a bit yet. With little to no rain all season, the parks team worked incredibly hard to prep fields every single day.

Additionally, we hired a summer seasonal who did weekend ball preparation to lessen the burden on our on-call Park staff and their weekend responsibilities.

-We hired a cleaning company to clean the Grove on Friday nights between Day Camp and weekend rentals. We believe this worked incredibly well and aided in “flipping” the building between two different high uses. The Grove collected over \$16,500 in rental fees this summer. Dobbeck also Provided a 2024 Budget Update as a part of the report.

8. Topics for Future Agenda Items

Waltz requested that we explore field expansion with the school district and understand if that’s a possibility. Waltz also asked for a ballpark figure for a new ball park build.

Tetting requested to know the cost of a turf infield.

Fourness requested to know how to address the Village Board about ball field needs and substantial funds for updating fields or a timeline for building new fields. Fourness also asked for a “birds eye view” of the Capital 2040 plan and where the village is at with land acquisition.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Waltz, seconded by Vojtas to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Halie Dobbeck
Park & Recreation Director