

Effingham Park Board Meeting

December 7, 2022

6:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 6:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Mike Cunningham, Vice-President
Jason Semple, Commissioner
Angie Kronewitter, Commissioner
Kevin Palmer, Commissioner

Jeff Althoff, Director
Anita Broom, Treasurer
Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary
Leah Ritter, General Manager
Workman Sports Complex

Absent: Russ Sehy, President

Roll call was taken by Vice-President, Mike Cunningham, with the regular meeting beginning at 6:30 pm.

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the secretary's report for November was made by Semple; second Kronewitter; all ayes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Anita Broom, reviewed fund balances for the four months ending September 30, 2022. Corporate Fund year to date net income is \$187,259.41 which is higher than at this time last year partly due to the contribution of \$69,087.02 that had been held by the Community Foundation for the pickleball courts. Pool Fund year to date net income is a negative \$14,086.74 which is in line with last year's net income at this time.

A property tax distribution of \$811,239.04 has been received from the county.

The following bills for the month of November greater than \$100.00 were reviewed for payment.

Barlow Lock and Security	\$5,285.00	Fire Equipment Service	430.13
Thoele Plumbing, Inc.	1,940.00	Burford Electric	597.91
Bahrns's Equipment	4,361.93	Lorenz Supply	632.98
South Central FS	1,677.17	Fred Biggs Electric	185.25
WEX Bank	1,324.35	Great America Financial	173.01
Crossroads Truck Equipment	1,181.51	Menards	755.52
BSN Sports	1,197.38	Effingham Equity	391.52
Capital One Bank	1,658.91	Great America Financial	115.50
Capital One Bank	4,651.88	Rural King	458.72
Roepke Overhead Door	110.00		

The payment of \$5,285.00 to Barlow Lock and Security is for automatic locks on outdoor restrooms to keep them locked at night which will hopefully discourage vandalism.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills was made by Palmer; second Cunningham; Four Ayes/No Nays.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Passage of Tax Levy Ordinance #302

Board members reviewed information presented at the November meeting regarding the proposed tax levy ordinance for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2022, and ending April 30, 2022. The sum to be levied is \$1,425,314.00.

A motion to accept and adopt Tax Levy Ordinance #302 in accordance with what was approved last month was made by Semple; second Cunningham; Four Ayes/No Nays.

Workman Sports Complex Report

Leah Ritter, general manager, said she is happy to report that memberships have significantly increased in November.

Current Regular Memberships:	1600	October 2022:	1459
SS/Prime Memberships:	173	October 2022:	171
Suspension (Frozen):	64	October 2022:	52
Total Members:	1837	October 2022:	1682

Guest Passes:

\$2.00 guest passes were sold November 21st – 23rd. A total of 4,815 passes were sold.

Fitness:

November class attendance breakdown follows:

- Aqua – total weekly offerings 14 or 58 for the month
Attendance total for the month – 661 versus 578 for October
- Studio 1 – Land total weekly offerings 14 or 58 for the month
Attendance total for the month - 383 versus 375 from October
- Studio 2 – Spin total weekly offerings 4 or 21 for the month
Attendance total for the month - 85 versus 43 from October

Aquatics:

November swim lessons were full. November lessons breakdown as follows, 0 Parent/Tot; 9 Level 1; 13 Level 2; 8 Level 3.

Workman Basketball League:

The K & 1st grade league ended the regular season on Tuesday, December 6th.

The single elimination tournament is Saturday December 17th. K & 1st grade had 120 participants. Last year this grade group had 90 participants.

Pickleball League:

The first pickleball league ended with a tournament on Thursday, November 17th. Twenty six people participated in the league. Plans for another league will be at the beginning of the year.

In the Works:

Workman Basketball League (2nd & 3rd grade)
Pickleball private lessons, leagues, and tournaments
December Swim Lessons
Holiday Gift Certificates
2023 Marketing Plan

Ritter expressed her concern over the rise in expenses to operate the facility. As an example she said \$10,000.00 was spent on pool chemicals last month and Lorenz's charges for products have risen significantly. She noted that revenue is not keeping up with expenses, especially revenue received from insurance companies for silver sneaker members. Last year the facility had 160 silver sneaker members. Averaged among all members only \$6.00 per month was received from each member. This amounts to \$72.00 received from each member for the year, and a total of \$11,520.00 for all members for the year. Insurance companies only pay when cards are swiped. If members do not swipe their cards the facility receives no payment for their membership.

Board members questioned whether the facility can afford to continue offering silver sneakers memberships. A possibility would be to offer a \$25.00 monthly membership charge to seniors. Semple said this should be Rink Management's decision. The park district is caretaker of the building. Rink Management is manager of the business. Board members agreed that it is imperative to increase paying memberships for the facility to survive. It was noted that many people have expressed their love for the complex and want it to succeed. If it is decided that a change should be made, the first of the year would be the best time to start. Ritter said she has submitted an ambitious marketing plan to Rink Management.

Director's Report

Dog Park

Althoff said 90% of the fencing for the large and small dog parks has been completed. City workers helped install concrete at each entrance. Dogs will be able to start enjoying the parks by the first of the year.

Harmony Playground

The playground is open year round. In order to cut down on vandalism to the restrooms in the pavilion near the playground door locks have been installed with automatic timers set to open at 6 am and close at 6pm. These locks have also been installed at the restrooms near Paul Smith Field at Community Park. Maintenance employees are doing regular patrol of these areas. Cameras have been placed at Harmony Playground and the pavilion.

Althoff said over 2000 people took advantage of the special night to walk through the beautiful Effingham Wonderland in Lights on the road around the south end of Community Park.

A motion for adjournment at 7:20 pm was made by Kronewitter; second Cunningham; all ayes.