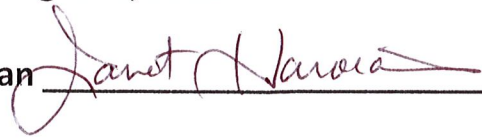


**Recreation Arts and Special Events
Board Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2021**

Approved Signature: /s/ J. Haroian

 9-7-21

By Approval Date:

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Janet Haroian. The meeting was held in person at City Hall. Members in attendance at City Hall were Janet Haroian, Charles Schmidt, Jeanette Mallon, Lauren Szakielo, Josh Fark, and Suzanne Weiss.

Parks staff in attendance at City Hall included Nate Tingley, Canee' Brown, Trina Vetter, and Trevor Spohr. The Police Department was represented by Lt. Mike Lybarger. Event representatives for Whitley's Wishes Softball Tournament were also in attendance.

- II. Minutes read from July meetings – Motion to approve by Charles Schmidt and seconded by Lauren Szakielo. Approved by Janet Haroian

III. Events and Facilities Requests:

- a) **Edwardsville Wrestling Club 5K Race: Retracted**
- b) **Whitley's Wishes Softball Tournament:** Representatives were present from Whitley's Wishes to discuss the softball tournament they would like to bring back to Vadalebene Softball Fields this year. Present was Christy Jennings, mother and President of Whitley's Wishes. The softball tournament will be held on October 1, 2021 to October 3, 2021. The event will run similar to how it had in the past. This 3-day event will include out-of-town teams, food, beer, and merchandise sales. It is in honor of their daughter Whitley who fought hard against Childhood Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). Christy discussed the impact they have had on the fight for DIPG Research and how they have also helped local organizations with their fundraising including Edwardsville Park and Recreation. They have donated to scholarships in dance and continuing education plus Edwardsville Parks and Recreation softball field playground, catcher equipment for the softball team, and over \$50,000 in DIPG research. It was reported by Edwardsville staff that the fields are not rented for anyone else and Whitley's Wishes group has Basset trained volunteers. They will be putting in a request for waiver of fees through the city after their event is approved.

A motion for approval was brought forth by Charles Schmidt and seconded by Josh Fark. It was approved unanimously.

IV. Recreation Report

- a) Spohr gave an update. Youth Softball season is complete.
- b) Youth sand volleyball is in the middle of 2nd session. The Olympics stirred interest.

- c) NFL Flag Football 8U division is complete and the feedback was superior. They are hoping to transfer this same group and the environment to the basketball season.
- d) Men's Adult Softball is finishing up due to so many rainouts. Co-ed is also finishing.
- e) Spohr and Brown are preparing for a 2-day pickleball tournament in September.
- f) Pickleball Tournament has 85 registered and they have a 150 goal. There are 17 different townships represented.
- g) Fall sports is gearing up with
 - (1) Youth Kickball Tournament in October
 - (2) Youth Rugby instructional based league
 - (3) Adult Softball, Cornhole, and Kickball leagues
 - (4) Adult Mud Volleyball Tournament is still recruiting teams.
- h) Plummer Park is slowing down between seasons. Glen Ed will start tryouts and practices on August 4th and SLYSA on August 6th.
- i) Splash Pad is switching to their school season schedule. It will be staffed with a splash pad monitor and concessionaire 2:00 to 8:00 on Fridays, 10:00 to 6:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. The rest of the time from 9 AM to 8 PM, water can be accessed by individuals when they push a button on the splash pad.
- j) Future programs planned are youth and adult basketball NBA program and a 1-day tournament in February.

V. Program Report

- a) Trina Vetter reported on events and activities in July. Yoga in the Park is continuing with an average of 16 participants each Saturday morning at LeClaire Park.
- b) Arts in the Park series continues to be a well-received program with the Children's Art in the Park series completing the season on Saturday, July 30th. The rain kept people away but it was a lot of fun. Their numbers increased each Saturday with 102 families, 176 children from 17 communities. They averaged 40 children a week (the last week of 12 kids lowered that average from 45 children a week prior to that).

Concerts in the Park has concluded except for a rainout date that will come in September. The average for the four July shows was 370 people.

Movie in the Park was the new summer movie, Raya and the Last Dragon. Heat and the late start for a July movie kept attendance to about 125 people. Summer Symphony was postponed to September due to rain

Opera Edwardsville was relocated from the bandstand to the library due to rain. It was a big success, as well.

Municipal Band started its season late due to COVID restrictions and how they impact playing instruments. They started with their July 1st concert and have been well received since.

- c) August events were discussed. Movie in the Park – “Tom and Jerry”, St. Louis Shakespeare in the Park – “Othello” and the continuation of the symphony and Muni Band.

VI. Directors Report

- a) Nate Tingley, Director, discussed the process of the upkeep of the pool located at SIUE. They are doing a fill test to check for leaks. The first day they found it was going down 7.5 inches a day. They resealed the shallow end seams. Darin will do a dive-dye-seam test to see that the seams are holding steady. If we choose not to open the pool, SIUE will permanently close it. Glen Carbon has not stated their plans on the partnership. This is an older facility and our staff is trying to figure out the issues ahead of time. The pool has never operated a profit. The question is if we would rather open it at a \$50,000 a year loss or build a new one at a cost of 4 million when most aquatics operate at a loss unless they can bolster a swim team.

- b) The Fountain at City Plaza was overflowing into the streets. It was a sensor issue and fixed.

Fountain at City Park was built in 1998 and within 4 months was having issues. A few of the lights are not working correctly. The timer was keeping the fountain on overnight and not running the majority of the hours that people are driving by. Staff Laborer, Eric, rerouted the system and bypassed the timer. 80% of the fountain was working with 30% of the lights. Looking into the cost of fixing the plumbing, stonework, and electrical. Thoughts are that it might be better to just replace at about \$100,000.

- c) The RP Lumber CENTER has chosen Chiodini Design Team to do the design and specs for the RFQ on the facility including the JSC Teen Center. Signage will also go out for bid.
- d) The Watershed Nature Preserve and Little League are both operating on City-owned land without a Usage Agreement. That is something that is being corrected now.

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Harolan adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.

The next meeting will be September 7, 2021

Minutes submitted by: Trina Vetter