



Park & Recreation Commission

Monday, August 1, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Evansdale City Council Chambers



1. Call to order: 6:00, all present except David.
2. Approval of the August 1, 2022 agenda: Motion by Rick, 2nd by Joe, motion carried.
3. Approval of the July 11, 2022 meeting minutes: Motion by Ron, 2nd by Joe, motion carried.
4. Approval of the bills and authorization to pay: Motion by Rick, 2nd by Joe, motion carried.
5. Reports
 - a. Dog Park (Elk Run Days Aug 13th): There will be a fundraiser at Elk Run Days. Gaming grant letter of intent filed, approval expected in October.
 - b. Disc Golf: Tom and Mike continue to clear brush, seeding will happen this fall with a full opening next spring.
 - c. Park Maintenance: Boat ramp to be repaired with in the week.
 - d. Campground Maintenance: We had a laundry dryer coin box break in. Old parts are not available. We need to convert to propane. Short term estimated cost \$150. Currently closed.
 - e. Camp hosts: Due to popular demand, long term campers requested a chili supper. Under consideration. YTD totals

including camping, firewood and cans is \$205,717. Camping fee total collection for July is \$32,900.

6. Set date and activities for Halloween Weekend at Campground: Hay ride, hot chocolate, popcorn, crafts around 2:00, costume parade and trick or treating. September 30 or October 1 for chili supper.
7. Discussion/Action - Approval of softball complex contract language and to send to city attorney for approval. Motion by Ron, 2nd by Joe to approve contract language and send to city attorney, motion carried.

Seth Gerst 400 W Main St LaPorte City

Seth grew up in Evansdale at played in EYSA. He has 6 kids and represents a group that is interested in running the program. He alleges drug use, physical altercations, intimidation tactics, and unsafe conditions are resulting in lower numbers of kids participating.

Stephanie Gerst 400 W Main St LaPorte City

Speaking for coaches, players, parents. Spoke generally about team work and being there for the kids. Stated there have been negative reactions from board members and umpires including a physical assault. Feels her comments are supported by hundreds who are willing to walk away if there is not significant change.

Bailey McCrae 103 S Jefferson Hudson

Bailey is a first year board member. She is aware of the hearsay and requests for documents regarding voting and financials. The EYSA board is

not willing to share a detailed financial document. She is aware of whistleblower rules and will not retaliate. 504 laws are in place. Bailey states only the board has voting rights, not coaches. Bailey is willing to address concerns and provide required documents.

Kathy Marvets 733 River Forest Road Evansdale

When she served on the EYSA Board, members were elected. When and why did this change to an appointed board?

Danielle Peters –Joyce outgoing EYSA President

They stopped doing elections due to low numbers of interested people willing to run for the board. No one was volunteering so there was no need for elections. Some board members were voted off the board for various reasons. John, Danielle and Diane are resigning at year end. They have 11 current members appointed to the board to continue EYSA. The current process is that existing board members nominate potential new members. Danielle was asked if there is a conflict of interest policy as required by 501C? Danielle is unaware.

Seth Gerst

Spoke again about previous requests for a copy of the by-laws.

Tom Nichols

Asked Danielle for a copy of the by-laws to see how they compare to what he has.

Mike Kubik 414 minor Evansdale

Mike is one of the original EYSA board members. The original covenant stated that coaches, assistants and board members were eligible to vote for new board members during annual elections. He walked through the diamonds and is not happy with the condition of the bleachers, fences, dugouts and fields. He does not see what, if any work is being done to maintain the facility.

Danielle Joyce-Peters

Stated the dugouts and bleachers have been repainted but there is a lack of volunteers to do more. She has personally picked and mowed weeds. She also states they have turned the aglime on the diamonds.

Mike Kubik

Mike stated he has spoken to multiple people who have offered to volunteered for diamond maintenance but were turned down. Danielle denied this happened.

Helen Taylor 660 Dawson Waterloo

Her son volunteered to work concession. She and her family volunteered at a work day but were turned away.

Seth Gerst

Jill Backes was a board member voted off after asking for fair elections, a copy of the by-laws, and financials. While discussing issues with tourney brackets Danielle screamed at someone to turn that s**t (music) off. Seth

feels everyone has a right to know what the by-laws are. Seth stated he has a group willing and ready to run an open and positive program.

DeVontae Johnson 1424 Forest Ave Waterloo

He is an active coach who just joined the board, and is there for the kids. It should be an atmosphere of family and friends, and it starts at home. It starts with coaches. He feels many coaches have the wrong attitude, and mistreats “lesser” players. Some kids are targeted and nothing is done. Bullying from player to player is common. He wants to be part of the change.

Myranda Nieman 310 Clough St Waterloo

Myranda spoke about a closed meeting where she felt attacked regarding a disciplinary action regarding her and her child.

Elaine Hammer 728 2nd Ave Evansdale

Elaine respects and appreciates the efforts of the board. There was a board member umpiring a game who got in to an argument with a coach and left the game with no umpire. Someone from the crowd umpired for the first time. There are other issues of disrespect, swearing, all with no consequence.

Ashley Lentzkow 119 Sutton Elk Run Heights

Ashley is a volunteer coach. Asked the current and potential new board what can be done to increase numbers?

Danielle Joyce-Peters

Danielle stated that since Covid, numbers are trending up.

Seth Gerst

Volunteers are turned down. The current board does not listen to or consider suggestions for improvement. Seth feels Ashley is looking for respect for the program and he agrees. He claims his board will rebuild a safe and positive atmosphere for kids to play ball. He had his JB team pick up trash after their games whether the trash was their s or not.

Tahsah Shepherd 416 Almond St Waterloo

He has been at Deerwood for 3-4 years. He was behind the scenes until his so started playing. He believes in structure and words with meaning. He was nominated and elected to the current board. Elders and others have commended his efforts and he appreciates that. He believes there is an atmosphere of fear and wants that to change. He can't speak about the past but he believes the new board will do good things.

Jan Nichols Grand Boulevard Evansdale

She has a granddaughter that played last year. There was no LG league so hear second grader had to play with 5th graders.

Danielle Peters-Joyce

Danielle explained that was due to low numbers. Since it was the first year of the change 2nd graders were given the choice of another year of T-Ball or to play with the 2-5 league. That was not continued last year or this year.

Jan Nichols

Jan also spoke about field conditions and the lack of proactive maintenance. Additional comments about a board members' son swearing with no action taken.

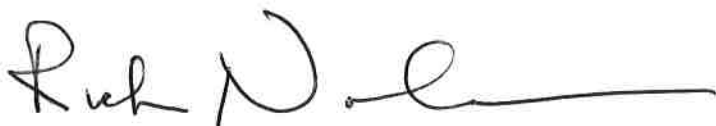
8. Discussion:

- a. TJ Stocks is interested in using diamonds 6-7 at EYSA as he has 5 baseball teams for next year. He would use portable mounds for pitching.
- b. Angel Island, we are receiving bids for the shelter and bathroom area and playground lights.
- c. The line for the 50-amp service to the Amvets shelter is defective. The estimate is \$7,000 to trench and replace. Roger will get a bid for a one pedestal 50-amp box next to the beach house to use as an emergency camp site.
- d. We have DNR documents for the sewer project. For staking the construction area we can hire our own surveyor or use theirs. Tom thinks we should use theirs. Ron will provide a name of a local surveyor he has used to get a bid.

9. Adjournment: Motion by Ron at 8:36 to adjourn, 2nd by Rick, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Nolan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Nolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.