

Cary Park District  
Board of Commissioners  
**Parks & Recreation Operations Committee**  
February 9, 2017  
7:00 PM  
Community Center  
255 Briargate Road  
Cary, IL

**Minutes**

Committee Members Present: B. Krueger, Stanko, and Renner

Guest Present: Erin Hauck.

Staff Present: Jones, V. Krueger, Raica, Hughes, Kelly, Gilroy, Kemper, and Lee.

Chair Renner called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

The minutes from the December 8, 2016 Parks & Recreation Operations Committee meeting were presented for approval.

***Stanko moved to approve the minutes; second by B. Krueger.***

Voice vote 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

The minutes from the January 12, 2017 Parks & Recreation Operations Committee meeting were presented for approval.

***Stanko moved to approve the minutes; second by B. Krueger.***

Voice vote 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Jones explained that one of the operational objectives for this fiscal year is to have staff present to Commissioners different areas of Recreational Operations. During the December meeting, Katie Tarosas presented an overview of the 2016 pool season, January Erica Hedlund presented on the preschool program, and tonight Liz Gilroy will be giving an overview of the summer camp.

Liz Gilroy introduced herself to the Board and explained that one of the main areas that she oversees for the Park District is the summer camp. She explained that Elisa Kemper has been the coordinator for the program for the last 4 years, and introduced her to the Board.

Gilroy stated that Camp ECHO stands for Explore Cary's Hidden Outdoors. The camp has been offered since 2012 and the camp begins in June and ends in August each year.

Over the past 4 years, attendance has increased. In 2013, there was a total of 1312 registrants and a total of 1,891 registrants in 2016.

Gilroy explained that of the 294 campers during the 2016 season, over half of them register using the early bird registrations. She discussed that a week of camp at the early bird rate is \$99. If a family sent their child to another day care in the area, the cost could easily be double what the rate is for the Park District summer camp.

Renner asked what our camp offers that other camps don't. Gilroy explained that the Park District camp is out in the wilderness where they can enjoy outdoor activities most of the day and get fresh air, whereas other camps are located inside buildings. It also gives them a chance to unplug and enjoy nature. She also stated that camp is offered from 7am-6pm every Monday-Friday, and parents feel comfortable leaving their children with staff for longer hours due to those parents who have commutes.

Gilroy next explained that the Park District summer camp provides inclusion and accommodation services to students. The counselors' work 1:1 as aids to those campers with special needs. The kids are not separated or excluded, rather the services and support are brought to them in order for the student to participate successfully in camp.

Gilroy then discussed camp staff saying that staff orientation is 5 days long and will run from 4-6 hours each day. The orientation includes very extensive training on services, safety, policies, procedures, first aid, CPR, and how inclusion works. During the summer of 2016, 75% of camp staff was going into or already working in the field of education.

New next summer will be the installation of a GaGa Ball Pit at the camp. Gilroy stated that Staff is excited to get this in place, because they know the kids will really enjoy this activity.

Liz then thanked the Commissioners and asked if they had any questions.

Stanko explained that he has experienced camp himself as a volunteer, and feels it is a great place where kids can be kids and still have structured activities.

Jones explained that each year he talks to camp staff and seasonal staff about how they are the staff who interact most with the community. Staff members really care about what is going on at camp, and he explained Elisa Kemper and Katie Cuciarone are vital to what goes on here. He thanked Kemper for the work that both of them do.

Renner asked the total is for camp capacity. Gilroy explained our goal is to increase enrollment, and she planned to increase by 3% which is another 55 kids, but this program has room to grow due to the capacity offered by the location. Kelly explained the limitation is that when the weather is bad, camp tends to come to the Community Center, and do they have the safety plans in place to accommodate those situations with a large amount of students.

The Commissioners thanked Gilroy for presenting and for the job well done.

*Approved*

***Stanko moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by B. Krueger.***

Voice vote: 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:34 PM.