

**Village of Holmen
Park, Recreation, and Library Committee
Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

Committee Chair Stanek called the Holmen Park, Recreation, and Library Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2020 at the Holmen Village Hall.

Present: Rod Stanek, Brandon Cain, Dawn Kulcinski, Chris McArdle-Rojo, Mike Brogan

Excused: Chris Geary, Scott Heinig

Guests: Patrick Barlow, Steve Stoczynski, Chris Lau, Adam Keer, Gareth Ferguson, Josh Genz

Motion by Cain, second by Stanek to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Adam Keer – His family is interested in ice skating, but the rink has not had ice most of the time the last few years.

Chris Lau – Also in interested in the skating rink and it just has not been available for skating.

Steve Stoczynski – Also interested in the skating rink and there are a large number of other hockey parents in his neighborhood who would like the rink to be open consistently for skating and has been disappointed in the availability of the rink.

Gareth Ferguson – Moved to Holmen over other communities because there was an outdoor skating rink and has been disappointed and there has not been any ice this year.

Library Director's monthly report: McArdle-Rojo distributed the February monthly library statistics report to the committee. McArdle-Rojo stated that the February circulation numbers were down, but Overdrive numbers are up compared to last year. McArdle-Rojo distributed the March program calendar brochure and stated that the library Lego programs are doing well and there will be a Census Day on April 1st.

Park and Recreation Director's monthly report:

Recreation: Brogan stated that the hiring for spring and summer staff is currently in progress. Brogan distributed the 2020 Spring and Summer Brochure to the committee. Brogan informed the committee that internet only registration for spring and summer programs opened on March 2nd. Brogan stated that all other forms of registration will open on March 16th. Brogan informed the committee of the recently completed programs which include: basketball, adult fitness classes, adult volleyball league, and indoor soccer. Brogan informed the committee of the upcoming programs which include: Spring soccer begins March 8th, next session of adult fitness classes begin week of March 9th (12 different classes), St. Patrick's Day Cupcakes class on March 16th, April Fool's Cookies Class on March 30th, Spring Track begins on March 30, Ballroom Dancing begins on March 31st, and Easter Cookies class on April 1st. Brogan stated that a majority of the recreation supplies were ordered in February.

Park: Brogan stated that all part-time staff are returning again this summer. All have worked 6 or 7 years for the department. Park staff are preparing facilities for spring uses.

Pool: Brogan stated hiring is in progress of the pool staff. We have a better return rate than last year, but many young staff were hired last year and the new wage scale has helped also.

The committee discussed the outdoor skating rink at Deer Wood Park. Brogan distributed reports from the winters of 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 listing the high & low temperatures, snow, and ice availability of the rink, along with estimates for three sizes of temporary ice rink borders and liners. Brogan stated he understands the public concerns about limited ice availability, but the weather has been the reason there has been very limited ice. Deer Wood park loses ice on sunny days that are in the mid-20's and up and with the concrete surface being crowned (higher in center, lower at edges) all water leaves the rink, the dasher boards do not contain the water, and the staff have to begin from scratch every time

the temperature gets in the mid-30's and up, which has happened regularly this winter and most of the last ten years. Brogan agreed that the ice has been bad, but the lack of consistent lower temperatures is the reason, as Deer Wood did have some of the best outdoor ice in the early 2000's, when weather cooperated. Brogan stated the dasher boards are bad and prior to being installed at Deer Wood Park in 1998, they had already been removed from use by two prior organizations and are probably around 50 years old. Josh Genz agreed that the current boards are bad. Brogan stated the department's proposal to have more consistent skate-able ice would be to remove and dispose of the existing dasher boards, which may cost \$2000-\$3000 for disposal, and purchase portable borders with a liner to retain the water, similar to the rink at the Rotary Lights in La Crosse. Deer Wood Park would still be the location as it has the lights, water supply, restrooms, and parking. The audience stated that a smaller rink would be ok as it would not likely be used for games, but just a place to skate, which is what they want. Josh Genz stated that the only real way to keep consistent outdoor ice is to have a roof and keep the sun off of it. Brogan agreed with Genz, but roofing the existing ice surface would probably cost \$300,000. Stanek asked Brogan to research the disposal costs and they would have to discuss roofing possibilities with Administrator Heinig as the Village has many large projects already in progress. Brogan stated that nothing was budgeted for the ice rink in 2020, but there are some undermined contingency capital funds in park capital outlay. If the board wanted to go with a portable rink, the ordering of a portable rink system would have to be done in 2020 to have a rink ready for the winter of 2020/2021. Stanek stated that no action will be taken at this time and the issue will be addressed in future meetings.

Motion by Cain, second by Kulcinski to adjourn at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Mike Brogan
Park & Recreation Director