

Deerfield Park District

Recreation Center Advisory Committee

Minutes of August 27, 2020

The meeting of the Recreation Center Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video. The following were in attendance:

Present: Steve Bierig, Amy Carletti, Jay Keltner, Caroline Pfeffer, Elizabeth Seward, Nick Snyder, Laura McCarty, Tony Korzyniewski, Tim Johnson, Chris Moilanen, James Otto

Absent: Amy Hallman, Gil Antokal, Jeff Nehila

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of February 27, 2020 with no changes or additions.

Welcome to New Committee Members

Tony welcomed Steve Bierig, Jay Keltner and Elizabeth Seward to the Recreation Center Advisory Committee.

Recreation Center Advisory Committee Expectations

Tony reviewed the expectations for the Recreation Center Advisory Committee.

General Manager Report

Phase 4 Operational Guidelines

Tony reviewed the Phase 4 Operational Guidelines that outlines program offerings, facility hours, fees, current access passes, rentals as well as safety guidelines and screenings currently in place.

Membership Plan Beginning October 1, 2020

The membership plan outlining options beginning October 1 was reviewed. There are 3 different options available: the Fitness Center Membership allows for unlimited 90 minutes time blocks for \$35; the Group Exercise Membership allows for access to all indoor, outdoor and Zoom group exercise classes for \$45; and the All Access Membership allows for full access to everything offered at the center for \$55. We will be continuing with the online reservation process.

Jay asked if staff had a sense of how often people are using the fitness center since it reopened. Tony responded that we have 46 people that have bought the Fitness Center Membership but usually about 15 people are using the center at one time. August is typically the slowest month anyway so hopefully numbers will increase as the weather changes.

Tony mentioned that there is currently good air movement in the building which was a recommendation from the CDC to improve air quality.

Amy asked if the new membership plans will continue post pandemic. Tony commented that we are moving in that direction. After completing the last Competitive Market Analysis in early 2019, it was noted that Sachs membership prices were on the low end and the decision was made to gradually increase the cost over 3 years.

Nick asked if staff knew what the competition in the area is doing. Tony responded that facilities are doing as many outdoor activities as they have space to do them. We are currently offering more fitness center use time compared to say Highland Park. Caroline commented that activities could be held in the various parks. Tim stated that he will report on what outdoor activities are being held and plans for the fall.

A letter will be mailed to all members on September 1 detailing the new membership options and requesting members notify Sachs with their option choice by September 21. We will not be charging members for the month of October to make up for the half of March we were closed that we owe members. If a member wants to cancel their membership, we will give them a credit to use at the park district or a refund for half of March. We will resume monthly billing on November 1.

Caroline asked what the plan is going forward. Tony responded that staff has talked extensively about how to get members back in the building. We understand some members are ready to come back and others may not want to come back for a long time. Single day options will always be offered. We will keep members' information in the system so when they are ready to come back the process will be easy. The facility and what we can offer is bound by the guidelines of the IL DCEO and IDPH and we will continue to be flexible and pivot programs and schedules as needed.

Elizabeth commented that she is very comfortable at Sachs and she stated that a video tour that could be posted on social media would be a great way to let people see what is being done at Sachs. Staff is in the process of creating this video and is hoping to have it completed and posted next week.

Caroline asked for a better explanation of the air flow at Sachs. James explained that compared to a typical house or restaurant, the very high ceilings and the quantity and size of the HVAC units at Sachs that more air gets circulated. James explained that HVAC units are specifically designed to condition the air that's currently in the building. Bringing in large volumes of outside air is not practical or effective. Caroline mentioned that there are systems that can be added on to an existing HVAC unit to allow for a Hepa filter or a UV light for disinfecting. James stated that we have not investigated those but certainly can if it makes sense and makes the facility safer.

Steve commented that he likes the idea of the video tour and this could help bring members into the facility.

2020 Capital Project and Purchase Plan Update

The west roof replacement project has started and should be completed in early September. In February, we replaced a commercial washer and dryer. The lobby renovation project that was supposed to take place this summer was deferred to 2021. Fitness center replacement equipment purchases were also deferred to 2021. If approved during the budget process, staff will order the items in December, so they arrive in early 2021. The 7-year capital projects and purchases plan will be updated and distributed at the October meeting.

Assistant General Manager Report

Group Exercise Schedule and Personal Training Update

With the unknown and ever-changing situation that COVID creates, staff is trying to offer what works currently with the understanding that changes might need to be made quickly. The September Group Exercise schedule will include 15 outdoor classes, 2 indoor classes and 18 Zoom classes on a weekly basis. Some formats and times have been adjusted based on feedback from patrons. Zoom classes include Pilates, Total Body Conditioning, Yoga, Zumba, Guided Meditation, Yoga Tone and Bar class. September will be more of a trial to see what works and to prepare for October. Outside classes will continue with Boot Camps, Tabata, Cycle and Yoga. We offered a free Yoga class held poolside at Mitchell Pool to see how it would go and will be adding 3 poolside yoga classes weekly in September. After reviewing the schedule and attendance, 3 various classes that weren't performing for us were dropped. We have been recording our classes and posting them on the website under Group Exercise. Sachs is creating its own YouTube channel that will be part of the Zoom pass. There will be an expansive library of classes for members to use. Staff has been researching potential locations throughout the park district to offer outdoor classes in a semi-warm environment, covered, shaded area through the end of December. Inside classes will be offered in social distanced spaces. Staff will pivot as necessary to accommodate changes in school schedules, work schedules, etc. Zoom classes have been very well received. We will be selling a class kit for members, so they have specific pieces of equipment necessary to do the Zoom classes at home. Tim is looking to reengage the 5:30 a.m. crowd and bring them back to the center. Tim commented that he would like to hear about each committee members comfort level.

For personal training, staff created 4 private studios for trainers to use. We are exploring how to do virtual personal training. There are many things to work out, but Tim hopes to be able to make it work. Pilates Reformer Training is being done outside which no one else is doing.

Tim commented that we are looking to emphasize semi-private, small group training with all the space available at Sachs.

Amy asked if the registration website could be updated to show which month members are buying a pass for before it gets to the shopping cart. Tony responded that will be updated right away.

Elizabeth mentioned that there are basketball teams looking for practice space for winter and if Sachs would consider allowing trainers and small groups to use the Bulls Gym that would be a service to the community. Tony responded that calls are being fielded from many organizations, but we are trying to get our own needs accommodated first. If space allows, we will consider these outside organizations' needs.

Facility Operations Supervisor Report

Chris reported that Sachs is trying to overcome the gym stigma by promoting all the safety precautions that the center has in place. We provide a spray bottle of disinfectant to each person so they can wipe down equipment before and after use. Then after the 90-minute block staff disinfects all equipment. Counters, doorknobs, phones and all high touch areas are disinfected on a continuous basis.

We have several groups using the center such as COHO, Rhythmic Gymnastics, NSSRA, after school enrichment classes, tennis programs, NSSED (September 8) and Loyola High School Dance Team. We have quite a bit going on so far and should grow as we get into fall.

James reported on the cleaning and sanitizing measures that have been implemented. Staff uses a product that is CDC and EPA approved that kills coronavirus in 45 seconds and other germs in 2 minutes. We also use an electrostatic sprayer to clean larger areas. When the facility is closed all equipment, surfaces and areas are cleaned with specific guidelines and staff are required to sign off that they have cleaned their area and a spreadsheet is used to track this.

James reported that all soap dispensers now have anti-bacterial soap in them.

Other Items

Tony reminded committee members that staff is always available too listen to comments and concerns.

Jay asked if it would be possible to stop in for a tour. Tony responded that it is possible just contact one of the staff to set that up.

Steve commented that everything discussed at this meeting in terms of the building and safety measures along with the video tour are the best ways to get people back to the center.

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business or additional discussion, the meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.