

Deerfield Park District

Recreation Center Advisory Committee

Minutes of February 24, 2022

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: Alan Barasky, Steve Bierig, Anne Dickerson, Laurie Gordon, Nick Solomon, Ilyse Steiner, Michael Brown, Jeff Nehila, Laura McCarty, Tony Korzyniewski, Amy Kanzler, Chris Moilanen, Sesar Botello

Absent: Jay Keltner, Elizabeth Seward

Welcome and Introductions

Amy Kanzler was introduced as the Sachs Recreation Center's new Fitness Operations Supervisor and Sesar Botello was introduced as the Sachs Recreation Center's new Lead Facility Engineer.

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

Review of Minutes

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of October 28, 2021, with no changes or additions.

General Manager Report

Current & Upcoming SRC COVID-19 Guidelines

Tony reported that the COVID-19 mask mandate is scheduled to be lifted on Monday, February 28. Masks will be optional. The plexiglass screens will remain in place at the front desk and the fitness desk. After the official word is received from the Governor, new signage will be posted, and email blasts will be sent to current members and former members that haven't unsubscribed to receive our emails.

SRC Fee Increase – April 1, 2022

A fee increase was scheduled to go into effect in April of 2020. Due to the pandemic that increase was put on hold. The Center has not had a fee increase since September 2018. An increase will now go into effect on April 1, 2022. Increases will impact all membership categories and daily open gym/open track/lap swim/open pickleball. The only category not recognizing an increase is the Guest Daily Pass. A letter will be going out to 1,400 current and former members on Monday, February 28.

2022 Proposed Capital Projects & Purchases Timeline

The district has a 7-year capital plan that is presented to the board at the annual budget meeting in November. Approved capital projects for 2022 include two new rooftop HVAC units, replacement of steam generators for the steam rooms, replacement of a hot water holding tank,

new fitness floor equipment such as ellipticals, treadmills, and conversion of cardio equipment space into general usable space. Amy will be thoroughly reviewing each piece of equipment to determine the lifespan of current equipment.

Park Board Liaison Brown asked what we do with the old equipment. Tony responded that most of the vendors provide us with a trade in allowance. There are pieces that have been on the floor since we opened that don't have much value, but some other pieces have considerable value that will help offset the cost of new equipment.

The park district will be issuing park bonds this summer. Some of those funds will be used for a facelift for the front desk and new carpeting in the west end of the building this summer. This project was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID.

RUSH PT, Chicago Sky and North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics - Updates

RUSH PT continues to be busy at SRC and have a steady schedule of clients 5 days per week. They will be increasing their schedule to include Saturdays.

We are renovating the former babysitting room for the Chicago Sky who will be renting the space for a year-round training/weight room beginning in April. The Chicago Sky is paying for the renovations. The Chicago Sky training camp is scheduled to begin on April 17, so we should start to see players in the building in early April. Also, after the Sky won the WNBA Championship, the Park Board changed the name of the Bulls Gym to the Sky Gym. We will be redoing the wood floor in the Chicago Sky logo and colors as a tribute to them.

Laurie asked what the plan is for babysitting needs in the future. Tony responded that we would use the meeting room across from the front desk. We will have rolling carts with supplies and mats that can be moved in and out so the space can still be used for other needs.

North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics is still going strong and preparing for their upcoming competitions.

Fitness Operations Supervisor Report **March/April Group Exercise Schedule**

Amy reported that we are currently offering 24 in-person classes and 13 Zoom classes. We hope to continue to expand our offerings moving forward. Amy is in the process of combining the Zoom and in-person class listings in one listing. We will continue to offer the Zoom classes and we are working on updating the Zoom offerings and will determine the rotation going forward. Amy is monitoring class attendance to utilize the data to determine adjustments that may be needed.

Alan asked if there were plans to offer live Zoom classes. Amy responded that we currently have one hybrid class that is live and Zoom, and we do have the capability to expand on these programs.

Ilyse asked if there were plans in place to expand the morning class offerings. Amy responded that she is learning the demographics and staff availability to be able to expand the class schedule.

Personal Training/Nutritional Counseling Update

Amy updated the request form to capture new information such as how participants learned about the personal training program and if they were referred by someone. Amy is working through the data on personal training to determine if there is a need to adjust rates, compensation and the number of sessions in packages. We will be hiring more personal trainers that have availability to take on new clients. Most of the current trainers are capped out.

Amy will be meeting with Kim Blum, our Nutritionist, to determine the best way to utilize her services and integrate her into our programs.

60-Day Challenge

The 60-Day Challenge is coming to an end on March 15. There are 31 participants taking part in the challenge. This is an area that will be expanded as time goes on as there is opportunity to do fun challenges based on the season and time of year.

SRC Youth Triathlon – March 12

We are offering an indoor Youth Triathlon on March 12 from 1-3pm. This is for participants 10-13 years old. We currently have 3 enrolled and have a marketing push planned next week.

Laurie asked what is being planned to recapture the members that were lost due to the pandemic. Tony responded that we have a marketing plan in place that will ramp up for spring and summer and increase even more for the fall. We are hoping that lifting of the mask mandate, new equipment and the upgrades to the facility will also help draw people back and capture people as well.

Laurie commented that she likes attending classes in-person but really likes to have the opportunity to take a Zoom class if unable to attend in-person.

Ilyse asked if there were plans to bring in more instructors to teach in-person. Amy responded that she has reached out to all instructors and discussed different programming ideas. People are getting rejuvenated, and members will see a lot of new things moving forward, but some may not be immediate.

Nick suggested reaching out to Coho and the middle schools to try to get more participants in the Youth Triathlon. Tony responded that the current Coho newsletter has a flyer for the triathlon included.

Facility Operations & Membership Supervisor Report

SRC Membership Enrollment Update

Chris reported that we have 50 Group Exercise memberships, 123 All Access memberships, 429 Fitness Center memberships and 25 Student memberships for a total of 627 active members. This is an increase of 15 members over last month and 130 members since October 2021. Our membership is steadily increasing. The mask mandate lift should help to increase the membership but certainly we will need to do additional marketing to continue to grow the membership.

Current SRC Operations Overview

We have rentals every day of the week and multiple rentals on certain days. Past rental groups are reaching out to come back to the Center when the mask mandate is lifted. We have 33 hours a week in the spring that will be dedicated to pickleball. Weekly there will be 12 hours of open play, 15 hours of rentals and 6 hours dedicated to classes. Every part of the building is being utilized on Saturday mornings for athletic programs, youth basketball, tennis lessons, swim lessons, rentals, gymnastics, indoor group exercise classes, etc. In the spring swim lessons will be offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Coho will be returning to the pool in April in the evenings. We are averaging 2-3 birthday parties per week. The difference in parties is that no one providing food. They are doing the activity and providing a treat to take home. We will have an adult women's basketball league on Monday evenings.

Upcoming Facility Events

Northshore Rhythmic Gymnastics will hold their Championship Meet April 8-10. The week of April 18 we will be doing another SRC Community Days. DHS Post Prom event will be held May 21-22.

Lead Facility Engineer Report

Sesar reported that he is busy learning the facility and the staff. He is hoping to hire some additional custodial staff soon as well as a new Assistant Facility Engineer.

Other Items

Ideas/Suggestions from Committee Members

Tony asked the committee to provide feedback on potential ideas for the facility down the road. Staff is always looking at what we can do differently, better and new.

Steve suggested taking advantage of the Chicago Sky partnership especially during this Championship year. Tony responded that the Sky has been outstanding in supporting the Center

by attending our special events but maybe a meet & greet for the membership could be an option in the future.

Alan suggested marketing the Center to birthday party attendees, open basketball players and other non-members that come to the Center.

Ilyse mentioned that with the popularity of pickleball we should continue to focus on pickleball. Director Nehila responded that recently the district identified Shepard Park as an ideal location for outdoor pickleball courts. We are in the process of going through the village process of gaining permission to build 4-6 pickleball courts this summer. Tony reported that we will be lining the SRC tennis courts with pickleball lines this summer.

Nick suggested opening wall space for local exhibits such as school children's artwork. Parents love to see their children's work displayed. Nick also suggested contacting the Deerfield Library to find out if they can incorporate our Zoom library into their own offerings. He suggested having a room dedicated to the first annual SRC paper airplane contest or a robot building event. Local businesses could support these events.

Tony asked Chris to report on a program he has been researching. Chris reported that he has contacted the Chicagoland Drone FPV, (first person view). This is a mini drone racing organization. Drone pilots wear goggles and see what the drone is seeing. It looks pretty cool and potentially something we could do.

Laurie suggested marketing the pickleball lessons on the website.

Anne asked if there are any plans for the outdoor space to the south of SRC. Director Nehila responded that the property was slated for residential properties but due to COVID the plans were put on hold. At this time, he is not sure of the status of the project but has asked the village to let us know if the plans will not be moving forward because we would be interested in using the space. Anne also suggested contacting the middle schools to promote the Youth Triathlon since track will be starting at the beginning of March. She also liked the idea of an art exhibit.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business or additional discussion, the meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.