

**Patty Turner Center**  
Members' Council  
Minutes of the May 11, 2023, Meeting

I. Welcome & Call to Order

- The meeting was brought to order by Chair Leo Carter at 9:00 a.m.
- The following were present: Leo Carter, Lorraine Clark, Sharon Harris, Lorraine Jette, John Maxson, Carol Mellem, Sid Moore, Dani Robinson, Jane Smith, Hermin Velazquez, and Mike Zelski. David Shamrock, Nicole Britz, and Laura McCarty represented the Deerfield Park District.
- The following was absent: Paul Ward

II. Approval of Minutes & Financial Report

- Minutes for the April 14, 2023, meeting were presented and unanimously approved with one change (Motion: J. Maxson, Second: L. Jette).

The following motion, discussed at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting but not offered, was unanimously approved:

*Any personal expenses incurred by Antonio Mata and David Shamrock in maintaining or improving interior flower displays will be reimbursed by the Members' Council.*

- April Financial Report: J. Smith reported that the current balance in the Members' Council Treasury is \$30,824.20. D. Shamrock reported that new personnel at the florist had resulted in a backlog of invoices, but the problem has been resolved. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved. (Motion: H. Velazquez, Second: S. Moore)
- Members Golf League Update: S. Moore reported that the golf season is well underway and three upcoming activities include the breakfast for golfers, Four Man Scramble, and Flag Tournament, all popular events.

III. President's Report

- L. Carter thanked everyone for their participation in the Open House on May 3, 2023, and talked about how successful the event was at showcasing the PTC. D. Robinson and L. Jette have volunteered to follow-up with those who attended to ensure every effort is made to recruit them as new members. There was discussion about how the atrium is a preferable location for these events (i.e., more informal and comfortable than the meeting rooms) and how a sound system would greatly improve the presentations. D. Shamrock said that a sound system would be used at the next event. L. Jette talked about

how proud she was of everyone's engagement with the crowd and the way the PTC was presented as a welcoming, friendly, and "classy" place.

- D. Shamrock read a letter from PTC member Richard Southon stating how pleased he was to be an active member of the PTC.
- D. Shamrock reported on a recent meeting he had attended with his peers from other senior community centers and confirmed that what the PTC is experiencing is similar to other centers. For example, membership dropped off drastically during the pandemic and is coming back more slowly than anticipated. Also, many of the former older/regular members have left for good and new members are joining. Some centers are experimenting with programs on more provocative topics like urban crime and other economic/social issues not previously on the calendar. D. Shamrock reported that most centers are ending Zoom coverage of meetings, even though it gives wintering members (i.e., in Florida and Arizona) as well as regular members who may be temporarily ill the opportunity to stay engaged.
- D. Shamrock discussed the use of Zoom at the PTC and proposed that the service be discontinued. Though we currently offer a Zoom alternative to attending in person, only a small number are currently taking advantage of it. After a discussion, the following motion was unanimously approved:

*A Zoom alternative to attending PTC meetings in person will be discontinued on July 1, 2023. (Motion: H. Velasquez, Second: S. Moore)*

#### IV. Membership

- D. Shamrock reported that active membership totaled 550 members with 36 new members arriving so far this year. The goal for 2023 is 130 new members.
- D. Shamrock reported that 7 new members have been added so far in May.

#### V. PTC April Programming Highlights

- N. Britz reported that the Theater D has moved to the new theater at Caruso Middle School and will not be using the Patty Turner Center. Successful PTC programs included a presentation by Illinois Bone and Joint Institute and Whitehall on "Modern Treatment for Hip & Knee Replacement," the Park District's Volunteer Recognition Night, the Hummers & Strummers "Strings are in the Air" Ice Cream Sundae Buffet, the "Queen of Soul" Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra excursion, the Deerfield Public Library "Warm Words of Spring" poetry reading, and "The Story of Smokey the War Dog." N. Britz reported that an actual comfort dog made an appearance at this last program.

- J. Maxson proposed that the Members' Council consider special recognition for Steve Jackson, who has stepped up to lead the Hummers & Strummers, thereby continuing one of the Patty Turner Center's signature activities, started by Mrs. Turner herself and sustained by Anne Myer and Linda Trytek. During the pandemic the group was disbanded and then floundered due to a lack of leadership.

The following motion was passed unanimously:

*The Patty Turner Center Members' Council deeply appreciates the time and energy that Steve Jackson has contributed to reestablish the Hummers & Strummers ukulele band, one of the historic signature activities of the center. The group is a tangible legacy of Patty Turner, who, after a trip to Hawaii, introduced a group of friends to the ukulele and founded the group. Mr. Jackson's hard work to reinstate the group following the pandemic demonstrates his commitment to music performance, providing audiences with quality entertainment, and the camaraderie members of the group enjoy. (Motion: J. Maxson, Second: J. Smith)*

#### VI. Upcoming in May

- N. Britz reported on Jim Kendros' "Spring Solstice" concert, the Patty Turner Center Antique & Classic Car Show, the Champagne Brunch with pianist Saori Chiba, and the Chicago Showcase featuring "Salsa, Cha, Cha, and Charanga" with Los Perros Cubanos.

#### VII. New PTC Program Offerings

- N. Britz reported on several new programs being planned for the fall, including a writing program, a meditation yoga program, a square-dancing program, and craft classes. There was general discussion about each of these new opportunities.

#### VIII. Closing Comments

- L. McCartney gave a report on Park District activities focused on getting ready for the summer. Opening Deerspring Pool (June 3), Mitchell Pool (June 10), and the summer day camps are priorities. Longer term, the northern section of Jewett Park will be refurbished and the new facility will include a youth activity called a Gaga Pit (a game like dodge ball played with a soccer ball in an octagonal enclosure).
- L. Carter opened the floor for other discussion:
  - D. Robinson reported on a disturbing conversation with someone she knows who characterized the Patty Turner Center as unfriendly and cliquish. There was discussion about this and everyone was reminded

to avoid any activity that reenforces this attitude. We need to be engaging with non-members, extra friendly to new members, and strive to make new members feel that they are a part of our community.

- D. Robinson reported that the front desk isn't always "manned" and when it is, the person behind the desk isn't always welcoming and engaging. There was discussion about the challenge to have a person at the desk all day and how a new person, Kathy Rucci, is extremely friendly and helpful. D. Shamrock and N. Britz said that they would work on the issue but feel very comfortable that the work Kathy is doing goes a long way toward making a strong positive first impression for members and visitors.
- L. Clark suggested that members of the Council should "mix it up" when we are at activities where new members might enjoy engaging in conversation with and being invited to sit with established members. All agreed.
- L. Jette let everyone know that she would be having knee replacement surgery on June 12 and may be less active due to her recovery. Members of the Members' Council wished her well, look forward to staying in touch during her physical therapy, and look forward to her return.
- The President's Closing One Liner for the Day: "Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon goals."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Maxson, Secretary, May 11, 2023.