

**Burr Ridge Park District
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Burr Ridge Park District was called to order at the Burr Ridge Community Center at 6:35 pm by President Quigley.

Present: Caplis, Lawrence, Malloy, Paulius, Quigley
Also present: Jim Pacanowski, Director
Lavonne Campbell, Superintendent of Recreation
Members of the Public

Approve August 9, 2021 Agenda

Item VIIA, New Business, Discuss Harvester Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project, is being moved to after Item IV, Correspondence, in order to accommodate members of the public in attendance.

Approve August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Caplis moved, seconded by Malloy and approved by roll call vote to Approve the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Caplis, Lawrence*, Malloy, Paulius, Quigley Nays: None Abstain: None

Approve August 9, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Caplis moved, seconded by Malloy and approved by roll call vote to Approve the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Caplis, Lawrence*, Malloy, Paulius, Quigley Nays: None Abstain: None

OPEN FORUM

Beth Jankowski, 223 Chaucer Ct., Willowbrook, representing the BRWB Little League, notified the Board that the Little League had a great season and it was a good start to the first season of Little League in the past 5 years. Ms. Jankowski also asked the Board to formally relinquish the T-Ball program over to Little League.

Pacanowski responded that program decisions are made at the staff level, and not the Board level and that Mark Pasqualini will be reaching out to Ms. Jankowski to discuss the T-Ball program in coordination with Little League.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further added to the written report.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Harvester Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project

Pacanowski confirmed to the audience that the Village of Burr Ridge is a separate entity from the Burr Ridge Park District and that the Village does not have input on any decisions on programs or decisions relating to the Burr Ridge Park District.

Pacanowski, as Director, collects relevant facts and relays them to the Commissioners in order for them to make policy decisions.

In addition, 65%, approximately 7400 people, of Village residents are residents of the Burr Ridge Park District whose taxing borders are approximately between Madison Street and County Line Road. Pleasantdale Park District occupies the portions east of County Line Road. The Village Center is not within the Burr Ridge Park District boundaries. If a person is unsure of which park district they are a resident of, they can verify it on their tax bill.

The Burr Ridge Park District currently has the lowest tax rate in the region at 20 cents, which includes debt. The normal tax rate is 40 cents. There is currently no option to increase this rate short of going to referendum.

Pacanowski stated that the Burr Ridge Park District does not make facility development decisions based on what other park districts have done and at times may do the exact opposite because that feature is available at a nearby park district.

Pacanowski stated that funds are currently spoken for and the park district just recently elected to refinance debt to obtain \$1.7 million which is supposed to last the next 10 years. When this expires, it is likely that refinancing will need to occur once again.

Pacanowski stated that there is \$80,000 to \$100,000 earmarked for the 2022 resurfacing of the tennis courts which will be brought down to the gravel and which uses the existing fencing.

Pacanowski stated that staff is aware of what the Pickle Ball community is looking for and understands the rising popularity of the sport. There are currently 3 pickle ball striped courts which are lightly used.

Tennis popularity is also on the rise and the tennis courts have never been used more than the last two years. They are being used and are busy. It is not an accurate statement to say that the tennis courts are not being used at the Burr Ridge Park District.

There is a small morsel of property which remains undeveloped at Harvester Park. There are two possibilities for pickle ball courts at Harvester Park.

One is to replace an existing tennis court over to a permanent pickle ball court. This is only feasible at Harvester Park as Stevens Park does not have parking available, nor does Woods Pool.

The other option is to develop the small morsel of land between the bollards of the west lot and the Com Ed station at Harvester Park. There could be 4 pickle ball courts

placed in a linear line. The Board has received a packet of information on the potential cost to build the 4 courts on this property at a cost of approximately \$250,000. Copies will be passed to the audience.

Quigley asked the audience for comments and gave parameters for speaking.

Joe Petrich, 8700 Wedgewood Dr., Burr Ridge, stated that he has lived in Burr Ridge for 31 years and began playing pickle ball 2-1/2 years ago which changed his life. Mr. Petrich recently retired and stated that Pickle ball is a great game for people of all ages, is good exercise, and courts are being put in all over the area because people desire to have pickle ball courts available. Mr. Petrich stated that whatever the park district decides to put in place for the pickle ball courts, it has to be done well enough in order for people to want to come to play on the courts. Mr. Petrich stated that high school tennis courts are not used on the weekend and asked if that is something that could be looked into to be utilized for pickle ball.

Bill Voight, 166 Foxborough Place, Burr Ridge, USAPA Pickle Ball Ambassador, asked why has pickle ball gotten so popular? Because there are more places to play. There are courts being put in at Darien, and currently in at Western Springs and Hinsdale and they all help grow the sport. Burr Ridge Park District is amazing and you won't find the features at the Burr Ridge Park District anywhere else which has made it relevant. A park district that doesn't have at least 4 first class pickle ball courts will become irrelevant. Pickle ball is not tennis. There is an app used to notify pickle ball players where to meet for play. There are approximately 250 people in the pickle ball group meet that will tell them where to meet up to play. Park districts don't have the opportunity very often to change people's lives and to make how they live their lives differently than they did before, but that is what pickle ball is doing. It is a healthy and active sport and affords the opportunity for socialization. Pickle ball creates and brings a community of hundreds of people together especially in times of need for emotional support.

Vito Abbate, 1513 Evergreen Ct., Darien. stated that he became involved in pickle ball with about 20 other individuals and started a group called Pickle Ball Pals of which there are now about 250 in the group. Pickle ball is not meant to compete with tennis; you show up with a paddle, but even if a person does not have a paddle, they are up next in the game. Mr. Abbate retired a few years ago and states that pickle ball is also a social activity. Playing pickle ball with a group has evolved into also playing golf, having dinner and socializing together. Pickle ball is a community and affords socialization opportunities along with exercise. It has been proven that people live longer because of eating well, and exercising but it is also because of socialization. Mr. Abbate stated that consideration of expanding and adding pickle ball courts at Harvester Park would make a difference in people's lives by expanding the opportunity to play pickle ball and thanked the Board for their consideration.

Caplis asked if Darien already has pickle ball courts.

Mr. Abbate stated that Darien will be reconfiguring the Community Park and will be taking out 2 tennis courts and installing pickle ball courts and has offered the use of the indoor gym at 75th and Fairview for pickle ball as well. The demand for pickle ball is greater than the supply.

Bill Voight stated that Darien has also submitted a request for an OSLAD grant. They are also looking at a facility to put in 4 additional courts.

Gerald Sendra, 219 Cascade Drive, Indian Head Park thanked the Board for their work.

Lawrence asked the pickle ball community what the disadvantage of multi use courts is.

Bill Voight stated that there are disadvantages to a multi use court and most people don't like to use them because of the time it takes to put up the nets and the confusion of the multiple lines for tennis and pickle ball and that they have to compete with tennis players. Multi use courts are good for new players or beginners to use. Until there is a permanent pickle ball court available, it will still be used as an interim.

Susan Wagner, 8355 Fieldcrest Avenue, Willow Springs, stated that 3 years ago she played on the Harvester Park tennis court to play pickle ball and the courts were not in the best condition and they have not returned to play on that court.

Pacanowski responded that the tennis court is 20 years old and has been limping along and has been maintained to keep it in playable condition, however, that is why it is in the budget for resurfacing down to the gravel. It has been overdue and is a good example of deferred maintenance due to low funds and tied into the \$1.7 million refinancing.

Lisa Erickson, 137 Kraml Drive, Burr Ridge, stated that having pickle ball available during COVID has saved people from putting on added weight and allowed people to play a sport all winter long. Pickle ball is not meant to replace tennis, however, it is a good sport for people who are aging as a substitute for tennis in addition to the great camaraderie.

Kerry O'Connor, 231 S. Wilmette Avenue, Westmont, USAPB Ambassador, stated that dual use vs. fixed use courts have a lot of lines even if they are color coded and the lines start to blur together and there is a lot of visual noise. When the tennis ball is traveling at 50-60 mph, the fault lines are blurred on dual use courts and it is not ideal for tennis play. Additionally, the set up and take down of nets for dual use courts takes time away from play. Other suburbs that have dedicated courts have become destinations; everyone wants those courts and it is much more preferable to the pickle ball community.

Paulius asked if there is waiting for play at a dedicated pickle ball court.

Mr. O'Connor replied there is more draw of people to fixed courts at Brook Park and North East.

Bill Voight asked if a wait for a court is viewed positively or negatively by the Board.

Paulius responded that the question is being asked as it is unknown how many people will be waiting for how long at a dedicated court.

Mr. Voight responded that if there are 24 people playing, there may be 10-20 waiting, but it does move quickly.

Malloy asked for verification that waits are not for an hour as tennis players have to wait for tennis.

Mr. Voight responded that it is not like tennis where waits are typical for an hour. Pickle ball moves quickly, paddles are put in place for their turn in line and it moves quickly.

Joe Petrich added that there are few occasions that there are tennis players seen playing as it is usually pickle ball players.

Linda Jones, 7 Hunter Ct., Burr Ridge, stated that the pickle ball design in Mexico was rigidly designed. There is one tennis court in Western Springs that was converted into 4 courts which is are slightly smaller, however, they are acceptable to play on. Turning a tennis court into 4 pickle ball courts at Harvester Park would come within the budget.

Joe Petrich asked if the existing lights that are located at the tennis courts can be utilized and allowed for pickle ball play in the evening and can be taken advantage of.

Caplis asked Pacanowski if there was an expansion in the west property, would there be lights available.

Pacanowski responded that lights would not be available at the west end property, but would be available at the tennis court area. In addition, Pacanowski asked what the parameters for minimum spacing requirements for the courts would be.

Mr. Voight responded that 8 feet would be best, 7 would be ok, 6 is tight, 5 is terrible.

Pacanowski responded that assuming there would be a fence separating tennis and pickle ball, what would be the sideline spacing requirement be.

Mr. Voight responded that 6-8 feet, with 6 minimum.

Pacanowski asked if people know about a 4 court pickle ball facility, how many cars on average would be at the facility on a weekend and a weekday and for how long.

Mr. Voight responded that it would be 2 hours and about a dozen cars.

Pacanowski responded that the number of cars in the parking lot at this evening's meeting is representative of a typical weeknight. Would there be the same number of cars for pickle ball on the weekend as there are on a weeknight.

Mr. Voight responded that there are fewer cars on weekends.

Caplis stated that the park district is landlocked, with everything built out. If the Village were to require additional parking spaces, there is no land to add them.

Caplis asked what the typical size of a pickle ball court would be.

Mr. Voight responded that a 6 court size is 100 x 100.

Pacanowski added that this is close to the existing tennis court footprint.

Caplis added that there is a fire hydrant, mounds of dirt and other obstacles at the potential west lot site.

Pacanowski responded that all obstacles have been factored into the drawing of the packet given to the Board. There are potentially large power lines and topography issues, however, this is the only space available that will potentially fit pickle ball courts at Harvester Park.

Linda Jones encouraged the Board to look at the Western Springs courts, even though their courts have minimum spacing.

Pacanowski stated that a 6 foot spacing for pickle ball court is too tight.

Paulius asked if resurfacing the tennis courts is a better option for pickle ball.

Pacanowski responded that it would be 1 tennis court and the other tennis court would be reconfigured for pickle ball.

Linda Jones stated that the preference would be for single use (dedicated) pickle ball even if the spacing was minimum as opposed to a dual use pickle ball/tennis court.

Pacanowski will look at the potential of 4 pickle ball courts on the footprint of 1 tennis court.

Malloy asked if there are more pickle ball courts in the area with lights.

Mr. Voight responded that there are not.

Caplis asked if the pickle ball community prefers a lighted court.

Mr. Voight responded that a lighted court would be preferred.

Caplis asked for dollars and cents to convert 1 tennis court to pickle ball with lights as opposed to 4 pickle ball courts on the west end of Harvester Park.

Pacanowski responded that he is skeptical that there can be 4 courts on 1 tennis court footprint. If it were able to fit 4 pickle ball on 1 tennis court, and 1 tennis court on the other, it should not stray far from the current budgeted amount.

Caplis asked if the swale to the south will be an issue.

Pacanowski responded that moving the fence will be required and it is not known if the swale will be affected.

Caplis asked if this would fit, can it be done for \$30,000 more than the budgeted amount.

Pacanowski responded that for 1,000 square feet that amount is approximately correct.

Caplis asked Pacanowski to crunch numbers to estimate cost.

Pacanowski will also see if this can be accomplished without adding the 1,000 square feet.

Lawrence stated that pickle ball is growing in popularity and asked how often the tennis courts are utilized at Harvester Park. If the tennis court was removed at Harvester, can all tennis be moved over to Woods Pool.

Pacanowski responded that if everyone arrived separately the volume could be handled, however, convenience to Harvester Park is an issue, as well as parking at Woods Pool. In addition, people usually prefer to be at Harvester Park, as it is the hub.

Caplis added that people bring their child to a Little League game, playground, or practice and then go over to the tennis court and play. It would be inconvenient if all courts were moved to Woods Pool as there is nothing else at that facility. There needs to be at least 1 tennis court at Harvester Park.

Pacanowski added that there are those that are using the tennis courts that are coming just for tennis. In addition, it is not a decision of which recreation pursuit is the greater demand. It is more palatable to reduce one service for the promotion of another service rather than eliminating it.

Caplis added that the tennis courts were in use during the meeting tonight. It makes sense to add pickle ball courts when resurfacing tennis courts.

Malloy asked if Pacanowski should look into the potential electric issues at the west end site.

Pacanowski stated that it will be at least \$8,000 - \$10,000 to hire a professional to research soil and electrical issues at that site.

Paulius asked for verification of the court for tennis courts which will be resurfaced regardless of pickle ball.

Pacanowski responded that the resurfacing of tennis courts is estimated \$80-100,000. The addition of pickle ball courts will make that about \$120,000. The west end pickle ball courts will be about \$250,000.

Quigley restated the options for pickle ball courts:

- 1 – Do nothing and resurface tennis courts.
- 2 – Over stripe both courts for dual use courts
- 3 – Turn 1 tennis court into 2 dedicated use pickle ball courts with no expansion
- 4 – Expansion of about 1,000 feet to make 3-4 dedicated pickle courts and 1 tennis court

Caplis stated that this would not force the need for additional parking spaces.

REPORTS

Director of Parks & Recreation

In addition to the written report, Pacanowski notified the Board that the Tower manufacturer in Pennsylvania notified Pacanowski that their laser metal cutter is down. The tower is approximately 75% laser cut, which means the tower will not be delivered on the 26th but will be delivered in the spring.

The Oak Grove Memorial totem pole featuring bees, a copy of the potential artwork which was distributed, will set up as a nice arts in the park totem pole alley tour.

Pacanowski notified the Board that the Pedal the Parks event had about 100 riders and went very well.

Superintendent of Finance

In addition to the written report, Pacanowski notified the Board that 10 new trees will be acquired adding to the 7 purchased by donors. The additional 10 trees will be placed as follows: 3 at Harvester Park, 2 at Woods Pool, 3 at Fara Family Park, 2 at Citizens Park. An additional 5 smaller oak trees will be donated by the Arboretum and put at Oak Grove. They will be 1-1/2" in diameter and 8-10 feet tall and placed in an area where they have room to grow.

Recreation Division

In addition to the written report, Campbell notified the Board that after 25 years, Mary Drent will be retiring from teaching swim lessons at Woods Pool. This past summer there were 165 children taught lessons. Mary will still teach aerobics and possibly private lessons next summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

Review 2021 Woods Pool Operations

Pacanowski presented the Board with a report that summarized attendance and membership data, along with the final projected financial report.

Caplis stated that there was a large savings on in-service Ellis training.

Pacanowski asked that a decision for operating Woods Pool be made no later than the November Board Meeting. In addition, Pacanowski asked that a 3 year commitment be considered at that time as opposed to a yearly commitment.

Caplis stated that it is unknown when the pandemic will actually end and therefore stop having an effect on the park district and pool operations. Caplis is not agreeable to making a 3 year commitment to Woods Pool.

Malloy agrees with Caplis and is currently not willing to make a 3 year commitment.

Paulius stated that COVID is having an effect on programs and pool operations and as such would prefer a wait and see approach.

Pacanowski stated that the Board needs to understand the difficulties surrounding staffing and the impact of not having a commitment past the following season.

Additionally, there is information regarding this season's operations and budgets that need to be covered and discussed

Quigley added that the cumulative capital has not been addressed, as well as the items that are likely to be needed to be budgeted in order to run another 1 year or another 3 years.

Pacanowski stated that there is nothing imminent at this point in time. There is a newer heater, roof, and chlorinator and cracks have been repaired. A budget of \$7500 a year is a good number to expect to be spent.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Lawrence asked for verification of the computer consultant bill for \$500.
Pacanowski responded that this is for the IT consultant.

Lawrence asked if the park district pays the Menards bill or Andy's Landscape.
Pacanowski stated the park district pays the Menards bill.

Lawrence asked if the 11% rebate is being taken advantage of.
Pacanowski stated that it is.

Campbell notified the Board that the number of individuals for the Sam's Club membership have been reduced for a savings of \$200 at the direction of the Board in a previous meeting.

Caplis asked for verification of the Harvester Concession Building bill for \$1,900.
Pacanowski responded that this is for daily cleaning at Harvester and Oak Grove.

Malloy moved, seconded by Lawrence and approved by roll call vote to Approve September bills.

Ayes: Caplis, Malloy, Lawrence, Paulius, Quigley Nays: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

Lawrence moved, seconded by Malloy, and unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stednitz
Recording Secretary

h/jamie/board/minutes/brpd minutes September 13 2021

*Upon review of August board meeting minutes it was recorded that Lawrence was absent from the August meeting. Verification needed as to whether minutes were incorrect and need to be formally corrected.