

**VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
September 21, 2022**

Motion by Hudson, seconded by Knop to nominate Commissioner Depies as Chair Pro-Term until a new chairman has been appointed. Motion unanimously carried.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Pro-Tem. Depies.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Stapelman, Knop, School Board Rep. Ewert and Trustee Rep. Hudson. Guests included residents Jan Miller and Melanie Smythe and Craig Huebner from GRAEF Engineering and Luke Haas from Harwood Engineering. Also present were Director Standridge and Administrative Assistant Lemke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion by Hudson, seconded by Knop to approve the minutes from July 20, 2022, as presented.*

Discussion was held

Motion with stated corrections by Hudson, seconded by Stapelman to accept the corrections as stated on Page 6, under Friedenfeld Feasibility Study sentence 2 should read Gil also “indicated” that Harwood Engineering Consultants be awarded the contract to conduct the feasibility study. On Page 9, paragraph 3, sentence 1 should read Ewert inquired about the Friedenfeld Feasibility study. Gil said that this is still underway, and he has not met with the “consultant” yet. Motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

KINDERBERG FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE, GRAEF: Craig indicated the potential updates at Kinderberg Park include different playground options as well as Sprayground options. Safety concerns were a major topic at the “Open House” that was held at Kinderberg Park in June. The pathways would have a curb installed and/or removable bollards at the entrances. Also shown is a possible parking lot with approximately 40 stalls on the southern end of the park. An additional basketball court could be added as well as brining the ice rink back. There would also be a new trail that runs between the playground and sprayground. The walking paths would be 8ft. wide. If any updates or expansion are done to the current sprayground fencing will probably be required.

Questions/Concerns:

Hudson questioned how much greenspace will be lost adding a parking lot and additional basketball court?

Gil stated the basketball court would be for youth. The areas are currently grass area not being used for anything.

Depies raised a concern that at the May meeting requests were made to Joe Pepitone from GRAEF to come up with “unique” and “creative” ideas for the park such as using the hill. I would like to see different playground vendors instead of the same two. This is a unique park and so have “unique” equipment.

Hudson stated families have “grown” up in this park, it’s a neighborhood park. With the suggested changes the park now becomes a “community park” instead of a neighborhood park. Losing green space in Germantown without replacing is a loss. With these changes that park will become more crowded than it currently is. Kinderberg Park is an asset, and I don’t feel this vision is the right fit.

Depies stated Kinderberg Park is more of a neighborhood park, however it is the only park without parking.

Stapelman stated that even though there is a parking lot in a park some are not even used. Even though Kinderberg doesn’t currently have a parking lot there is ample street parking.

Knop agrees there should be some parking, but do we really need 40 spots? Little kids are always running around and across the street. Having a large parking lot will draw large groups to the sprayground. Put lighting on the sledding hill.

Depies questioned if stormwater was included.

Craig stated that using permeable concrete/pavers and applying for grants may help with costs.

Hudson stated the trail by the parking lot should be located on the south side of the lot. This would result in less crossing of the parking lot.

Depies indicated that bumpouts / speedbumps need to be installed through the area. Heavy traffic drives through the area and speed is a factor.

Jan Miller W151 N10297 Windsong Circle W stated gates need to be installed at the entrances, headlights from vehicles will shine in houses, large parking lot attracts large groups, drop off/pick up locations are needed as well as handicap parking. Lighting on the sledding hill is not needed. The community has said they want a pool. A parking lot is not needed. Is there room to expand the park? I would like pickleball courts added.

Depies stated there is no handicap accessibility. Would moving the ice rink to another park be more accommodating to access? Headlights will be shining in houses.

Gil stated there is a landscape plan that would eliminate the lights affecting homes. Doesn’t feel that we are wasting green space where a parking lot or additional basketball court would be installed.

Depies stated trails on the East side would help connect all the paths, which was requested to be shown on the plan at the first meeting.

Gil stated we are still in the concept design stage so your recommendations and suggestions are taken. We can ask GRAEF to come up with designs incorporating the hill. Lighting has come a long way therefore it should not affect homes. I would like to see Kinderberg Park as a “Winter Wonderland Park”. The sledding hill is already active in the park, and we could maybe have an ice rink with a liner. On weekends we could possibly use the multi-purpose room for a warming house.

Ewert stated the park has unique features which draws the community and surrounding communities. Many have mentioned that they want to keep this as a neighborhood park, how do we balance this?

Hudson stated the sledding hill is not moving. Due to weather conditions over the years, we have not had an ice rink. Wisconsin weather is not consistent.

Knop asked if the pathways are cleared in the winter.

Hudson stated they are not.

Hudson stated that the pathways from Preserve Drive (North & South) leading to the shelter are plowed.

Stapelman questioned the facility rentals during the winter months. He feels ice skating is not popular.

Hudson mentioned that the retention pond in the new subdivision (southeast corner of Kinderberg Park) was turned into a hockey rink by families.

Craig stated that certain updates and/or expansions to the sprayground would trigger having to place a fence around the sprayground.

Depies asked the commission to think about the checklist that was discussed.

Parking lot

Bump outs in roads

Play area – to bid?

Neighborhood Park or community park

Ice rink location

Sprayground location

Basketball court expansion for small tyke court or expansion to enlarge the court to the south

Gil stated he is looking for 2023 budget process to get the funding for either the playground equipment replacement or sprayground updated.

Stapelman would like to see “all-inclusive” (handicap) items within the playground equipment.

Hudson said discussion is being asked if the sprayground should be located at Kinderberg park or moved to another park or location within Kinderberg. The location needs to be decided before asking for budget money.

HARWOOD ENGINEERING UPDATE FRIEDENFELD FEASIBILITY STUDY: Luke stating the park currently has:

- One access point
- Expansive green space
- Limited areas of shelter near the soccer fields
- Existing paths that are paved and crushed stone
- One existing playground
- Existing irrigation system
- Minimal trees throughout the park

Goals for the park are:

- Additional entrance/exit on the north end of the park
- Additional soccer fields
- Improve drainage for the fields
- Improve walking paths

- Add additional parking
- Utility connectivity
- Add storm shelters and bathrooms
- Lighting of fields for evening practices/games
- Add synthetic turf field

Knop asked how many soccer fields currently are in the park?

Currently there are 8 soccer fields.

Phase 1 would be the field layout, grading & drainage, and park shelter & restrooms.

Depies how far is sewer connection to the park entrance?

The sewer connection is extending past the park.

Stapelman stated the shelter/restrooms will be located farther from football.

Luke stated the football concession stand is staying. Future plans are to possibly add on to the existing building with restrooms.

Depies asked what are the number of additional soccer fields that are being proposed?

Luke stated changing the layout of the soccer fields, keeping age groups together, would help get kids/families to proper area of the park.

Depies asked if football field usage was taken into consideration. Football uses the open area just East of the playground, as well as the proposed site for the shelter.

Luke stated that there would be no change for utilization.

Depies stated that the park has more activities on the Northeast end of the park pathways need to be connected and maintained.

Stapelman stated that he wants the trails 8ft wide.

Depies asked Gil about a public meeting and what "stage" is the process with the contract.

Gil stated that currently we are looking for changes from the Commission then I would be setting up public meeting for discussion/changes. Then asking for funding to start the grading to help with drainage off the fields.

Depies questioned if the football club has been involved in any discussion?

Gil stated he has not had any discussion with football as they are happy with the way things are.

Depies asked how the soccer club is going to help with these updates to the park for their groups. If we are increasing the number of fields for soccer for their needs football also needs to be in discussion for their needs. Adding increased drainage will help the demand for field for usage, walking path enhancements is a great addition, increased parking is much needed, adding utilities connections is needed, shelters and restrooms needed, future lighting start with temporary to see if really needed.

Ewert stated that an additional entrance/exit is needed in the park. Additional parking is needed as vehicles are parking on the grass.

Knop asked why is there still a baseball field at the park?

Gil stated that diamond is the best in the village. The field gets a lot of use.

Melanie Smythe, N140 W17938 Cedar Lane, stated this area is currently very quiet. Making these changes fast is going to "shock" to the long-time residents. Adding lights for night games will illuminate that area quite a bit.

Gil stated lighting would not happen unless extremely necessary.

Hudson has asked how many soccer fields are currently at Friedenfeld?

Gil stated there are 8 -10 fields.

Luke stated the map provide shows 6-7 existing fields.

Hudson asked what we are doing to accommodate the other sports in our village as soccer has stated what they are looking for in additional fields. Each group is going to ask for additional fields like soccer. How are we accommodating them? If you ask the other groups, they are going to want more football fields, and more baseball diamonds. How do we balance the needs and desires for football and baseball? It seems we are catering to one group.

Depies stated that drainage improvements need to be addressed to accommodate soccer. Long range plan of adding additional soccer fields helps however those areas need to accommodate football as well.

Hudson commented that we are "catering" to a specific group and designing this park around that group. Little League has a park with 3 fields that are dilapidated. This is turning into a soccer complex without discussion with the other user groups in Germantown.

Jan Miller asked if this group needs to have a "public hearing" on these changes. Notices need to be advertised to have public appear at least a month in advance. The last meeting was not advertised enough to the public.

Gil stated this is not a final decision, there will be an "open house" meeting for the public.

Jan stated that you need to meet with the other entities before moving forward with this plan.

Depies stated that Gil and Luke would need to meet with the baseball and football groups indicating the enhancements that is being proposed at Friedenfeld Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

HAWKS FOOTBALL FIELD USAGE AGREEMENT: Gil stated the current agreement expires December 31, 2022. The football club currently pays the Village \$12.00 per participant. I am requesting an increase to \$21.00 per participant. The field maintenance charge from TLC was \$7205.00 for 2022.

Knop commented “you want to increase the fee however you are potentially taking away practice field”.

Depies asked if football would be affected within the next year or so with the grading.

Gil stated that if football were affected with field usage the agreement would be re-negotiated at that time.

Hudson stated with the current inflation we could be “upside” down again with this contract. Doing a 3-year contracts locks the Village in at a set rate when there are variable costs. Do a 1-year contract or add a clause that added expenses or increases may occur and are to be covered by the user group.

Depies questions what other communities do. It should be a fee plus management for payment.

Hudson suggested doing cost plus maybe 10% or cost.

Stapelman stated maybe investigate different contractors for field maintenance.

Depies suggested charging \$21.00 per participant, agreement for 1-year and making the football group aware, as well as the other groups, that fees are being looked at to be cost plus percentage or flat rate.

Ewert suggested having “uniform” agreements with the clubs.

Motion by Hudson, seconded by Ewert to approve the agreement with stated changes, charging \$20 per participant and making the agreement a 1-year agreement instead of a 3-year. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 PARK & RECREATION OPERATING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET:

Gil stated the budget for printing and mailing the Recreation Brochure 3 times a year is \$26,00.00 to approximately 22,000 residents. For the 2023 the brochure budget is being cut by \$16,000.00.

2023 PARK SHELTER RENTAL FEE INCREASE REQUEST: Gil stated he is looking at raising rental fees by \$50.00 per shelter, excluding Schoen Laufer and Haupt Strasse in which those fees would be raised by \$25.00.

Hudson stated making the rental fee for residents all \$200.00 except for Dheinsville and Firemen’s Indoor at \$300.00 and Haupt Strasse and Schoen Laufen \$75.00. The refundable security deposit should be \$250.00 for each shelter. Bring back to November meeting with updates.

VILLAGE BOARD REPORT: Hudson stated the 2050 plan has been delayed at this time. There is a special Village Board meeting on Monday, September 26th regarding the 2050 Plan. July 4th activities were held on August 13th. The 2023 budget dates are October 5th, 12th, and 19th. The language for the Richfield water/sewer referendum, in which Germantown would supply water and sewer to a section of Richfield for a fee, has been voted set and voted on and will appear on the November 8th ballot.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Ewert stated the 4K program is a fantastic addition to the district. Vice-president Amanda Reinemann and Superintendent Chris Reuter have met with Village President Dean Wolter and Village Administrator Steve Kreklow in regarding a joint meeting. Reuter and Kreklow will meet quarterly to continue working forward with the school usage agreement. The Capital Improvement plan discussions have started. The board has set and unanimously passed a state resolution for the safety of our children in schools that has been forwarded to the state.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: September 21, 2022

Taste of Germantown

Was held on July 28th in Firemen's Park. Some brief history. Up until 2 years ago the Kiwanis Club hosted all the Taste of Germantown Activities. This consisted of music, beer gardens, and food vendors but no real activities for the children.

On a different date usually in June the Parks and Recreation department would put on a carnival type program for children that was successful but there wasn't a program for adults. About two years ago Kiwanis had asked the Parks Department to combine their carnival with the Kiwanis events to have one large event in Firemen's Park. So, with the merge, all programs from the shelter (food and beer garden) north to the Gehl performing arts stage was organized by the Kiwanis. All carnival activities, south of the park by the old Firemen Park picnic shelter, are programs ran by the Recreation Department with the mobile library unit coordinated by Library staff. With the merge there are now activities for all ages. The recreation department utilizes staff from the Kids club summer program, and they sell tickets for each of the carnival events. Children received participation points that could be used to redeem for gifts. This year all tickets printed were sold out. The department made approximate a thousand more dollars than last year. While there was no accurate head count of the participants, I am guessing between three and four thousand people attended this year's event.

Meeting with GRAEF

I met with Craig Huebner of GRAEF consultants on July 29th to go over plans for Kinderberg Park to include in the feasibility study. Also discussed were including amenities that the public asked for from our public hearing last spring. Craig came up with three options that we discussed. Craig will present a plan to the commission probably in our October commission meeting and we will have one more public hearing after that. One of the big projects I am trying to get included in the 2023 plan is new Playground Equipment. More discussion to come.

Playground Inspections

On July 12th I Met with Fred Kablean who is the Safety and Risk management Specialist for the Village Insurance company, Mutual Insurance. I took Fred and his assistant to seven village parks who has playground equipment in them. Fred did complete inspections to make sure we were in compliance and no major issues. While there are a few minor issues that need addressing over all Fred commented that we had the best maintained playground equipment he has inspected over the years.

Will meet with Scott to discuss the areas that need addressing and take care of them.

Comedy Club Night

On August 12th Mary Fiegel, Senior Center Coordinator and myself hosted a comedy night with a full three course meal at the Senior Center. The Comedy was put on by the Sportz Comedy Club out of Milwaukee and they had a six-person act. Altogether there was 69 persons in attendance. Supper was served at 6pm and the show started at 7pm. The show was about 75 minutes long, and it seemed like everyone in attendance had a very good time. This is a program I would definitely do again.

Building Inspections

On August 15th I took a two-person inspection team from Mutual Insurance around to all the park buildings, including Dheinsville so they could do inspections for insurance purposes and appraising the value of the properties. I have not received a report back yet on what they found. But no major problems or issues was reported that needed immediate attention.

Music in the Park

Starting back on July 6th until August 25th we had eight shows/performances by live bands at the Firemen's Park Gehl performing arts stage. Overall, I would say we average 400 participants per show. Beverage sales were up a thousand dollars over last year. We had 8 different organizations volunteer to sell beverages and the organization kept the tips they made. There were at least two food vendors there on site each week. We varied that up so there were different types of food each week.

In mid-July DPW made a concrete pad up from the stage where Pieper Power ran line from a conduit all underground to the main electrical circuit in the back room of the stage. This served two purposes. All the lines are now buried underground instead of running lines on top of the ground from the sound person to the stage. And the new circuits were put in the electrical that would allow for bigger bands that need more power for their equipment. This gives us the flexibility to have larger bands in the future. The project cost split between DPW and Parks and Recreation was around \$6,000.

Recreation Division Report September 21, 2022, Commission Meeting

We have 53 programs starting in September and include: Dance, Poms, Gymnastics, Fall Girls Volleyball League, Sporties for Shorties, Intro to Irish Dance, Lego Bday Parties, Flag Football Games, Little Gridders, Pee Wee & U6 Soccer, Music Fun, Music Fun for Families/Babies, Youth Martial Arts, Little Tykes Martial Arts, Intro To Tae Kwon Do, Learn To Skate, Intro To Hockey, Kids Klub (5 sites) , Yoga, Junior Golf, Golf Skill Sessions, Rise & Shine Boot Camp, Fall Patio Planter Workshops, Walking Challenge, Firefighters are your Friends, Afterschool Legos (4 sites), Learn to Decorate with Frosting, Home Buying/Selling, CPR, Music Fun Tot Party, Oodles of Art, Dance it Out, Babysitters Training, Pilates, Men's Over 30 Open Basketball, Monday Corec Volleyball Lg, Inline Skating, Martin Skills Academy, Barre Fitness, Cut the Cord, Parent Child Basketball, Freezer Meals, Essential Oils, The Camera in your Smartphone, Fall Clean Up Wellness Talk, Mad Science, Paint Party, Parent/Tot Construction Workshop, Archery Programs cancelled due to low enrollment: Women's Volleyball Lg, CPR/AED Training

Fall programs have outstanding numbers, I think having a printed brochure and being able to mail it out has done wonders for our numbers!

Sampling of enrollment numbers of popular programs:

Program	2022	2021	2020	2019
Flag Football League	173	124	91	152
Little Gridders	52	41	28	36
Pee Wee & U6 Soccer	116	93	61	85
Fall Girls Volleyball League	93	87	83	80
Gymnastics	75	67	42	81
Dance	70	52	28	64
Poms	111	93	94	95
Kids Klub: Numbers for the first three weeks of school at all 5 sites.				
Average weekly enrollments	1173	1104	639	1950
Kids enrolled	313	306	165	464
Families	248	225	130	347

Upcoming events include the following:

Flag Football: We have 6 teams in the 1st/2nd grade league and 8 teams in the 3rd-5th grade league with 44 volunteer coaches.

Soccer/Gridders: Pee Wee & U6 Soccer and Little Gridders Football started on September 10th. We have 4 teams in U6 soccer and 8 teams in pee wee soccer divisions and 4 teams for Little Gridders.

Girls Volleyball Leagues: We have 9 teams in the fall league.

Germantown Youth Futures Recruitment Event: This will be held on September 28th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Firemen's Park. We will hold a short meeting, eat ice cream, and play glow in the dark kickball.

Bucketeer Basketball Registration Deadline is Oct. 3rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST: The next meeting is scheduled for TBD.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.


Shannon Lemke
Administrative Assistant