

MEETING: **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

DATE & TIME: **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

LOCATION: **Germantown Village Hall Board Room
N112 W17001 Mequon Road**

Any member of the body and/or citizen may also attend the meeting virtually through the WebEx platform, Meeting #: **2553 425 4728**
Password: **VhqdmJB3m37** which can be accessed by phone at 408-418-9388 or by logging on
at <https://villageofgermantown.my.webex.com/villageofgermantown.my/j.php?MTID=m5342673a9f18eab286323cc8834aa767>

Citizens not wishing to attend the meeting personally or virtually may submit any public comments by sending an email to comments@germantownwi.gov by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting so that it can be provided to the members of the body for their consideration.

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *This meeting has been given public notice in accordance with Section 19.83 and 19.84, Wis. Stats, in such form that will apprise the general public and news media of subject matter that is intended for consideration and action.*
- II. **ROLL CALL:**
- III. **CITIZEN INPUT:** *(Please be advised per 19.84(2) that information and comment will be received from the public. It is the policy of this municipality that public input be limited to a three (3) minute period per person with a time extension granted at the discretion of the Chairperson. Be advised that there may be limited discussion of the information received but no action will be taken under public comments.)*
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Discussion / Action regarding the Germantown Parks and Recreation Department future involvement in coordinating the Fourth of July Events / Activities for the Village.
- V. **ADJOURNMENT:**

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Village Clerk at (262)250-4745 at least 2 days prior to the meeting.

BUSINESS OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2025

PLACEMENT: Action Item

ITEM TITLE: Discussion / Action regarding the Germantown Parks and Recreation Department future involvement in coordinating the Fourth of July Events / Activities for the Village.

SUBMITTED BY: Gil Standridge, Park & Rec Director

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

ATTACHMENT:

1. Letter to P & R Commission 4th of July 2025

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION BY Committee:



Germantown Park and Recreation Department

N112W17001 Mequon Rd

P.O. Box 337

Germantown, Wisconsin 53022-0337

(262)250-4710 Fax (262)255-2920

Information Line (262)250-4711

Meeting Date: January 9, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Gil Standridge, Park and Recreation Director
RE: Support for Rec. Dept. not to coordinate 4th of July Activities

Parks and Recreation Commission,

In our October meeting there was discussion on whether the Parks and Recreation Department should be coordinating the Germantown 4th of July celebration. Brian Depies requested that I draft up a letter stating reasons that our department should not coordinate this event and bring this letter back to the commission. Unfortunately the past couple of Commission meetings have been cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Therefore I have requested this special Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to present this letter to the commission in hopes of having their support to take to the Village Board for the January 20th meeting in which the Board will discuss, and possibly vote on whether our department should coordinate this event and whether it should be done on the 4th of July or another date as several other villages have started to do with their celebrations.

Coordinating the 4th of July celebration presents many challenges to the Recreation staff. Recreation Staff generates over half of the year 's revenue from summer programs they already coordinate and manage. The Average work week without adding the 4th of July celebration is 50 hours plus.

Some of the over ninety summer Programs Recreation Runs in Summer include:

- Kids Klub summer programs which averages 52.5 hours a week. This also includes the summer Kids Klub trips-18 over course of summer.
- Staff coordinates Six Music at the Park Events (concerts) with average attendance over 3,000 on Thursday evenings.
- Staff coordinates the Family Fun Carnival in conjunction with Taste of Germantown.
- A Kids Triathlon.
- Movies in the Park
- Youth Sports such as baseball & softball that run two sometimes three evenings a week.
- Staff coordinates Instructional Classes
- Pickleball League for adults.

Altogether 95 programs during the summer months are planned, organized and supervised. Countless hours of overtime as most of these events are in the evenings or weekends beyond the normal 8-hour work-day. Staff coordinating these events do not receive overtime.

Other issues associated with coordinating the 4th of July.

- Finding Volunteers- Residents want to enjoy the holiday, not work it. The very reason the last three organizations that coordinated the 4th of July stop doing it was because of lack of volunteers to help with the program. Last year our staff was scrambling to be in two places at once as we did not have enough volunteers.
- Requiring public safety, police and fire, as well as DPW to work on the 4th as well as the overtime costs involved.
- Asking our department to fundraise for the fourth is a conflict of interest. Our department spends hours finding donors to fund our year-round programs. To add the burden of finding sponsors for the 4th is much. Usually the organization that host the event has committee members to look for sponsorships. This forces us to ask the donor to choose between sponsoring a one day event or an event that lasts six to eight weeks (youth sports) Sponsorship dollars goes back into the general fund.
- No other department's salaried staff is asked to work the fourth of July. All other departments who assist with the fourth have staff eligible for overtime. Our salaried staff is not. In the past the 4th of July Holiday was our staffs one day to rest and relax and spend time with their families. Pretty much the only break we get during the summer.

This is what other surrounding communities are doing:

- City of Wauwatosa moved their fireworks away from July 4th but is still hosting a July 4th parade on the 4th. They did so to relieve the burden on their Police and Fire Departments.
- Mequon and Thiensville, for over 10 years, holds all Fourth of July celebrations on the Saturday before the 4th of July. A committee of individuals and businesses organize all Fourth of July activities.
- Hartford cancelled their parade in 2023 due to a lack of volunteers from local community groups. Residents took it in their own hands to volunteer and organize the parade to maintain the tradition.
- Brown Deer relies on a Special Events Committee in cooperation with their Park and Recreation Department.
- Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual 4th of July Hometown Celebration.

I am asking this commission to recommend to the Village Board that the Park and Recreation Department no longer be designated or involved in coordinating the 4th of July celebration for 2025.

Thank you.

Regards,

Gil Standridge
Parks and Recreation Director
Village of Germantown