

Park District of La Grange Parks and Openlands Committee Discussion Notes

December 14, 2020

The committee had virtual discussions about care and use of the parks during winter months and time of Covid. People may be more into giving of time and getting outdoors safely.

Commissioner Jacobs noted Exec. Director Bissias would be discussing at the December meeting any changes to his plans/vision for maximizing care and use of the parks during the winter with consideration of maintaining safety, sanitation during this time of Covid.

Committee thoughts/ideas/questions are summarized below:

1. Possible novel programming/ events in the parks to bring together community in safe manner

Special events such as a Winterfest, or individual smaller park bonfires with S'mores station (hot cocoa, packs and sticks for purchase?). Could work with LaGrange business on a Saturday evening for park and downtown event; or 1-2x per month in different parks. Could host a monthly fire pit near Rec Center ?

Snowman making, snow animals/ pyramid contest can provide colored water spray for kids; caroling, sing-alongs

Try pop-up dog park during winter (Denning area? Other unused ball field?) Would a local dog business sponsor?

Health walks, runs outdoors for various ages.

Planned or guided walks, could be combined with nature talks The butterfly Garden could be a site for this.

Some sports continue throughout winter months if space provided such as skating, handball, soccer Can we keep nets repaired and some in position?, basketball- will be used when sun is out...

Involving residents in park clean up and planting. Ex. A late winter/early spring volunteer clean up with bags provided. (could weigh trash, recycling and promote how district and residents diverting from landfill....

A pre spring planting preparation/clean up (e.g. perennial prep, butterfly garden prep, invasive species removal)

2. Park care and maintenance during this time of year

Keeping paths clear of snow as needed is essential.

Can walking paths especially crushed gravel be leveled now- dangerous in some areas.

Can holes/cracks be repaired on courts (Elm, Sedgewick, Community Ctr bball courts)?

Grassy fields are clumpy, with need for seeding, can fall overseeding still be done or in early spring?

Submitted by Karel Jacobs