

**VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SATURDAY RULES MEETING
April 6, 2019**

PRESENT: Trustee Mae Brandon, Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Georgia O'Neill, Trustee Theresa Settles, Manager Tom Mick

ABSENT: Mayor John Ostenburg, Trustee Robert McCray

GUESTS: Recreation and Parks Director Rob Gunther, residents Candyce Herron, Gary Kopycinski, Joshua Travis and Joseph Woods

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Manager Mick provided the Board with updates. There is no Board Meeting Monday, April 8th but there is a REAL Steering Committee meeting that evening. Hydrant flushing begins in town on Monday, April 8th. There is a substantial amount of utility work being done on Western Avenue, south of 26th Street and on Illinois Street, DPW will monitor. The Community Health Division of Recreation and Parks will be hosting events at the Library on April 9th and 15th to reach out to the needs of the community. The Togethers Foundation is looking to have a Fun Run on Old Plank Trail on August 24th from Logan Park to Homan Avenue and back. Proceeds would benefit first generation college students. They are seeking a park permit and permission to have on street parking.

Director of Recreation and Parks Rob Gunther passed out invitations to the Board for the South Suburban Special Recreation Family Banquet on May 2nd. He then spoke about a draft report he received from the Park Forest Youth Services Providers Summit, sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department, the Police and the Urban Youth Trauma Center. The report is a Community Action Plan and draws from group discussions during the summer. He then noted that they are hoping to gain interest from local churches, public social service providers and the Village to put together on developing programs for youth/family connections. Trustee Brandon noted that Aunt Martha's involvement may be an avenue to explore. Director Gunther spoke about the Planning/Visioning Retreat recently held with the Recreation and Parks staff. Programs and participation were discussed and ways to increase participation and offerings were talked about.

Trustee Brandon stated that the Village's open spaces and parks are great assets and that another survey might be done to see what residents would like and also to take a look at bringing activities to all of the community, including the southern end of town. Trustee Graham suggested offering a survey during Main Street Nights.

Director Gunther stated the Environment Commission applied for a tree grant and that Open Land said they would give the Village 20 trees but actually gave 40. The third Saturday in May is to be the Clean up the Parks Day, Director Gunther would like to make that Plant a Tree Day as well. Trustee Settles asked if the tree planting would contribute to the STAR rating. Director Gunther said it would but that the STAR program is different than before.

Guest Candyce Herron told the Board that she attended the Youth Basketball Award Ceremony and that it was very nice. She noted that Park Forest and Richton Park did a great job together and the coaches were great as well. She also stated that she attended the recent Health Fair and it was also very nice.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gott
Recorder