

**Burr Ridge Park District
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2022**

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Burr Ridge Park District was called to order at the Burr Ridge Community Center at 6:30 pm by President Quigley.

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

Approve February 14, 2022 Agenda

No changes were made to the Agenda.

Approve January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Malloy moved, seconded by Lawrence and approved by roll call vote to Approve the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

OPEN FORUM

President Quigley briefly covered a few guidelines for the public to follow for speaking to the Board. In addition, Quigley gave a brief overview of the process and events regarding discussions for possibly adding pickle ball courts at Harvester Park.

Pacanowski added that there are 2 focal points of need for pickle ball.

One is that it must fit in physically in an area that does not have any drainage or subterranean issues and the only feasible area was on the existing tennis courts as usable space within the park system is limited.

The other is the financial aspect of installing pickle ball courts. Resurfacing the tennis courts was already in the budget plan. Installing 4 courts in a different area within the park system was beyond the Board's budget.

The forum was then opened to the public for comment.

Several residents thanked the Board for their service and stated that despite their disagreement regarding the subject of pickle ball, residents do appreciate their volunteer service to the community.

Several residents stated that the decibel of paddle on ball for pickle ball is higher than tennis and the pitch is also at what is considered an annoying pitch. This repetitive popping sound is also 5 times greater per minute, per hour than tennis. One resident played an audio for the Board to hear what one typical pickle ball game sounds like. The decibels will run much higher as players rotate in on a 4 court pickle ball playing area. In addition, the social chatter of a 4 court pickle ball playing area adds to the decibel level. Because of this level of noise, tennis players typically do not want to play next to pickle ball courts because it proves to be too much of a distraction. Residents presented examples of cities, villages, towns, and Homeowners Associations that have disputes, controversy, and in some instances litigation due to noise complaints regarding pickle ball courts. In some of these instances, acoustical engineers have been hired at considerable expense in order to attempt to mitigate and abate the noise. Residents submitted studies that recommend pickle ball courts be a minimum of 500-600 feet away from residential homes and any sensitive areas. The first Chestnut Hill resident is 55 feet away as are the critical wetlands at Harvester Park. Several residents stated that property values will decline as a result of the nuisance of the noise from the pickle ball courts, as well as will significantly impede on their quality of life.

Some residents are concerned as to the affect the noise will have on critical wetland habitat and wildlife on the wetlands that are directly west of the pickle ball courts and suggested contacting the Cornell University Ornithology Department to discuss the possible effects on the wildlife habitants of the wetland.

Several residents expressed concern for overflow parking in the Chestnut Hills Subdivision with foot traffic then encroaching on homeowners' property in order to cut through to get to the pickle ball courts. Residents cited instances of this currently occurring for the fishing pier at the wetland area. To prevent this the HOA would request fencing be installed along the entire berm between Harvester Park and Chestnut Hills.

A resident suggested that:

- 1: 10-20 residents would be directly impacted by the pickle ball courts and after performing research with an area realtor, noted that property values would drop approximately 10%. Based on a \$400,000 home value for each townhome, a 10% drop would equal a \$2.8 million devaluation in tax loss to the park district over a 7-year period.
- 2: Based on the suggested minimum distance of 500-600 feet required for noise, the suggested pickle ball courts are 90% less than the recommendation by acoustical engineers.
- 3: If the pickle ball courts were placed on the interior of the park in a 100 foot linear line on the right berm of the baseball field it would avoid all the issues.

A few residents stated that the appeal of moving to the Chestnut Hills subdivision was the quiet, natural area. A few stated that pickle ball courts placed in the tennis court area may force them to move from their home. When the subdivision was built, the Burr Ridge Park District was no more than a slide, a couple swings, and an unlit ballfield. It has evolved into a large park district with many elements, lots of lights, pavilions, and a

community center. Chestnut Hills residents are not against pickle ball, but against the location of it. Pickle ball players are able to play pickle ball, then drive home to their quiet street and quiet home. The residents of Chestnut Hills are asking the park district board members to respect their quality of life and not allow the courts to be placed in the tennis court location.

A petition with 35 signatures requesting no pickle ball courts be installed at Harvester Park was presented to the Board.

Bill Voight, 166 Foxborough, Burr Ridge, invited the residents of Chestnut Hills to Brook Park in Hinsdale to meet new friends of the pickle ball community and to visit homes across the street from the courts to ask about the noise level.

Malloy asked for clarification of the berm fence residents are requesting. Pacanowski responded that the anticipated tendency for visitors at the park who have to park at Chestnut Hills would be to cut across the berm to get to the park. Preventing this completely would require a fence down the middle of the entire berm in order to stop that foot traffic from occasionally occurring.

Lawrence asked the audience if they would feel differently for 2 pickle ball courts as opposed to 4.

The response was a unanimous no because the noise level and pitch would be the same.

Lawrence stated that there would be park district rules and guidelines regarding times of play and would not be allowed at all hours.

Audience members responded that the quality of life would remain impacted and requested the park district change the proposed location of the pickle ball courts to an area that residents would not be affected by noise which studies suggested is a minimum of 500-600 feet.

President Quigley closed the open session.

CORRESPONDENCE

In addition to the written report, Pacanowski added correspondence from a resident regarding adding a golf putting element at Harvester Park.

REPORTS

Director of Parks & Recreation

Nothing further added to the written report.

Superintendent of Finance

Nothing further added to the written report.

Recreation Division

Nothing further added to the written report.

Pacanowski added that the state mask mandate is being monitored and will be revisited if and when the mandate is reversed in March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Development of Public Bid Documents for Harvester Park for Tennis Court Resurfacing

Pacanowski informed the Board that there is no pressure to make a decision at this evening's board meeting.

Quigley stated that it would be ideal to have all Board Members present at the next board meeting in order to get all board members input on next steps regarding the tennis court resurfacing project. Quigley recommended that perhaps a special meeting could be set if all members could not be present at the next regular Board Meeting.

Pacanowski asked the Board if there is any more research required in preparation for that next meeting.

Lawrence asked for any other viable locations within the park system in order to consider all other options so that it is possible to go back and reconsider pros and cons and figures again regarding other viable locations.

Pacanowski can report back to the board with recommendations for land mass within the park district boundaries for 4 courts whether that is a traditional layout or a linear layout and include an analysis and estimated cost for each site.

Quigley stated that he has no personal knowledge regarding noise mitigation and would need to know more about that subject prior to the Board deciding to proceed with 2 courts at Harvester Park.

Pacanowski responded that soft noise mitigation was already considered for a proposed 4 court site on the east side, however, research would need to be done for cost/effectiveness as sound will travel up and over at even 100 to 150 feet away from the court.

After some discussion it was decided that Pacanowski will gather all Board Members schedules and then set a date for a special meeting if needed.

Review FY 2022/23 Capital Improvements Budget Proposal

Pacanowski presented the Board with a budget proposal for Capital Improvements for FY 2022/23.

Mr. McCaffrey, of 110 Chestnut Hills Circle, Burr Ridge, spoke to the Board regarding the popularity of a golf putting element at surrounding golf courses and stated that it would be a quiet and relatively inexpensive with little maintenance needed. Mr. McCaffrey feels this element would be a welcome addition at Harvester Park that would appeal to all ages.

The Board thanked Mr. McCaffrey for his input.

Malloy asked for clarification of the resurfacing of the parking lot at Harvester Park in the budget proposal.

Pacanowski responded that it is for resealing and repainting.

Paulius asked what was done to this parking lot a few years back.

Pacanowski responded that the existing surface was taken down 4", drainage problems were addressed, and a new surface was installed and sealed.

Lawrence asked if the Ford Ranger truck needs to be replaced.

Pacanowski responded that the plow is not able to be put on the truck because the receiver is rusted out. The vehicle can no longer be put into 4-wheel drive. However, the truck will still be usable for another year or possibly two. The two snowblowers that are in the budget are to replace the snow removal methods that are no longer available with the truck plow.

Discuss Woods Pool Fee Structure and Registration Process for 2022 Operations

Pacanowski informed the Board that although most everything was affected negatively by the Pandemic, the pool had the reverse affect and had a strong season as compared with recent previous years. Pacanowski proposes that the fee structure and registration process for 2022 operations remain the same as the 2021 season. This registration and rental process was streamlined, efficient, and well received by residents.

It was unanimously agreed to move forward with the same fee structure and registration process for 2022.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Quigley asked for verification of the Lake Ridge Club Park sign for \$2400.

Pacanowski responded that this is the only park sign that was in need of replacement which was rotted out at the Lake Ridge Club.

Lawrence moved, seconded by Paulius and approved by roll call vote to Approve February bills.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Malloy moved, seconded by Lawrence, and unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stednitz
Recording Secretary

h/jamie/board/minutes/brpd minutes February 14 2022