

**Lexington Park District
Lexington, Illinois
Regular Board Meeting
July 27nd, 2020, 7:00 pm**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Roll Call – Roll was called to find all members present: Becky Martin, Stephanie Stover, Erin Weber, Pam Pulliam, Brad Fraher, Jeremey Meints and Kecia Holiday.
3. Minutes from previous meeting June 22, 2020 – **Brad Fraher moved to accept the minutes as presented. Kecia Holiday seconded. Motion carried.**
4. Introductions and Recognitions – None.
5. Public Participation – Present for public participation were Jeff Doll, Amy Hardman, Julie McArdle, Josh Martin, Shane Little, Kaitlyn Little, James Fleming, Amber Johnson, Eric Epley and Stephen Brown.

Josh Martin – Josh talked about the current baseball/softball program. He discussed clinics we hosted, and the relationship created with the Cornbelters. He believes this would have been the best year for our program if not for Covid. He stated that we had 130 kids signed up. Fields were completely full for four straight months. Does not believe a partnership with G7 is beneficial to our programs.

Jeff Doll – Since IESA has canceled the junior high softball season, Jeff would like to start a fall travel team with the girls here in town. School board should be letting him know tomorrow night what he is permitted to do. This team would focus primarily on 7th and 8th graders. There would potentially be two teams. 8th graders on one team and 6th and 7th on the other. Jeff would coach one team and his dad would coach the other. Teams would have the same assistant coaches that normally assist with the school team. Teams would play five nights a week and begin ASAP and end mid-September. They would need fields 2 and 4. There is no cost to coaches. Costs would be figured and passed on to parents. Costs would include field usage, equipment (he does not believe he could use any school equipment), umpires and insurance. Jeff is hoping the park would help with field usage, insurance and concessions. He would also like the park to handle the registration through TeamSnap and collect fees. Parents would provide all transportation. He would like to hold “mini” tournaments here every weekend and host an end of season tournament. He is also considering inviting Ridgeview girls over to participate as he’s been told they are not doing anything for the girls over there.

Amy Hardman – She would like the park to stay away from partnering with another organization. Travel ball is going in the right direction, but she does not want another team to take over our fields. The Park District needs to grow and offer its own travel option. She has offered to help with the baseball side. Does not agree with the high costs of G7 teams. She states that 15u is \$1,400 and 11u is \$850.

Julie McArdle – Discussed participation numbers. She does not believe Lexington can sustain travel teams and “in-house” teams, especially on the

softball side. Also discussed cost. Can people afford it? How would field scheduling work? What does G7 want out of this? She does not see how it can work. What does Lexington get out of it? If we do go this route, she suggests a one-year trial period.

Shane Little – Discussed the recent baseball and softball camp that was held. Said it went well and the kids loved it. Talked about field space. Says the school teams need their own field. He has approached the school board about purchasing the two north fields from the park (field 4 and Jacob's) or potentially building their own fields either on the football field or elsewhere. Also discussed G7. He does not believe they would be taking over the fields.

Amber Johnson – She wants our programs to grow and for there to be equal opportunity as well as competitiveness. She wants this in Lexington.

Eric Epley – Travel teams would need to be open to everyone, not just Lexington residents.

6. President's Report – Stephanie Stover – No report.
7. Secretary's Report – Becky Martin – No report.
8. Liaison's Reports –
 - a. Youth Activities
 - i. JFL – Becky Martin – Jamboree that was scheduled for 8/29 is canceled. Current tentative season start date is 8/10. The latest the league will allow the season to start is 8/24. Fisher canceled their season today. The league is following IHSA. IHSA meets this coming Wednesday and we should know after that if season is a go or not. We have ordered 10 gallons of cleaner and 3 touchless thermometers.
 - ii. Soccer – Erin Weber – El Paso soccer is currently a go. We have 41 kids registered. We will have two pre-k teams and one 1st/2nd grade team.
 - iii. 1-4th Volleyball – Tabled. Need to know if school will allow us to use gyms or not before we can hold registration.
 - iv. Baseball/Softball Rentals – Becky emailed G7 10u today regarding amount due. Ryne Brewer's 8u team will pay once games are complete. All other teams have paid. Discussed fall leagues. Becky expects more requests since junior high baseball and softball has been canceled. She has planned to stop taking game reservations as of 7/31 or until we know the availability of our maintenance staff. The 8u team has requested to continue scheduling games into August. Jeremy said this should be fine. However, he stated that we are losing money by only charging \$50 for field use for games. It was agreed to up fee to \$100 with lights staying at \$25. Becky will update the field use contract and notify Ryne of same.
 - v. Other/Activities – Kecia reports that 0 teams have signed up for the bags tournament. She will give it one more week.
 - b. Pool – Jeremy Meints – We are still waiting on Etcheson. They have yet to do any work or refund our \$2,500 deposit. Jeremy has called numerous times

and they don't return his calls. Brad is following up with them in person. The gas line issue at the pool ended up being an easy \$12 fix.

- c. Park – Jeremy Meints – Fields are in good shape. Bathrooms could be cleaned better and more frequently. He will follow up with the maintenance staff.
9. Treasurer's Report – Brad Fraher
- a. Monthly/Other bills and payments – We have \$6,341.93 in bills and \$53,376.42 in deposits. Current balance is \$112,751.38. **Erin Weber moved to approve bills in the amount of \$6,341.93 and checks as written/electronic withdrawals. Pam Pulliam seconded. Motion carried.**
 - b. June Financial Reports – Tabled.
10. Unfinished Business
- a. Projects around park/pool – Jeremy states that the chemical feed system will be approximately \$5,000 and the new heater for small pool will be approximately \$7,000. The pool also needs \$5,000 in concrete work. Discussed possible new playground equipment and slide for pool. Brad handed out illustrations.
 - b. Other – None.
11. New Business
- a. Pavilion rental expansion – Tabled.
 - b. Travel Baseball/Softball Partnership(s) – The G7 organization is potentially interested in partnering with us. They have 20 baseball and softball teams with many Lexington players. Chris Olson has also reached out on behalf of his Midwest Mafia 11u team with the same interest. A couple other local travel teams have shown interest as well. Field availability was discussed. Becky states that the last two summers we have scheduled over 100 home games for our "in-house" SEMCL league. Those games are not scheduled until March and then our fields are booked solid from April-June with games and practices for that league. Because of this, it would be impossible to know field availability until March. She believes that most travel teams will want to start scheduling way before that. Participation was also discussed. Lexington Park District has always been part of participation leagues. In these leagues you always make the team and see playing time regardless of your skill level. Travel ball teams typically are not "participation" teams and will have try-outs. Offering travel ball and still offering "in-house" ball was also discussed. Whether or not we have enough numbers to sustain both options would be iffy. Cost was also discussed. It is believed G7 charges \$850-\$1,400 to play depending on age level and other travel teams are \$400+. Do we want to push that on our local families and potentially alienate those who can't afford it? With a partnership what would G7 be expecting to pay for field usage? It was decided that we need more specific information from G7 on their intentions. It is noted that Jim Collins (or a representative from G7) was invited to this meeting to discuss. He did not attend. Tabled.

- c. Other – Discussed whether or not the park will be following IHSA and IESA guidelines for our sports and activities. IESA has canceled all fall sports and IHSA is expected to announce this Wednesday. **Brad Fraher moved that Lexington Park District follows IHSA/IESA Covid-19 guidelines. No seconded. Motion failed.** Tabled.
12. Scholarship Requests – None.
 13. Closed Session – Not needed.
 14. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.**