



Fox Valley Park Foundation Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2024 3:00PM
Cole Center
101 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Kelsey called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

2.0 Roll Call

Chairman Kelsey directed the Board Secretary to take attendance by roll call. The following members of the Fox Valley Park Foundation were present: Travis Andry, Brenda Hernandez, Karen Nelson, Larry Shepard, and Chairman Luanne Kelsey. Also present: Executive Director Jen Paprocki, Directors Campbell, Goll, Halverson, Ijams, Kinsland, Palmquist and Chief Lapp; Rachel Ossyra, Holly Wiggins, Sandie Gilmer, Lynn Piotrowski, Deedee Buscher, Christy Graser, Katie Kulakowski, Sarah Lozano, Rafael Martinez, and Courtney Tillman.

3.0 Addenda to the Agenda

None presented.

4.0 Approve the meeting minutes from July 17, 2024.

Karen Nelson made a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 minutes, seconded by Travis Andry. Roll call voting Aye: Travis Andry, Brenda Hernandez, Karen Nelson, Larry Shepard, and Chairman Luanne Kelsey. Voting Nay: none, and the minutes were approved.

5.0 Presentation of Financial Report

John Goll reported on the following:

- Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2024: Fund balance - \$700,237 which includes \$463,792 in restricted funds and \$236,444 in unrestricted funds.
- Income Statement as of September 30, 2024: Revenue - \$194,770 and Expenses - \$59,375. This represents an increase in net surplus over 2023 year-to-date of \$16,109.

6.0 Executive Director's Report

Director Paprocki reported on the following:

- Recently attended the 2024 GFK wrap up meeting. Director Paprocki acknowledged Luanne Kelsey, Rachel Ossyra, and Kyle Halverson for their significant contributions to the success of the event.
- OVGCC will be closed for renovations beginning November 4, 2024, and will reopen summer 2026.
- 2025 Golf for Kids will be June 30, 2025. Due to the temporary closing of OVGCC, the event will be held at Bliss Creek. We were able to negotiate very good pricing and will look for ways to subsidize the cost of the greens fees.

7.0 Continued Business

None presented.

8.0 New Business
None presented.

9.0 Recap of 2024 Grant Programming Data

Jaime Ijams introduced each presenter who gave a short summary of the 2024 programs that were/are funded by Foundation grants.

- **Preschool Playgroups in the Park - Deedee Buscher**

Preschool Playgroups in the Park was a seven-week program held on Thursdays from mid-June to mid-August, designed for preschool-aged children, their siblings, and parents or guardians. Each session offered a variety of engaging activities in art, science, math, and literacy, with different stations being set up in the pavilion at Spring Lake Park. Children explored and built with loose parts, played with playdough, conducted hands-on science experiments, and participated in art projects, literacy games, math activities, and sensory play. Preschool staff were available to guide the children through these activities, demonstrating for parents how to best interact with their children to foster optimal learning. Each session concluded with a storybook reading and interactive movement activities, providing a fun and educational end to the day.

Approved Grant Funding: \$1,250 Actual Allocation: \$1,036

- **Veterans Luncheon – Sarah Lozano**

The Veteran's Luncheon is an annual event that recognizes all Veterans for their service in the military. Veterans are treated to a free lunch and the program consists of a Presentation of Colors, singing of the National Anthem, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Special dignitaries from surrounding communities are invited to welcome everyone with opening remarks before lunch is served. Special entertainment is conducted during lunch and raffle prizes are given away to Veterans at the end of the program.

Approved Grant Funding: \$1,600 Actual Revenue: \$1,400 Actual Allocation: \$3,000

- **Environmental Education Field Trip – Christy Graser**

The Environmental Education Field Trip grant is intended as a resource for sixth through eighth grade educational institutions to use as financial support to bring their students onsite to Red Oak campus for nature-based education. By providing grant funding, we were looking to connect with local middle schools that may not have access to these opportunities.

We connected with Indian Prairie School District's (IPSD) Granger Middle School, located within the city of Aurora's boundaries to work with their principal to bring their entire 7th grade cohort out to The Wilds facility over a three-day period to accommodate nearly 320 students.

During this time, Red Oak Educators led students through four different activities over the course of four hours allowing them to experience hands-on, inquiry-based activities while reinforcing concepts being learned in the classroom.

Approved Grant Funding: \$4,650 Actual Allocation: \$4,177

- **After School Boxing Program – Rafael Martinez**

The Fox Valley Park District's Copley Boxing and Training Center offers the After School Boxing Program to promote physical fitness through boxing, giving kids and teens a safe outlet and activity after school. Students have the opportunity to train with a certified instructor at the center. Young boxers will learn effective training and conditioning techniques involving jump ropes, heavy bags, speed bags, and exercise machines. The trainers positively influence the young boxers, teaching them discipline, respect, health, and wellness, and helping to point them toward success.

Approved Grant Funding: \$10,000 Actual Cost: \$10,200 Actual Allocation: \$10,000

- Sports Saturday Program – Katie Kulakowski**
 Sports Saturday is a free 10-week program available to all residents (Aurora, North Aurora and Montgomery) in grades 1 to 5 on Saturdays from January 13 to March 16. Sports Saturday provides a supervised environment for children to interact with peers and participate in activities that include sports, crafts and general fitness. This program gives participants the opportunity to enjoy these activities during the winter months in a safe and warm location. The morning sessions from 9 a.m. to noon at each site is reserved for younger children (grades 1 and 2) with afternoon hours from noon to 3 p.m. for those in grades 3 to 5. The park district runs the program with approximately 18 part-time staff between the six schools. Sports include baseball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, and other high-energy activities.
Approved Grant Funding: \$10,000 Actual Cost \$23,704 Actual Allocation: \$10,000
- Parker’s Foundation Grant Program – Katie Kulakowski**
 The Parker’s Foundation Grant Program was created to increase access to core programs such as Summer Camp and Creative Play Preschool programming for families in need. The program was advertised the last week of February and applications were released and open from March 1 through March 31, with funds awarded by April 30.
Approved Grant Funding: \$112,072 Actual Allocation: \$112,072
- Early Childhood-On the Road – Courteney Tillman**
 Early Childhood - On the Road is a free program to families of young children who are currently residing in homeless and women's shelters in Aurora. Early Childhood-On the Road provides the similar early childhood programs and classes that are offered in the community centers to the families who are not able to leave the shelters, don't have adequate transportation from the shelters, or can't afford the programs.

This program allowed families and young children to have an opportunity to engage in structured programming through art, reading, stories, crafts and free play. Staff set up stations so that children could easily move from station to station with the help of our instructors. All the supplies and materials brought for this program were left at each individual shelter so they could enjoy the different activities after the program ended.

(Funded by remaining unused allocated funds from the same program in 2023)
Approved Grant Funding: \$1,038 Actual Allocation: \$981.89

Jaime Ijams introduced Lynn Piotrowski, Facility Manager at Prisco, and Holly Wiggins and Sandie Gilmer, Recreation Superintendents. These individuals support the staff involved in the grant planning, programming, and reporting. Chairman Kelsey thanked the staff for the detailed presentations. The decision for 2025 grant funding will be made at the November 20, 2024 meeting.

Director Paprocki presented the Board of Directors with the 2024 GFK tee gift as a token of appreciation for their commitment to the purpose of the Foundation.

10.0 Adjournment

Chairman Kelsey called for a voice vote to adjourn. Voting Aye: Travis Andry, Brenda Hernandez, Karen Nelson, Larry Shepard, and Chairman Luanne Kelsey. Voting Nay: none, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by:



*Kim Nooncaster
 Board Secretary*