

Village of Westchester  
Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
October 16th, 2013  
Village Hall-Board Room  
7:00 PM

**Present**

Sucada Bell  
Neil Faulkner  
Jim Gabel  
Nicole LoCoco  
Abigail Martin  
Charles Pedersen\*  
Mirika Sentongo  
Tom Yurkovich  
\* **absent**

**We had two guest speakers in attendance: Gary Kasanders representing the Park District and Mayor Sam Pulia representing the village.**

**Start Time: 7:05 p.m.**

**Discussion**

**I. Approval of September meeting minutes**

**II. Get out and Play Day:** Mr. Kasanders joined our meeting tonight to discuss potential dates for this event. We gave him our ideas for this event and he has some of the same ideas in mind for an event like this. The park district did a community-wide survey and some of the interest was to see a "taste of the park district." People would like the park district to put on demonstrations of some of their programs so residents can sample the programs to see if they are interested. This is pretty much what we had discussed as CAB, so the park district is on board with hosting the event. We decided that a Saturday morning seems to be the best day for the park district. The start time will need to be early to accommodate senior citizens and children. There will need to be overlapping times for children and adult programs, to make it possible for parents to sample some classes while their children try a class or program. We discussed the possibility of the reward card for finishing a certain amount of programs. Gary informed us that they have splash passes, which gives access to the pool for one day. He said this would be easiest and most cost efficient for the park district. Rather than renting out the pool for one night, the patron could use the pass whenever they want to. We need to cement a date for this event. Tom emailed some dates to Gary and we are waiting to hear if any of those dates are feasible.

**III. High school:** Mayor Pulia was in attendance to discuss his past experience in this area. He informed us that previous to his experience there had been a push to de-annex from Proviso to Lyons Township. But, LT did not want us and Proviso would not let us go. He also mentioned something about a magnet school going in where the prairie is, but that also never happened. In 1996/1997 there was a committee of ten people formed by the Westchester residents. This committee was dedicated to forming a high school solely for Westchester children. District 92.5 was completely behind this push, they funded the lawyer and put up the bond for the new high school. The thought was to put the high school on Highridge to make use of the land behind the intermediate school and backing up St. Joe's. The thought was that the programs that would not be offered through the new high school could be brought in by St. Joe's and vice versa. The people involved in this process really believed they had an undeniable case and that it would absolutely happen. They had the money and the support. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The motion was denied at the regional superintendent level and was then denied on appeal at the state level. The argument became about racial issues and that was the reason for the denial. The result of this push was the Proviso Math and Science Academy, which is a magnet school, where students must qualify by their grades and take an entrance exam to attend. Mayor Pulia urged us to get involved at the 209 level, tour the school and attend the board meetings. We mentioned to him that maybe the village could form a board dedicated to these tasks. It could be comprised of residents who are interested in seeing a positive change in the high school situation. He was not too sure about this but seemed open to discussing it further. He said we were welcome to use the village board room to have a town hall meeting with 209.

Because this meeting ran quite long, we as a board were not able to discuss any of the information we heard tonight.

**Adjournment: 9:15**

**If you have any questions or comments regarding these minutes please contact [abbymartin23@gmail.com](mailto:abbymartin23@gmail.com). The next meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board will take place on Wednesday, November 13th, 2013 in the community room of the village hall.**