



# Village of Ashton

LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
810 Main Street, PO Box 186  
Ashton, IL 61006-0186

## Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

**Tuesday August 2, 2022**

**7:00 p.m.**

*Ralphie & Lulu's – 812 Main St., Ashton, IL*

Trustees Present: Martha Holder

Holder opened the committee meeting at 7:00p.m

### **New Business:**

Holder began the meeting by designating tasks for committee members and collecting ideas for the Fall Fest. Date is Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> and time is from 12:00-4:00pm in downtown Main St.

Items discussed were emailing school groups (FFA, Student Council, Sports) about participation in the event. Holder would also like to secure a third bounce house for smaller children. The company that we rented from last year is not taking any more rentals currently, so more research will need to be done with another company. Other ideas brought up from years past were: Touch a truck, petting zoo, carpet bowling, obstacle course and donuts, library story and craft, carriage rides, fall-themed crafts.

There also needs to be communication with a local garden center to see who has pumpkins to either donate or purchase. Holder said she would also contact Monetta Young about having the Mills & Petrie secured as a rain location for the festival. Food options discussed included: hot dogs, brats, chips/pringles, bottled water, ice cream (maybe). Downtown businesses would be encouraged to be open and participate.

Holder had contacted Crest Foods to see if they would donate toward something and would also get in touch with other downtown bars/restaurants. Lumzy to make a Facebook post about reaching out to the parks@ashtonil.com email address to get involved. Also, she would reach out to some local businesses and organizations who had helped in the past. Cardot said she would contact local churches to see if they would participate in some capacity. Previous years activities were cookie decorating and pretzel dipping.

The committee discussed raising the cost of a wristband to \$3 per child for activities due to rising cost of materials/goods and noted that food would not be included with a wristband purchase. "Food is available for separate purchase".

There was discussion about finding a group or volunteer to do face painting. Volunteers could be found through the Sauk Valley Impact Program. Lumzy to help create "Volunteer" lanyards to distinguish participants and workers.

Garrison asked what was needed from the Village Streets Dept.: assistance setting up, garbage collection, barricades downtown and in parking lots, assistance with bounce house placement.

### **Old Business:**

Lumzy recapped the 2022 Ashton Camp Program season. Overall it was a good group for camp. The kids were excited and engaged at camp. On average for older kid camp there were between 40-50 kids at each camp and young kid camps averaged 10-20. There were approximately six youth helpers that participated



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to earn silver cord or IMPACT Program hours. The camp program stayed under budget with registration paid and expenditures for camp supplies. There were several generous donations of funds and food by Crest Foods, Ralphie and Lulu's and the Huddle. The amount leftover will go towards next year's camps.

The difficulties encountered included families registering late, or not at all and showing up at camp or running out of punches and not renewing their card. Also, families registering and not paying—avoiding the camp and village staff after being gently reminded. Lumzy explained to the group that families that could not afford camp all summer were encouraged to fill out the paperwork to receive the gift of camp from donations—it's important that we are clear on how we are applying camp funds in order to keep the cost low. Accurate registration is also important when we order supplies.

### **Other Topics:**

The Committee discussed marketing the Paw Patrol Costumes on the new website and set the rental fee at \$150.00 per costume and a \$25 non-refundable deposit. This fee covers the cost of cleaning and repairs after a rental. There are eight costumes available that have been recently cleaned.

Park cleanup is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am and the rain date is September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Garrison asked the committee to come up with some ideas to help spruce up the park. Updating the flower beds and removing saplings and overgrowth was discussed. Holder will touch base with Garrison in the coming weeks to tour the grounds and make a plan for updates. Also discussed was looking for an ADA-friendly feature to include in the playground and there was discussion about fundraising for this equipment.

Next Meeting Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

Meeting Closed at 7:49p.m.