

## **FORA President's Letter to the Neighborhood**

### **April 1, 2021**

Dear FORA Member,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and in good spirits. As a quick summary, you'll find enclosed a ballot to vote on the coming year's budget and vote for board directors. Your response is encouraged. We're also holding a Zoom call to review the budget and field questions from everyone on April 29 2021 at 7:00pm.

No one expected the covid pandemic to last as long as it has. Although current state guidelines are easing some restrictions on in-person meetings, we have decided to hold this meeting virtually to ensure the safety of all Members. I have thoroughly enjoyed holding the annual meeting and look forward to the date where we may meet face to face. Talking with everyone in person reminds me of our common humanity and our shared community. Here's to hoping that we may find normality, or close to it, very soon.

Please find included in this letter a copy of our proposed 2021 – 2022 budget. The budget contains a dues increase of roughly 5% to \$69.75 per month or \$837 per year. This increase, of \$3.25 per month, is necessary to continue the many capital projects which keep this club in good shape. We've made great progress and want to continue this progress. I'll speak more to this later.

You will also find a copy of a ballot where you may vote on the budget and vote for Members willing to serve on the Five Oaks Recreational Association Inc (FORA) Board of Directors. Please mark your choice and mail it back to us, or alternatively, slip it into the drop box at the FORA clubhouse front door. In the odd case that the budget is not approved by a majority of received ballots, we will continue to operate on 2020 – 2021 funding levels until a new budget is established. **We need to receive at least 30 ballots back** to establish a quorum so, yes, your vote does matter. Ballots must be received by **April 26, 2021** to be considered valid.

This past year, FORA operated on reduced amenities and offered pool times through a scheduling app. We are working on a plan to allow for more access as the state continues to ease restrictions.

### **Grounds and Trails**

Still open - walk them freely. We added a trail through the woods this year. The trail heads are near the dam and on the gravel path to the Glenview neighborhood. We added marked signs to let you know you're on the right path. If you have not yet walked this trail, check it out.

### **Pool**

We are working on a plan to open the pool without using the scheduling app. Based on the current numbers, we feel that we may be able to allow for Members to use the facilities with proper spacing of pool furniture. Stay tuned to email for more information.

## **Gym**

The gym is still open under reduced capacity. Please wear a mask, wipe down machines, and clean up after yourself.

## **Playground and Swing**

The playground and swings are still open. Please practice socially distanced play.

## **Basketball Courts**

The basketball courts are open for socially distanced play or group play with masks.

## **Tennis Courts**

The tennis courts are still open for socially distanced play.

## **Clubhouse and Socials**

Socials and rentals inside the clubhouse are still closed. You are welcome to use the decking around the clubhouse for activities in a socially distanced manner. We will be discussing options for small seated groups inside the clubhouse soon. Stay tuned to emails for more info.

As mentioned, we're raising dues to continue the great progress we've made over the last several years. A portion of your dues goes to our long term capital expenses - big projects that often cost substantial sums. A few examples over the last 5 years are: resurfacing the pool, adding a new playground, clubhouse HVAC, flooring, upgraded internet and more. The capital projects we intend to complete this year are prosaic, but quite overdue and sorely needed: tennis court resurfacing and roofing.

The clubhouse roof is over 35 years old and is in need of immediate replacement. Similarly, the tennis courts have been patched over the years, but have not received a full depth replacement since they were laid in 1983. The typical lifespan for both a roof and a tennis court is somewhere in the ballpark of 25 years. We've stretched the lifespan of both and have received full value. Their time has come.

If you have any input on the above projects - we're all ears. Please reach out to me (Andy Jones) or the property manager Josh Lindgren.

I'm encouraged by the number of people walking. Simply walking the grounds is great way to stay sane and healthy and is the #1 most used amenity at FORA. I don't see that changing anytime soon. We will get through this and get back to the business of more recreational activities as soon as possible.

Warmest Regards,

Andy Jones - President, Five Oaks Recreational Association  
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