

Synopsis of the Garezers Town Hall, May 17, 2020

Garezers First Town Hall Agenda

Welcome

Introduction of the COVID-19 Task Force Committee: Sandra Kronitis Sipols, committee chairperson, Ilēna Rusmanis, Janis Kukainis, Imants Ejups, Markus Apelis, Anita Briedis Bilsens, Jim Bailey, Anda Vizulis

COVID-19 updates:

Task Force mission and update

COVID-19 influence on the educational programs

COVID-19 influence on Dzintari and Atbalsis

COVID-19 influence on the church services.

Question & answer session

The COVID-19 Task Force members and scope of their work were introduced. The task force follows and evaluates information from various governmental, health and professional entities to determine the effect of COVID-19 on Garezer's summer programs, social events and campgrounds. The task force's main objective is to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone who might visit Garezers. The task force has been concerned with reframing camp life and redefining summer camp programs in the midst of this pandemic. The decisions to close the campgrounds and develop virtual experiences for program participants has not been easy. Some of the factors considered to determine the status of Garezers and the programs were presented. Decisions will continue to be influenced by the guidelines issued by the State of Michigan and our risk management assessments. Everyone was strongly encouraged to check-in with the Garezers website and Facebook posts to keep informed of the latest changes and notifications.

During the question and answer portion of the meeting a variety of questions were asked and answered.

Regarding status of Garezers shutdown and finances:

Garezers will have an operational budget deficit, but with possible donations Garezers will survive. The contributions received for the paver project will be used to complete the project as planned and will not be used to fill the operational deficit. The budget is being revised and will be submitted to the shareholders at their annual meeting later this year.

For added security and the safety of the trailers and our property in general, heavier gauge chains were installed at the entrances, wooden posts and barriers were replaced with metal and video surveillance monitors have been strategically placed throughout the facility. In addition,

more trailer cams and tighter vehicle access will also enhance facility security after a recent break-in and thefts.

At the present time no one can come and hangout. Garezers is closed to the public and that does include all common areas, such as playgrounds, beaches, volleyball courts. When it is deemed prudent to open Garezers, the need to wear a mask, socially distance and limit the size of group gatherings will be determined by state guidelines.

We are exploring the option of virtual Sunday services and LELBA and area clergy have been approached.

Regarding programs:

All programs will be offering virtual programming, appropriate for each age group and program. There will be a minimal fee associated with each program, but that amount is intended to only cover actual costs of offering the programs. Those costs are presently being determined and will differ for each program. The costs will be made known with the new registration form, which is currently set to be available May 22 and submitted by June 5.

The deposits made with the original registration for programs will be applied to this summer's alternate program fees. If a refund is necessary for excess payments made, it can be requested, however other options will most likely be offered, such as a donation to Garezers or application to next year's program fees.

The specifics of GVV requirements for promotion to the next grade in 2021 will be available shortly to program families.

If families have applied for scholarships, most likely they will be applied to the alternative programs, but that really depends on the organization offering the scholarship. Those organizations are being informed of the change in programming.

Regarding Dzintari and Atbalsis:

Garezers cannot open until we can ensure the safety of all guests in light of the current pandemic AND the State of Michigan and local health agencies lift their restrictions. Even though sites like KOA campgrounds claim to be open, they are not open for everyone; only specific populations and self-contained RVs. Much needs to be done to obtain needed licenses, prepare the site to comply with CDC guidelines, and carry out mandated procedures. When the Michigan area around Garezers sees a slower rate of COVID infection (flattening the curve), we can consider a phased-in opening of the campground. Garezers will not open all at once to all its constituents and guests. The phased in reopening will be outlined on the website with operational details.

Most likely there will be a requirement to check in or sign in when people arrive at Garezers. This would allow notification/contact tracing in case of confirmed/suspected COVID infection.

In terms of trailer fees, the intent is to prorate the annual fee. If a refund is necessary it will be given, however trailer owners may be encouraged to donate monies due.