

Ad Hoc Year Round Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14th 2021
Held via Zoom

Attendees:

- Committee Members: Sally Cantwell, Jeff Carpenter, Tina Maresca, Manny Rawlings, Carlo Reca
- Liaison to the Board of Trustees: Kelly Wenstrup
- VoM Recreation Supervisor: Jason Pinto

Minutes

- The minutes from the March 18th meeting were approved. Kelly said formalities are not needed since this is an ad-hoc committee.
- Sally asked for committee member thoughts from the prior meeting discussion with Sportime CEO Claude Okin.
 - Tina said her concern is that recreation is meant to be affordable and it is not believable to her that it will be affordable given the plans discussed. She'd prefer to see a new facility built at another location because it doesn't seem like there's room to expand it to be large enough at the current location.
 - Jeff said he'd like to get to a point where we can start to get proposals from vendors including Sportime because then we'll start to see the options at the current location.
 - Carlo said he skeptical it can happen at the current location and that he doesn't think Sportime will spend the money for blueprints until there is some type of dialog between the two parties.
 - Kelly said that she thought talking to the building department about what would be required to build something on the current site would be the next step. Can it be done without the 6 ft elevation, etc.? There has been some recent thought in budget meetings that construction can be done to other structures in Harbor Island. It doesn't make sense to take this next step until Village Manager Jerry Barbiero is back on May 3rd.
 - Manny said he understood from the meeting that a new facility would cost a lot so the main questions are who is going to pay the bill and how can it be done without losing a lot of the tennis revenue that goes to the Village.
 - Jeff said Claude had talked about losing a summer, and that this would avoid long-term impact to the lucrative bubble tennis that runs from the Fall to the Spring. Jason said the Village could possibly provide tennis and instructions to residents during that summer at public tennis courts at redone courts at Florence Park (2 courts) and Warren Ave (1 court – recently redone). Carlo suggested the Rye Neck High School courts. It was mentioned Rye Neck charges a high rate to rent those courts although Jason could possibly barter to rent them. Sally said the tennis teams out of the club would be impacted mostly in May-June.

- Sally suggested separating the tennis contract and the multi-sport contract proposal, and then decide if they should come together or not come together.
 - Jason said the RFP that had been prepared in 2019 covered only the facility that is there now, so it cannot be used for the proposal being discussed. He said the RFP will take time and should be started soon given the timeframes needed.
 - Carlo thinks there will need to be an extension of the current tennis facility for another year or two before a new proposal can move forward.
 - Kelly said it is important to understand if a recommendation is being made that not just tennis should be there, that it should be tennis and something else like volleyball and basketball. The committee needs to understand what fits/works and what the community demands.
 - Jason said it is important to get the consensus of the tennis committee because if we don't want to lose tennis courts we can't fit it all.
 - Tina said there is a lot of demand for indoor turf fields. Mamaroneck/Larchmont have good programs for lacrosse, etc. that just need space. She doesn't think the facility described by Sportime will meet this need.
 - Carlo said the only place that has potential is Taylor's Lane. The Flats have zoning issues and changing those would take a lot of time if possible (it's not Village owned property).
 - Tina suggested the Hommocks fields behind the ice rink and the school. Sally said proposals for a donated track there had been turned down. Jason mentioned the ice rink was build on marshy land which would likely be an issue.
 - Jason asked how proposals could ensure that local organizations don't get shut-out by the largest bidders. There's a tremendous demand for outdoor field space and indoor field space would be invaluable given its scarcity.
 - Kelly suggested the Committee find out what the community wants at the Harbor, and then with that footprint for year-round recreative go to the Village engineer. Jason agreed – figure out what we want and then discuss with the Village staff if it will fit in the available area and can technically be done.
- The committee will aim to get the survey out by April 30th. Jason said the Village can put in on the Village website, in e-blasts, on park bulletin boards, etc. and can create QR codes with links. Sally suggested having it in both English and Spanish.
 - Carlo said he did not get a response back from the Village Manager regarding the Sportime multi-sport plans. Kelly said she took a screen shot of what Claude put up during the meeting and this is probably all that is available.
 - Sally said the timeline will need to start with the tennis, since a decision needs to be told to Sportime by December so they can proceed with season court time renewals if their contract is extended.

Next meeting via Zoom is on Thursday, April 29th at 5pm.