

Ad Hoc Year Round Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 29th 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 April 8th and 14th meeting were approved.
- The scope and focus of the committee recommendations and the proposed survey were discussed.
 - Kelly suggested the survey be clear up front by explaining that we are looking at possibly converting the tennis hard court, and potentially extra land as well, to be part of a bubbled facility offering extra space for sports such as soccer, basketball and indoor volleyball. A write-in line could be made available for other suggestions.
 - Tina suggested naming the survey something other than “year-round recreation” since it is just focused on indoor rather than year-round recreation activities. Kelly said the committee is a spin-off of the ad-hoc tennis committee and focused on the Sportime agreement and land in Harbor Island Park.
 - Jeff asked about the possibility of a turf field at Taylors Lane as a potential location since it recently got DEC approval. Kelly mentioned push back was likely given past experience with a proposed dog park there. The local residents are not keen on the foot traffic and would prefer walking paths. Carlo pointed out no matter where a turf field was proposed, there will be push back. The way to make the case for any location is to show how valuable and needed it would be for the broader community. Kelly suggested giving a list of possible sites to the Board.
 - The proposed Larchmont Commons development in Larchmont was raised as an example which Mamaroneck could follow with similar indoor recreation developments at parking lots on the Jefferson Ave. side of the train station and across from the police station. A garage could be incorporated and the architecture could be done to fit into the surroundings, like has been done in Harrison near the train station.
 - Jason raised the idea of a full size turf soccer field with a modern (better looking) bubble over it, as per comments from Claude Okin about possibilities. The same lighting could potentially be used for the bubble structure and during the summer to provide night-time soccer and baseball. The existing tennis courts could then stay for tennis use. The indoor turf field would likely be booked all the time and could be used by seniors for walking, etc. on the weekdays when kids

are in school. The large parking lot is under-utilized over the winter since it is mostly used for tennis parking.

- Tina proposed making the Sportime/tennis focus as phase one and then continue the committee to make other indoor recreation recommendations. The survey could cover recommendations for all phases to understand what people are looking for, and could explain that we are starting with the tennis courts. Kelly suggested the committee's recommendations cover the number of tennis courts, ie 6, 8, etc.
 - Manny suggested making the survey tighter and less of a wishlist, taking some things off and only including activities that could possibly go on the potential locations.
 - Kelly suggested limiting this survey to the area of the bubbled tennis courts and the hard courts, but mention that the recommendations could extend to additional space in the Village if there is enough community interest in other recreational activities. Carlo suggested mentioning a long 5-10 year timeframe for development.
 - Jason mentioned how successful the walking path has been in Florence Park. People are drawn to a circular walking path.
 - Jeff suggested capturing age groupings in the survey, so age group preferences could be identified.
 - Sally suggested a corresponding marketing document be available on the website that could explain the available Village recreational facilities, including parks and playgrounds.
 - Kelly said there is a long window for the committee to make recommendations and that it would easily be able to get an extension. She said the difference between this committee and the Recreation committee is that the Recreation committee is not focused on the Sportime piece/tennis courts. Jason said the focus of the Recreation is different – they approve fee schedules, work on capital plans, approve special events, make recommendations such as for the dog park, etc..
- The committee will redo the survey, aiming to avoid push-back from the community based on misunderstandings. The goal is for the committee to get as much broad community input as possible so recommendations can be made to the Board of Trustees.
 - Kelly will take a first edit of the survey in the next few days. Other committee members can make updates to the survey in its shared location.
 - The survey will be translated to Spanish.
 - Kelly will ask Village Manager Jerry Barberio and the Building Inspector Frank Tivolacci if they are available to attend the next meeting on the 20th.

- After talking to Jerry and Frank, the Committee will consider suggesting that Sportime get an extension to the current license agreement. The length of the extension could be influenced by the complexity of the process and/or the lost year to Covid.

Next meeting via Zoom is on Thursday, May 20th at 5pm.