



Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

Barry Casterella
General Foreman of Parks

Jason Pinto
Recreation Supervisor

Offices located in the
Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion
Harbor Island Park
P. O. Box 369
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Recreation: (914) 777-7784

Parks: (914) 630-7158

Fax: (914) 777-7768

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Attendees: Kristen Vetter Tina Maresca Cindy Fasolino Carlo Reca Manny Enes
Randi Robinowitz Karri Sergio Emily Marshall Dan Margoshes

Absent Kathleen Gallaher

Present: Barry Casterella – General Foreman of Parks
Jason Pinto – Recreation Supervisor
Nora Lucas – Trustee Liaison to PRC

Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Tina and seconded by Cindy.

Harbor Island Conservancy Presentation – Jason welcomed June Ottinger and John Farris to the PRC meeting to discuss the work they have been involved with recently. John introduced June to speak about a meeting with Westchester County to create a plan to restore the gardens at the Boston Post Road and Orienta Avenue intersection from County work which had disrupted them. The County agreed to let us rehire the Graf landscaper design company to perform the work. The County had approved that decision prior to the original County work commencing. June met with Dave Graf, Dan Sarnoff, Westchester County representatives and the County subcontractor Echo to discuss the project. The Harbor Island Conservancy wanted to finalize what was needed to be done to restore the garden area to what it was before the project began three years ago. The County wanted information on the names of the species of the plants and trees which need to be replaced. Dave Graf is in the process of submitting the name of a dwarf species of plant which will maintain the proper height and will not grow beyond the height of the sign. There is also the issue of removing the invasive species of plants which have taken over the space in the three-year timeframe since the construction began. A significant removal of soil and roots will be required to properly eliminate this problem. Dave Graf has until the middle of September to submit all information regarding the plants and the work involved to the County. The Conservancy would like to include the Tree Committee in the process to obtain their input on exactly where they would like to see the trees planted in this space. The trees considered for the space are three (3) October Glory Maple trees and one (1) Crepe Myrtle tree. The hope is that the work is completed by later this fall if the plan is quickly approved by the County. Carlo asked if they are mature trees. June said they are 2-3" caliper trees. In addition, two (2) Dogwood trees have suffered due to County work; County has agreed to replace them



Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

Barry Casterella
General Foreman of Parks

Jason Pinto
Recreation Supervisor

Offices located in the
Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion
Harbor Island Park
P. O. Box 369
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Recreation: (914) 777-7784

Parks: (914) 630-7158

Fax: (914) 777-7768

and other damaged trees separately to this plan. The plan for the garden restoration will be submitted to the County within the next two weeks. The irrigation system that was there (and damaged) should be replaced as well.

The Harbor Island Conservancy is also involved with the Orienta Pointe Association to improve the existing playground on Rushmore Avenue and improving the rock wall by West basin to allow for easier handicap access. John has a meeting with an Orienta resident who is considering contributing funds to help improve the playground space. Perhaps a matching funding program can add to this effort.

Dog Law Update – Karrie read the emails which were submitted pro and against having a dog park in Florence Park. She does not think that it is a good idea. Perhaps the West Basin in Harbor Island Park or Taylors Lane are possibilities. A dog park is a needed addition to the Village. Carlo additionally thought that a good location for a dog park would be where the Parks Department stores their equipment in Harbor Island Park (by the Parks garage). There is already parking there, perhaps put up a snow fence if necessary. Manny think Florence Park is a bad idea as well. Rye has a good solution that works effectively for a dog park; it is social and kept clean. Perhaps Lanza Field is an option. Carlo stated that enforcement should be in place to maintain the cleanliness, etc. of the location. Carlo thinks by the seawall (flagpole) in Harbor Island Park would be a good location. It is a consensus that Florence Park is a bad location for the dog park. Too many residents in the area and other factors push for this conclusion. According to Nora, it was a conversation on Facebook. You need parking and enforcement and is quite an expense. Perhaps a subcommittee to study this to consider options and a different piece of property would be beneficial. There should be a plan for a dog park and don't let social media dictate the plan. According to Barry, Taylor's Lane or Rushmore Avenue were suggestions by Dr. Marilyn Glasser as locations for dog parks. Elizabeth Yong (a resident) stated that Stanley Avenue Park might be an idea. Barry said due to basketball and playgrounds there was not enough distance for the park to exist. Carlo still thinks that the area by the pier would a good area to have a dog park. Perhaps have selective usage for the dog park. Barry stated that the pier project would be an issue once the County began the work to restore the pier and surrounding area. Westchester County needs to provide a pier project update. Jason stated that we have a contact for the County pier project, and he will request an update from them. Carlo asked if we can reach out to other municipalities to get feedback from them. In Port Chester, NY they have water, dog waste bags – very well done. The Port Chester model is very close to what we are looking to do design-wise. Harrison's park is too small. Randi stated that three or so people can create a subcommittee. Nora said you can do a "deep-dive" in this study and report back to us. Karrie, Tina and Elizabeth volunteered for this opportunity. Elizabeth inquired as to any update in the dog law. Also commented that perhaps we could create a fundraising program for the purposes of creating a dog park. Nora explained the differing issues regarding the law and expansion of the Harbor Island walking areas. There is an expected public



Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

Barry Casterella
General Foreman of Parks

Jason Pinto
Recreation Supervisor

Offices located in the
Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion
Harbor Island Park
P. O. Box 369
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Recreation: (914) 777-7784

Parks: (914) 630-7158

Fax: (914) 777-7768

hearing in late September, early October. Marisa Inzucchi commented that neighboring towns allow dogs in all parks all the time, why doesn't Mamaroneck allow this? Why is there a law regarding park dog walking and how can we overturn it? Nora stated that we are looking to expand the law to allow for dawn to dusk dog walking. We don't have the staff to enforce ticketing. We can manage it in Harbor Island Park because we do have the staff. Jason is now a code enforcer. There was a huge opposition to other parks allowing dog walking. We ultimately need a dedicated dog park in the Village. Jason stated that he explains the rules to the residents. Some people know the law, others do not. Jason also commented about a location identified by Jerry Barberio in the Greenhaven section by the Post Road (TD Bank and Mangone's Farmers Market/adjacent to Taylor's Lane) which consists of approximately one acre – possibly suitable for a dog park location. Karrie asked if the Taylor's Lane entire area capped; Jason will inquire about this. Kristen wanted to understand if the area in question is outside the capped region. Nora stated that we do not have control over the site yet and the neighbors don't want a dog park there. The area we can use immediately, it is usable raw space. Jason said we can fund it out of the Recreation fund. Parking issues do need to be addressed as well as the tree clearing, etc. Perhaps the use of pea gravel for the parking area material would be a good option. Randi stated that the cap appears across the whole thing. There is a lot of land there. Even if we take a part of Taylor's Lane it would work. What is the greatest amount of bang for the buck? A motion is made by Randi have a small committee to look at various sites and come back with a report. All in favor. Nora is okay with residents being involved with the committee. Tina, Karrie, Elizabeth and Marisa volunteer to be in the committee; Nora is available to help the committee as well. According to Nora, we should pursue public input early in the process, not when there is a final proposal. The neighbors need to have the buy-in for dog parks. Jason said we will try to get some research done on what other communities are doing in this regard. Nora mentioned that discussion of an ad-hoc committee is taking place and should be formed to have a vision of year-round recreation. Perhaps three members representing Parks & Recreation would be suitable.

A motion to approve the July 2020 minutes was brought forward by Randi, Carlo seconded, all in favor.

Jason discussed Turkey Trot. Should this year's race be virtual or cancelled altogether? A digital race would be very challenging, and we are concerned about having a very low registration. Randi does not like the idea of the virtual Turkey Trot. Randi proposed a vote to postpone this year's Turkey Trot. All in favor. The meeting ended at 8:58 p.m. with a motion to adjourn seconded by Kristen and Karrie.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes were taken by Charles Vigliotti.