

## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - March 2, 2022 via Zoom**

Attendees: Tina Maresca, Karrie Sergio, Carlo Recca, Kristen Vetter, Manny Rawlings, Heather Castellani Milboer

Present: Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Nora Lucas

### **Opening:**

Tina made a motion to add two items to the agenda, recreation sports programming and in person meetings starting next month. Kristen made a motion, Heather seconded. Approval of minutes, Kristen made a motion to approve January's minutes, Heather seconded. For February's minutes, Tina had one correction to the date of the St. Pat's parade. Heather made a motion to approve, Carlo seconded.

### **Capital Projects:**

**Lanza Field lights:** per Jason were installed in the 80's. They're the old halogen lights, they need time to warm up, and we're well past their life span of about 25 years. They got a proposal through Musco to switch to the SportsCluster System – LED Retrofit, which gives us some technology as well as greater energy efficiency. Cost is \$244,000 and will also give us a return on investment of about \$129,000. Musco provides all the maintenance for 10 years. LEDs last longer, provide better safety and security, have remote operation and dimming capabilities, and the NYPA minimum demand charge is also reduced by switching to LED.

Kristen asked if there was not a requirement to get more than one bid on a project like this and why it's being funded through the capital budget as opposed to being bonded as was stated at the last meeting. Jason said he thought it was going to be bonded but Jerry told him it's going to be done through the capital budget and it's a state contract, we got it off a purchasing agreement, so it doesn't have to go out to bid. Tina made a motion to approve the new Lanza Field lights, Karrie seconded, all approved. It will go before the Board 3/14.

**Florence Park playground rubber surface:** per Jeff, the surface is coming up in big sections and creating a tripping hazard. He had a few companies come out and they're all in agreement that it was not installed properly the first time. Carlo asked if they considered shutting it down due to liability concerns. Jeff said they cut back the flaps so it doesn't lift up and he doesn't want to shut down the park without the plan in place. Jeff said he's tried to go back to the original company but they're not under warranty anymore so to no avail. He would like to put rubber surface back but doesn't want to redo the rubber surface with the old playground equipment so the easiest thing to do would be to put wood chips back for now until they have the capital to redo the that park. Kristen asked why wood chips instead of the rubber recycled chips? Jeff said he's trying to save money now to spend it later when they redo the park, the rubber chips are pretty expensive, wood chips are cheaper and more temporary. Kristen said at the rate we're going it could take 5-10 years to replace everything in the park. Jeff said if they revisit redoing parks every few years so it doesn't get as bad as it is he believes it would cost less to redo them. They think the floor was done in 2013/14. Tina said someone had emailed about the park and the condition of actual equipment, screws missing and something about the bridge. Jeff said they go through the park on a monthly basis and know there are screws missing. They've been ordered but everything is safe. Carlo asked if it was the same mfr as the Harbor where we can't get the parts. Jeff

said no, it's Little Tikes so it's easier to get parts. Jeff would like us to vote on ripping out the rubber surface, replacing it with wood chips and put it on as one of the next parks to be done. Carlo said the one down at HI also has to be done. Jeff said he has a meeting with Harbor Island Conservancy, they got a lot of donations for the playground last time and are willing to meet again to discuss what needs to be done. Jeff said HIP one of the busiest parks in Westchester and half of what breaks is almost impossible to replace. Karrie asked if we've started looking at vendors yet for new playground equipment? Jeff said they've been in talks with a lot of vendors for Jefferson Park. Jeff said he's been in contact with a company called Soft Surfaces and they're in talks to certify the Parks department as installers so if something breaks it doesn't ruin a warranty. They'll do a 15-year warranty if they're certified installers. With the rubber surface, it's only a 5-year warranty, so that would give them another 10 years. Tina said for Florence Park we need to vote on putting temporary wood chips until they can replace the equipment and pour a new floor. Kristen said she remembers when the rubber floor went down and everybody loved it so she would like to know the cost difference of the chips because we have Jefferson Park and Harbor Island Park that have to be done before Florence Park so she doesn't think we can say it will be done in two years and it may be better to go with the rubber chips. She also asked for the replenishment cost because they will have to be topped up every year. Karrie agreed with Kristen that if this was only going to be a year or so the wood chips would be ok but with how long it's most likely going to take the rubber chips may be a better option as long as they're not exorbitantly more expensive. Jeff will put a little report together and send it out to everyone but Nora said the committee can't deliberate or vote over email and would have to set up a meeting. Karrie suggested we just approve the temporary replacement of the rubber floor with chips of some kind without specifying. Carlo suggested giving the Board option A and B, one for wood chips, one for rubber, since the Board has the final decision. Jeff said yes, ultimately the Board has the final decision and this is an emergency that wasn't planned but has to be done and will be Board funded. The committee decided that they would approve that the rubber surface should be ripped up and temporarily replaced with some type of chip/mulch material, rubber is preferred but dependent on cost. Jeff will put both numbers in and submit it to the Board. Kristen made the motion Karrie seconded, all approved.

**Jefferson Ave Park:** Jeff showed the committee a rendering of Jefferson Ave Park. Playground equipment will have ADA ramps for kids with special needs, feature a fire truck (since the fire department is right across the street), a few slides, tic tac toe boards, a music feature and monkey bars. The little kids area has a tic tac toe board, a space ship feature, and an infant climbing wall. What they have now is only one step up equipment with two slides, no interaction or anything so they're trying to upgrade the equipment. There are a couple of options and different tiers but they're a little wary of three tiers, having children climb ladders that high. Jason doesn't like anything that requires a warning. Tina asked if there was room to add more swings but Jeff said the problem with adding more swings is then they would have to take away from the grass area or trees and they don't want to do that. Jason said there will be new sidewalks and other things. Kristen asked about cost. Jeff said \$181,000 just for the equipment/rubber surface/install but they're going to change everything so Jason/Jeff said they'll be in the ballpark of \$250,000. Florence Park cost is closer to around \$200,000 for just the rubber surface

because it used to be all sand and there wasn't a proper base so they have to dig down, gravel, item pour, top soil, stone dust, and then the rubber surface.

**Sports Programming:** Tina said they received an email or two about adding more programming for younger kids. Compared to what the Town is offering we don't have as much for toddler aged kids. Karrie said the interesting thing is that one of the programs specifically mentioned in the emails and FB posts was USA Sport Group which is on the list Jason sent. Jason said they've done quite a bit of programs with them but haven't done so since right before the pandemic but they're working on it again now. They haven't done a tot program but they'll add one. He talked to his colleagues in the TOM and their programs are not going to fill according to what he was told so there would be room for RN residents to join on March 8<sup>th</sup> but he'll certainly work on programs where our residents will have first dibs. Karrie thought it was important to communicate that, as we do offer programs, and just like RN residents have to wait for TOM programs, the TOM residents have to wait for VOM programs as well. Also, as usual, there is so much confusion between Town of Rye, TOM, VOM, Port Chester, City of Rye etc. Jason also said any resident of this community can contact the Rec dept and ask us to offer programs and they will certainly do it. Karrie also asked about a brochure on our website like the TOM has. Jason said they don't do a brochure, they use RecDesk, all the programs get listed on there and that's how you register. Karrie said if someone just wanted to see what we offer without having to register she thought it would be great if we had all the info on our website so that at any point residents could see all of our programs throughout the seasons. Jason said that's a project but they can work on it. They do those graphic flyers and when they go out the programs sell out. Carlo said they used to have a toddlers program pre-covid. Jason said they did do one but it was more of a playgroup. Tina agreed with what Karrie said about the TOM website being easier to navigate and see the different programs and if we could change ours it would be much better. She also wanted to suggest if somewhere we could write, if you don't see something you're interested please call and we can take suggestions.

**Future meetings:** Tina said the Governor most likely will not be extending the order for meetings to be held on zoom, it expires Mach 16<sup>th</sup>, so our next meeting in April will most likely be in person. There are also specific rules about if you need to zoom in. Nora said you have to give 72 hours notice and you have to give the address you're at so if you want to zoom in from home someone could come and attend at your house. Karrie asked about calling in. Nora said that's teleconferencing but it has to be a video conference. Those are currently suspended so people can conference call now but otherwise you have to be visible and in a location someone can access. Tina asked about the rule about not missing a certain number of meetings. Nora said the rule is if you miss more than 3 meetings in a 12-month period then the chair has a conversation with the Village manger and then the Village manager has a conversation with that member to figure out if it's feasible for them stay. Carlo thought it was 3 consecutive months. Nora said there could be extenuating circumstance so it's just to figure out if someone is not going to participate. Tina asked about filling the empty spot. Nora said if we know someone who wants to join to please encourage them. Several members and Jason said there are two candidates and they have received confirmation from Sally. Nora will check with Sally.

**Recreation Update:** Jason said they opened camp registration on Monday and so far they have 237 registered resident campers, which is double what he got last year. Max is around 350.

**Parks Update:** Jeff said they're just doing some tree trimming and waiting for the weather to break to start the fields. Still building docks, almost done, thinks there's three left for the season.

**Dog Park:** Nora said nothing has gone in front of the Board yet. Jeff said it got approved on their end to have the consultant company and he also had a meeting with HI Coastal to see if it had any effect with them. They're going through that now to see if we have to permit through the Coastal Authority because it's so close to the sea wall. Karrie asked what consultant and do what exactly? Jeff said this is to draw up the plans to bring to the HI Conservatory to show them what we're doing to see what they say. Jeff said he and Dan met with one of the HTZM reps, just waiting to hear back. There is nothing the Dog Park committee needs to do yet but things are in motion.

**Closing:** Tina made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Heather seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is April 6<sup>th</sup>.