



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

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Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2020

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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

Absent Manny Enes (unable to connect)

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

Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Randi. After a review of the March 2020 minutes, Carlo mentioned a correction to them which was noted, and a motion to approve as amended was offered by Kristen with Karri seconding it, leading to unanimous approval.

Dog Walking in Village Parks – Update – According to Carlo, the main issue relating to the dog walking in Village parks has to do with enforcement of the law. Carlo stated that the law can look great on paper, but with no enforcement, is going to be a problem. Parking enforcement, along with the Parks & Recreation departments should have the right to do enforcement. Kristen suggested a trial in particular parks. According to Nora, with June being the beginning of the new budget year, there will not be any public hearings at that time. Perhaps they should start with Harbor Island Park. On August 10, the discussion can begin with Harbor Island Park. Nora has a feeling that the idea will not go forth in Florence Park because there are too many dogs in parks. There were numerous emails regarding dog walking in Florence and Columbus parks. It appears that the residents are overwhelmingly opposed to the idea. Dan stated that there are a lot of dogs being walked on the Rushmore side in Harbor Island Park. The residents believe that there will be more dog walking once a new law is drafted. A visit from George Latimer on Zoom was a pleasant surprise at the PRC meeting. George remained at the meeting for a brief period, offering extremely useful insight and suggestions throughout the meeting. According to Nora, there will be likely less opposition to modify the modifications to the Harbor Island Park law. There needs to be a conversation about Florence and Columbus. Ultimately, a dog park is needed in the community. Karri said we are looking to extend the range of permissible dog walking in Harbor Island Park. Currently, only walking on the Rushmore side is allowed. Presently, Jason and a Parks employee are



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being trained to perform code enforcement. Carlo suggested to have additional people to be code enforcers. Nora stated that you can't just deputize someone to perform code enforcement, there needs to be a budgeted stipend to do this. According to Barry, most or all dogs he sees are on leashes; those who run with their dogs are in the park in the early morning and they clean up well after their visit. Carlo suggested there be a three to six-month trial period, Randi concurred with having an evaluation period. Kristen thought beginning the trial period in November would be appropriate. Nora said that the trial period should be extended to make it viable. Karrie suggested making Florence and Columbus Park the trial locations. Emily mentioned that possibly we should only do Columbus Park as a trial and that you need to think about the community in the area. Regarding the current law, it was proposed to separate the law into two (2) individual laws, one with permanency for Harbor Island Park, the second into a trial basis for specific parks. The current law of Chapter 260, Section 1, number 2 should remain as enacted. Bullet numbers 3 & 4 of said law should be struck. Law number 2 would consist of a trial period of three (3) months and would include all parks noted in original numbers 2 and 3 plus Florence and Columbus. The trial period would commence in the fall of 2020 and would permit dog walking on leashes in said parks from 7:00 a.m. till dusk. Since it was only a three-month trial period, we should treat the five parks in bullet four and Columbus Park the same and then adjust if necessary, in the final law. Randi suggested to make a motion, Dan made the motion for this, Cindy seconded it.

COVID-19 Response Discussion – Jason explained the challenges that were brought with the onset of the pandemic. Everything got shut down, tons of signage was produced to communicate the new and changing rules, personnel came back on-site and then the rollout and enforcement of the new rules and regulations. The Department of Health presented a quick plan for opening the beach. After much back and forth with them, we were able to open the beach with limitations. At the beginning with the park restrooms being closed, portable restrooms were set up. The restrooms were cleaned 4x per day. After a period of time, the playgrounds were opened back up with power washing and sanitizing taking place frequently. The departments worked diligently to provide masks, sanitizer, gloves, etc. to ensure proper protocol. The beach usage had varied restrictions based on residency. Initially, only residents were permitted to be on the beach from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. seven days per week. Currently, there is a restriction for non-residents on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All other days are as normal. Revenue from seasonal passes has doubled from last year. Recreation hit their budget projections and parking revenue is good. Currently, there is no cash being taken at the point of sale, only credit cards and checks for daily beach, and seasonal parking permits and beach passes. The numbers are really close to 2019. Boat revenue is up 92% from 2019. Dan asked about programming available. Currently, we are running SUP classes, kayaking. Jason said there is possibility of a mini camp taking place in August, perhaps something related to soccer, arts, etc. An outdoor movie, concert, etc. is desirable, but is more complicated to roll out. Little League sports began on July 6, softball is staffed and



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volleyball clinics for kids only began on July 13. The department is hopeful to have soccer in fall 2020. The local gyms in the Village of Mamaroneck can do open-air classes in Harbor Island Park. As a courtesy to local businesses, there is no charge for utilizing the space and the people who participate absolutely love the classes.

According to Carlo, Cross County is doing a drive-in movie. Is it possible that the Village of Mamaroneck can do this? Due to the expensive nature of an event like this, perhaps the Village can partner with the Town of Mamaroneck to share costs. George Latimer said it was a community by community call on what events to hold or not hold. George suggested that we reach out to Peter Tartaglio of Westchester County Parks department to discuss the possibilities and costs based on what we had in mind regarding a movie night. Whatever the logistics are, Peter can assist in providing information. Currently, Playland and Kensico Park are available to host movie nights. Perhaps a couple of Village of Mamaroneck nights at Playland - have that discussion. The issue is that you are stuck with 50 people. George stated that the instructions are vague. Is the community willing to push it to the max? Village governments will need to make the call on what we can do. It is subject to interpretation. According to Nora, 125 tickets at \$20/ticket sold out very quickly. Jason will call the County because the Town and Village of Mamaroneck want to offer something. Jason wants guidance; is this something we want to do? We need to decide based on cost. It is a good idea; kids want to get out. It would be a great family event and they are willing to pay. Even if you charge \$20/car and bring your own snacks. Consider a Mamaroneck Night at Playland, according to George Latimer, the County would consider covering some of the costs. It would also be a faster way to get the money for the event. Randi stated that it would also help preserve the fields from cars driving on them. As a side note, the U.S. Open will not be using the athletic fields in the fall. It will just be a three-day event with no pre-events according to Nora. It will encompass a Friday through Sunday event and they will be gone on Monday.

The meeting ended at 6:02 p.m. with a motion to adjourn brought by Kristen and seconded by Karrie.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes were taken by Charles Vigliotti.