



Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

Barry Casterella
General Foreman of Parks

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
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Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Attendees: Carlo Reca Randi Robinowitz Veronica Colman
 Tina Maresca Kathleen Gallaher Dan Margoshes

Absent Kristen Vetter Manny Enes Emily Marshall

Present: Barry Casterella – General Foreman of Parks
 Jason Pinto – Senior Recreation Leader
 Trustee Nora Lucas - Liaison

Meeting called to order by Barry Casterella at 7:40 P.M. Previous month’s minutes were not reviewed or approved, Carlo Reca was introduced to the Parks & Recreation Commission as a new member.

Parks & Recreation Commission Mission – Jason discussed the synopsis handed out to the Commission. He wanted the Parks & Recreation Commission to have their own mission. This item was tabled until the next meeting. Emily will spearhead Commission mission statement.

Beef Fest Follow-Up – Dan Margoshes will write up a resolution regarding the Beer Fest event. In relation to the field use fee for Half Time Beverage, it was determined by Jason that the \$25,000 fee would be deemed too high, and thus rejected by Half Time when added to the overtime and field repair costs. Kristen was inquiring about what the other parks in the region charge for field use fees for large scale events like the Beer Fest. Municipalities to investigate are Westchester County Parks and possibly other larger local municipalities. Considerations for the Beer Fest would be to allow the fields to remain open for play between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on a modified schedule the day of the event, to have the fees paid in advance by Half Time Beverage and to include a modest field lining fee. It was agreed that the event is an asset to the community, it just however, needs a better payment system for all parties to remain satisfied. Each year, the costs have gone up – it takes more time for all staff each consecutive year the event is held. A predetermined fee schedule will need to be established for a proper event to take place satisfactory to all parties. The next meeting should include discussion of overtime costs and other costs. Additional caveats would include to allow for the Village of Mamaroneck to maintain the authority to cancel the event. They should also cap the number of people and adjust the fee schedule accordingly. Dan & Kristen will be preparing information for the next meeting regarding the Beer Fest event subject.



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Spray Ground Update Discussion – The Board of Trustees approved the proposal/resolution regarding a Phase 1 project to improve the safety of the current spray ground located in Harbor Island Park. There will be no more water cannons or water guns in the spray ground – vendors don't sell them any longer due to the danger they pose to users. Carlo stated that drainage was a major issue in the current setup as sand was being washed away from the beach due to water runoff. In a future resolution, there will be a Phase 2 project to include lighting improvements and water effects for special events.

Event Request – National Eating Disorders Association – This event request is to have a group of fundraising-minded participants to walk around the seawall at Harbor Island Park. This would be a first-year event at Harbor Island. There is a discussion amongst the members regarding what the organization should be charged. A proposed number was somewhere between \$1,500 - \$2,500 depending on the turnout of the event. Additional billing should occur if there is a need for extra staff. Carlo suggests \$1,000, Tina - \$1,200, Randi - \$1,500. There would need to be a local connection to justify a lower fee structure. Randi makes a motion for \$1,000 plus the cost of staffing and it passes.

Spring Inspection of Parks – This suggestion was brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission by Carlo. Recently, Barry, Jason and Village Manager Jerry Barberio took a ride through the numerous parks located throughout the Village of Mamaroneck. Two items Jerry had concerns with was making all the parks handicap accessible and secondly, for any outstanding safety concerns to be addressed. The current equipment located in Harbor Island Park is handicap accessible. Carlo concurred that the safety issues need to be addressed immediately. Barry suggested the Commission members inspect the parks to see what their assessment is of each. All major parks will be addressed beginning in Harbor Island Park. Jerry would like the Commission to see the spray ground prior to the Phase 1 construction project. It was decided that the next Commission meeting on May 1 will take place at Harbor Island Park, meeting at the Stephen E. Johnston Pavilion building at 6:45 p.m. to begin inspections of Harbor Island Park. Future park inspections/tours to be scheduled.

Revenue Generated From Field Use Fees – The 2018 season collected approximately \$50,000 in field use fees. It is suggested that these fees should be put back into field-related improvements and maintenance programs. Presently, it is being deposited into the General fund. Nora will speak with Jerry in this regard. Barry stated that his Contract Services budget line was currently only reimbursed for the seeding and fertilizing programs which take place in spring and fall. Nora said she will additionally check with Augie Fusco to see about money being put back into Parks Department budget lines.

Sally Cartwell Tennis Discussion – Sportime Tennis is in the 19th year of a 20-year lease with the Village of Mamaroneck which is up for renewal in August 2019. According to Nora the original contract should never have been signed and will not be renewed in August. According to Sally, there are few places to play tennis in the vicinity. She inquired as to whether they might extend the current lease, claiming



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Sportime is a special place. According to Nora it is a risk to extend the agreement. Sally would like to have a year-round facility allowing the Village to keep the benefit of Sportime for local tennis players. Nora stated that alienation of parkland is the heart of the issue. The contract doesn't begin until they build a new facility and 17 years later, we haven't gotten anywhere. The Recreation Department is not set up to take over the running tennis bubble and its programming.

The meeting was called to a close at 9:00 p.m. via a motion by Dan, with Tina seconding.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. at the Stephen E. Johnston Pavilion building in Harbor Island Park.

Minutes were taken by Charles Vigliotti.