



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

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

VILLAGE HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

REGATTA BUILDING, 123 MAMARONECK AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

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

Absent

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

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Randi. A motion to approve the February minutes was offered by Kathleen, Tina seconded it, all approved. A surprise visit from George Latimer was a welcomed event for the PRC. He stayed for a period of time, offering extremely helpful suggestions throughout the meeting.

Comprehensive Master Plan Discussion – Carlo brought up the subject of the Taylor's Lane site. Jerry is optimistic about the eventual reclassification of the location, possibly in 3-6 months. Carlo brought blueprints from 1999 to show to the PRC. The Department of Health looked at the site to see if it was a site that could be developed on. The County changed the status of Taylor's Lane from passive to active. The Village is being "held hostage" by the local neighbors – NIMBY "not in my backyard" – a concept that produces strong opposition to improvements and projects as to not upset the current state of affairs in a given neighborhood. No neighbors want fields installed and present strong opposition to the installation of a dog park there. According to Karrie, we need to push back against the neighbors. We require broad-based support for a dog park according to Nora. According to Barry, it is not a bad idea to install a dog park at Taylor's Lane, however, Tina commented that there needs to be a complete plan, not just for a dog park installation, but for fields and other facilities there. Jason mentioned that there is an issue with parking or the lack thereof. Carlo additionally mentioned that perhaps Rushmore is a possible alternative solution to Taylor's Lane for a dog park installation. Barry said that is not happening. Randi made the suggestion that perhaps the PRC form a subcommittee to work on this project. Karrie said it needs to be of blended usage, not just a dog park. George asked if the PRC has gotten into discussing the cost for such



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a park, what was being planned from an investment aspect to the project. George additionally suggested that we should send a letter to Catherine Parker stating the cost and the multi-uses for the location. Then they will set up a meeting to go over this - here's what we are looking at. George can include the County DPW and Westchester Parks to become involved as well. There needs to be some parameters about it; here is the scope, the cost will be "X" million dollars, etc. If we can come up with a plan, then he can introduce it to the budget. Right now, George is in a good position to offer his assistance. He would be willing to make a commitment in dollars. He will restart the County engine on this. There will be a requirement that the space be of "open usage", meaning that anyone can utilize the space. However, no one, in all practicality, will use this park other than the local residents. It is possible to get approximately one-half of the money from the County. George reiterated that we send a letter to him and he will "rattle some cages" and restart the engine on this. There is the CDBG, a community development block grant program as well. You would need an eligible project, as it is a Federal program; perhaps something like the spray ground Phase 2 project.

Dog Walking in Village Parks – Update – There was a draft of a local law regarding this, however, the BOT asked to have the PRC go back and review this law again. There was lots of vocal opposition about it from the community. According to Nora, there are dogs in the parks now with no enforcement being done. At Harbor Island Park, there is no enforcement at the present time. We need to work with community groups to come up with a solution. Instead of coming up with a law, reach out to the communities and ask for their input from everybody. Cindy suggested that we come up with a test law and see if it works. Carlo stated that enforcement will not happen. Perhaps there can be people on duty on the weekends such as dedicated code enforcers. Randi suggested to do a test in Columbus Park to start off with. It was suggested to have a test law set for the March 23, 2020 BOT work session and have it run in effect for three months. There was a comment to include Florence Park as well as Columbus Park in this test law rollout. Harbor Island Park would be a separate issue and require different parameters. The temporary law would be in effect from June 1 – September 1, 2020 as a temporary law. Nora suggested to send letters to the residents in the area to make them aware of this. We are going to run a pilot program and see what happens.

Field Maintenance in Harbor Island Park – Carlo brought a subject to the attention of the PRC this month regarding low water issues in Harbor Island Park fields. According to Barry, you can't do anything about this issue until after the USGA event has completed. Carlo suggested to get all of the organizations involved in the issue in fixing the fields since it directly affects them. Jason stated that the residents pay a lot of money to upkeep the fields each year. Jason, as a side note, mentioned that the Village is working on a press release mailing regarding the USGA event occurring in June. It is a possibility that the fields may be able to be utilized by local organizations up to as late as June 12, 2020 (before the USGA takes them over for the U.S. Open event at Winged Foot Golf Club).



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Event Request Discussion – Marine Education Committee – “Tent Talks” - This request has been tabled for a future meeting.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:57 p.m. by Dan, seconded by Kristen.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Conference Room located at 123 Mamaroneck Avenue at the Regatta, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

Minutes were taken by Charles Vigliotti.