

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - September 7, 2022, 7:30 PM**

**Village Courtroom 169 Mount Pleasant Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

Attendees: Tina Maresca, Brittany Ross, Tim O'Connor, Carlo Reca, Karrie Sergio, Manny Rawlings (remotely)

Absent: Cindy Fasolino, Heather Castellani Milboer, Kristen Vetter

Present: Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Nora Lucas

**Opening:**

Tina asked for a motion to open the meeting, Brittany made the motion, Carlo seconded.

**Girl Scouts Presentation:** postponed

**Dog Park Update:**

As per Jeff, information went to the HCZMC and they requested additional information about surface materials, gate/fencing and a cleanup study which was sent to them a few weeks ago. Per Nora, due to a Board delay the information was not received in time for HCZMC's special August meeting so it will be on for September. Jeff believes what they submitted was adequate. Nora said what they requested is part of what they have to do to make sure the proposed action is not inconsistent with the LWRP.

Karrie asked if the information that was provided to HCZMC was location specific. Jeff said it was location specific. She expressed her concerns about the proposed location next to the Waste Water and Treatment Plant, that we are trying to cram the dog park between the ball fields and the soccer fields in an already crowded location, when the place where people at the Harbor are already with their dogs is around the west basin, both off and on leash. She really feels like the dog park committee was pushed into agreeing with the proposed location being told that it would happen a lot sooner if we went with that spot. The committee briefly discussed the other spots they had looked at and the west basin issues, the main concerns being resident opposition, parking and the protected area. The committee agreed and decided that the best thing to do was to have the Dog Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee meet at the two sites to discuss again before going ahead with anything. Karrie will send out an email to the dog park committee asking for a meeting. Brittany asked what the lead time was once we figure things out, Tina was more concerned about how it was going to be funded. Nora said prices have doubled since we started and there has to be a SECR, an environmental review, and HCZMC has to determine that it's consistent with the LWRP before they can fund it. They also have to have a funding source because the recreation fund has now been pretty much drained so we should think about donations via private sponsors in addition to reserve funds. Jeff said lead time is probably 6-8 weeks to get materials in and then another 2-3 weeks since we're doing it in-house. Nora said if we decide to make a different recommendation it has to go back to the Board and then back to HCZMC before the Board can approve the funding.

**Pape's Park Update:**

Tina said after our last discussion about Pape's Park, she sent an email on behalf of the committee to the Traffic Commission, she and Tim attended the Traffic Commission meeting, and everyone seemed to agree that it would be a benefit to get rid of the parking in front of the park for safety and other reasons, 1 spot on Old Plains Rd and 4 spots on Madison. Nora said the recommendation by the Traffic Commission to remove the parking spots still has to be reviewed by the BOT and may be on their September meeting. Carlo said there are 3 other various commissions that are saying it should be done, so it should be done. Jarrett Winchester was in attendance and wanted to know when this topic first came up and what the safety concerns were. He said the proposal, chapter 88 of the traffic law, says it's looking to take 110' from the corner to the end of the property, that's more than 4 spots, there's already a sign no parking from here to the corner. Tina said it was only supposed to be 1 spot on Old Plains Rd and 4 spots on Madison, just up to the end of the grass where the park is. It sounds like the proposal was written incorrectly and needs to be corrected. Jarrett also met with the police chief and asked her why and she said because there's no parking in front of parks, he said there was parking on BPR and we explained that's not the entrance to HIP. Jarrett said he brings this up because this park is different from other parks in the Village. He said eliminating those spots will eliminate spots for the businesses there. The bottom line is we are trying to make the rules and the guidelines of all the parks consistent so removing parking spots from directly in front of the park entrance is the goal here for safety reasons to open up the visibility to the park so people can see what's going on there. In front of entrances to all the parks there is no parking and that's what we're trying to accomplish. Tim said there is also a quality-of-life issue with all the trucks parked in front of Pape's Park every day. Carlo said by removing those spots people are still going to park illegally for 5 minutes so businesses should not be affected. Tina said the other thing is by removing those spots it could create a loading zone for trucks making deliveries to be able to pull over instead of blocking the road which is one of the safety concerns, or a quick spot to allow someone to run into the deli. If we went with our original proposal Jarrett said he would agree. Jeff said they're looking at plans for the future of parks in Mamaroneck and Pape's Park is part of that future. The traffic commission will have to correct their proposal.

**Warren Ave Tennis Court/Pickleball Update:**

Jeff said they have on their capital plan to install pickleball courts at Stanley Ave Park. As of now, they have painted pickleball lines on the tennis court at Warren Ave Park and they will set time limits for pickleball vs tennis. This will be in addition to the pickleball court they want to build at Stanley Ave Park.

**Comprehensive Plan:**

The Board has been working on adopting a comp plan, the latest draft is from 2020. The Village's planning consultant wants us to look at the plan and make changes/suggestions. Jason and Jeff are working on making updates and then as a group we need to come together and make our recommendations to the planner.

**2022 Day Camp Update:** postponed until next meeting.

**Recreation Update:**

Jason sent an email with updates about a lot of family fun activities coming in the months of September and October; Family Campout, Car Show, Monarch Butterfly Festival, Gangstagrass concert in the park, Scarecrow Build, Halloween Spooktacular, and Turkey Trot.

**Parks Update:**

Jeff said woodchips went down at Jefferson Ave Park and HIP, they were attacked by graffiti at Florence Park, they cleaned it up and the next week it was back and worse. Cameras were approved but we don't know where they are going to be installed. They are finally receiving the replacement ten spin at Warren Ave Park that they lost in Ida. Jefferson Ave Park update is on track for early spring. Nora said because it's a replacement in kind it's a type two action that doesn't need an environmental review. Estimated timeframe is 6-8 weeks.

**County Pier Update:**

They had a meeting with the County, the State declared that the County needed to do an environmental mitigation project, the County needed to buy a house near the marsh and turning it back into marsh, that fell through so even the county pulled the permits, the permits have been closed and they need to start the process over.

Carlo just wanted to add that revenue that's generated in the parks goes to the general fund so how do you generate revenue in order to replace or renovate parks? Nora said that's a policy decision that a BOT would adopt and any BOT could change it. Nora said if revenue doesn't go into the general fund and it goes into a specific fund then it can never go out of that fund. Jason said the logic he's been working toward that the TOM uses is they have a budget and whatever they make over that budget goes into a trust for Parks and Rec. Jason said we don't bring in enough revenue to pay for ourselves, we're getting closer but we're not there yet. Nora said the argument is money that comes in from cell towers or field use etc. is actually going back to the parks because the Village is subsidizing the parks. What Jason is recommending would have to be approved by the Board as it does limit how the general funds can be spent so it should be discussed with the budget committee, and the Board still has to adopt the capital budget. We all agree there should be a schedule/plan for our parks.

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

Next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup>.