

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - December 7, 2022, 7:00 PM**

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

Attendees: Tina Maresca, Brittany Ross, Tim O'Connor, Randi Robinowitz, Eric Williams, Kristen Barnard, Kristen Vetter, Carlo Reca, Karrie Sergio

Present: Manny Rawlings, Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Nora Lucas

**Opening/Approval of Minutes:**

Tina was appointed as the commission chair, Randi was appointed vice chair, and Karrie was appointed secretary. Tina made a motion to approve the November 2022 minutes, all approved.

**Harbor Island Park Rushmore Ave Playground presentation by Christine Belsito:**

Christine Belsito, Beth O'Connor, and Andrew Spatz gave a presentation proposing a new playground for the Orienta neighborhood. The current playground, which is about 2500 sq. ft., is deteriorating. The proposal is for a new 7900 sq ft. playground, three times the current size. The equipment they picked out would be ADA compliant and increase the user age group. Their vision is for the playground to be user friendly, safe, in taste of what is there now, and to be enjoyed by other neighborhoods in the Village in addition to Orienta. They would like to both fundraise and have the Village fund the new playground together. The general consensus of the commission is that while a new playground is long overdue, as are many others we are working on trying to upgrade, the scope of the proposed project is far too large for the area and with no parking we would not want it to turn into a destination playground. The main playground at Harbor Island is literally falling apart and the cost to replace that is upwards of a quarter of a million dollars so funding is always an issue. As we are able to upgrade our parks the intent is for them to all be ADA compliant. The next step would be to meet with Jeff and go over what they can do and what the Village is and isn't looking for going forward with parks. Also to note, the Harbor Island Conservancy sent an email, they are not in favor of the proposed expansion to the Rushmore playground when the HI playground is in such dire need of renovation.

**Dog Park Update:**

The subcommittee met and revisited the flagpole site they had previously looked at and are waiting on info from the county. They looked at Greenhaven again, and residents from Greenhaven attended the last meeting to oppose. We are still waiting on confirmation of whether the Village owns the piece of land that Mangone's is encroaching on or if it belongs to the Town of Rye. They looked at Continental View parking lot and then information came out that had been withheld from the committee which they should have been made aware of, so that site doesn't look to be a viable option but nothing has been ruled out and nothing has been decided by the committee. It was stated that there really needs to be a master plan for the Harbor and we need to stop just throwing stuff here and there. The bottom line is there are three locations on the table: Greenhaven, the flagpole, and BPR. The committee is meeting again next week.

In speaking about a master plan the question was asked if Sportime still has a contract and when it expires. Their contract was extended for two years during the pandemic. It was then asked if leasing to Sportime

is considered parkland alienation? Nora explained the original Sportime contract had a proposal that they would be able to build a new facility and Sportime said their contract didn't start until they built it. There was a mediation provision in breaking the deal which the Village pushed because they said they could not give Sportime exclusive use of property. Now they have a contract where Sportime does not have exclusive use of the property in perpetuity, the Village gets rent and revenue share (20%), VOM residents get a 10% discount on Sportime programs. Another question was asked that with the way the new contract works how easy or hard would it be to turn the outdoor court that is hardly used into a basketball court?

#### **Harbor Island Park East Basin Main Playground discussion:**

Jeff went over the plans for the new HI playground. They will be repurposing the gazebo. They are getting away from wood and using all metal/plastic. They are getting away from trees in playgrounds because roots go towards water and rubber surfaces drain a lot of water, so they will be using shade structures instead. He asked about including exercise equipment and the commission felt that exercise equipment does not belong in the playground area, that would be better along the walking paths. They could also incorporate America ninja warrior style/parkour equipment. There will be new walkways and new aluminum fencing. It will be ADA compliant and incorporate sensory items, as well as imagery sign boards to be inclusive of everyone.

#### **Inclusive Programming for Children with Special Needs:**

Jason said he and Tina met with Dr. Nora Mazzone, Head of Special Ed in Mamaroneck, and they worked out a program before the regular holiday program from 3-5pm just for the special needs kids in contained classrooms. Tina said there are close to 400 kids in Mamk school district that are autistic and in self-contained classes. They distributed a flyer and have about 20 families signed up. It was asked if we were going to create a subcommittee so we could do more of these kinds of programs. A subcommittee would have to go before the Board and need a resolution. Maybe we can continue to do these types of small events for the next few months, see how it goes and then revisit the need for a subcommittee.

#### **Recreation Update:**

Jason said the holiday event is coming up. The candy cane run is Saturday morning, the tree lighting is Saturday night, and Sunday is the drive-thru. There are about 100 cars signed up for the drive-thru. The Lanza field lights were delivered and they should be installed in the next week or so.

#### **Parks Update:**

Jeff said they have the holiday event, they set up decorations on the Ave, mulching parks, and planted trees. Jefferson Ave Park is still due in April/May.

#### **Code Enforcement Update:**

Tina let us know that she received a follow up email regarding park rangers from Lt. Gatta stating that there is no specific route that park rangers follow. This is done so their route cannot be predicted. Time spent at a specific park is also not predetermined, each park needs may be different. In addition, as their tour ends the park rangers are responsible to clear and secure all six public restrooms at the Harbor. They

are also responsible to fuel, clean and sanitize their vehicles, and return equipment to police headquarters. It was suggested that we have an update about the health and wellbeing of all our parks on our agenda every month. If there is a safety issue discovered we should be notified.

**Community Survey:**

Carlo just wanted to reiterate that those who sat on the Year-Round Ad-Hoc Committee were supposed to send out a survey to see what the community wants as a whole, it was never sent and it should be. This would help us know the priorities of the community specific to recreation and parks, different from the comprehensive plan survey.

**County Pier Update:**

Jeff stated they had a meeting with Westchester County about the county pier. The DEC gave them their permits back and they're in the process of securing a contractor, that process is 6-8 months, then 18 months for construction because of the fish cycle.

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

Next meeting is January 4, 2023.