

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - January 3, 2023, 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 Vetter, Carlo Reca, Karrie Sergio

Present: Manny Rawlings, Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne

Absent: Kristen Barnard

**Opening/Approval of Minutes:**

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, Karrie seconded. Approval of December minutes to be held until next meeting.

**Parks and Recreation Revenue Discussion:**

Jason updated the commission that in speaking with the clerk treasurer, if the commission would like money to be set aside for Parks and Rec in trust, that is something we can do but it's a budget and Board action and we would have to recommend it to the Board. We need to figure out if this is something we would like to try and do and if we want to specifically earmark the money. It was thought that the Village manager would prefer to bond for projects and not tie up the money. Manny stated he thinks the best plan for anything park related would be to put it on the capital budget and hope it gets passed. We must understand that the capital budget is a plan, it's not going to happen in one year, it could be five years, it could be ten years, the Board has to prioritize the items. If we set up a trust where people could donate there would need to be a 'Friends of...' group.

**Harbor Island Park East Basin Main Playground update:**

Jeff updated us on the plans for the new HI playground. They took out the fitness equipment and added two of the flying saucer swings which will be in addition to the six regular swings. The split rail fence will be replaced with an aluminum fence. It was suggested to add more swings if possible. It was also suggested to add more covered space for party rentals. It is on the capital plan as the number one priority.

**Master Plan/Community Survey Discussion:**

Jason said the Master Plan is a Board action. It was thought that the Board requested an RFP for it and it was being done. Manny said yes, the goal of the Board is to do it internally and then come to the commission with updates each month so we are included in the process. He doesn't think they're going to do an RFP but they are trying to figure out how to do it and he is a big advocate for it. Carlo reiterated that the ad-hoc committee was supposed to send out a survey to figure out priorities from the community. Manny said they need to update the survey. He wants the commission to come up with a ten question survey, give it to Robert, and then it can go out by February or sooner. The commission asked that Manny send us what he has so far so we can add questions/suggestions.

**Village Park Hours:**

Jason said the code says Village parks shall open at 7:00 am and close at 10:00 pm. He said dawn to dusk does not work for the law. It was felt that 10:00 pm is too late for all parks except for Harbor Island Park, Columbus Park, and Florence Park, any parks with lights. It was suggested that we could have seasonal hours to account for the change in daylight hours. There are also sitting parks to take into account. If we want to change park hours it's a code change and all new signs. Ultimately it all comes down to enforcement of the rules before any changes are made.

**Dog Park Update:**

The last meeting was last night and today was the deadline to make a recommendation to the Board. The recommendation was that while the committee did not feel that there was a truly suitable spot for a dog park at this time, the majority of the committee did want to move forward with the HI site along the BPR next to the wastewater treatment plant. It was not a unanimous recommendation from the committee. It was requested that the Board meet with the committee to discuss their concerns. The majority of the PRC felt that the recommended spot was not the right place for a dog park, some felt it would be better to do something rather than nothing, some felt it was not a priority right now, Rushmore was again brought up as being a better spot. The dog park is on the Board's agenda for their next meeting.

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

Jason said there were 12 families at the Christmas event that they opened early for special needs kids. It was very nice and they will look to do it again for future events.

**Parks Update:**

Jeff said they're working on the capital plan. He's putting in for whole park renovations to be done rather than pieces of a park, basically a master plan for each park. They're going through park signage in each park to see what's outdated and have already taken down some signs. It was suggested that we go through the park codes to see what should be updated.

**County Pier Update:**

No real change from last update, the county is able to move forward with the pier without having the mitigation project as long as they finish the project by certain time.

**Recreation Update:**

Jason said they are working on budgeting, capital work, and camp stuff which should be out in the next two weeks. He was asked how many people were on staff. He has a total of four: himself, a rec leader, and two rec assistants. What they need is a rec supervisor but the county test hasn't come out in six years. Generally, they come out every five years but they think they're delayed because of Covid. They also really need some sort of additional indoor space if they want to expand. The indoor space they have is rented to KEEPS, they also have ESL classes, and other classes. There is no place to run more programs and no additional storage space. It was again brought up that we need to discuss Sportime and start having a dialog about what needs to be done and what's in the best interest of our residents

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

Next meeting is February 1, 2023.