

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - February 1, 2023, 7:00 PM**

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

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

Present: Manny Rawlings, Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne

Absent: Brittany Ross

**Opening/Approval of Minutes:**

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, Randi seconded. Approval of December minutes (as amended).

**Revenue Discussion Update:**

If we want a non-profit 'Friends of...' group that would have to be established and set up by someone else but it's not something we as a commission can do.

**Review of Village Code Chapter 260 (Parks):**

We will be going through each section of the code for review and update. Sections 260-1.-260-3. to be discussed at our next meeting.

**Dog Park Update:**

At the last Board meeting the Board did vote 4-1 to go ahead with the construction and funding of the dog park at the Harbor next to the water treatment plant along the Boston Post Rd. Jeff reported they called in code 753 which is the dig safe for underground electric and utilities. They ordered a portion of the fence which could take 2-4 weeks and ordered some door locks with key fobs associated with it. It's been mapped out but that will change because there is a drain sewer line that runs through which they will have to work around as well as a line that supplies the Harbor with power. Jason is working on a set of rules which has to be reviewed by the Village manager, police chief, lawyers, etc., then it will need to be adopted by the Board into law. There needs to be a process developed before it can be opened and since it's associated with dog licenses it will have to go through the Village clerk. There is no internet access there so the key fob system will have to be digitally downloaded. Estimated cost is \$95k. It was requested by the commission to be allowed to review the rules/fees just like we review all other park matters. Jason will speak with Jerry. It was also asked if there is adequate space between the dog park and the playing fields. Jeff said it was just shy of 1 acre right now and is 32' away from the baseball outfield and soccer boundaries.

**Additional Athletic Field Space:**

At the last Board meeting the Board also promised to find additional athletic field space. Carlo again brought up about utilizing Taylors Lane and why we are still waiting to get approval for use. There are other areas that could be utilized as well: Rushmore, Florence, Columbus, Warren, Stanley, but it's always a NIMBY or CAVE issue. Fields for Kids may be able to help fund field space and we need to stop dragging our feet. It was suggested to get our state senators and legislators involved to help about Taylors Lane,

Kristen V. to reach out. Tina stated it has already been requested that Field for Kids come to our next meeting. Kristen B. is on that Board and she thinks it's an opportunity that we should really consider as they have the funds to make the community better. Manny thinks it would be helpful but he would like to see examples of what they've done.

Manny said the Board understands the need for more space so with the master plan they are working on internally they are looking at what they can do, not just with one sport but other activities and alternatives, like pickleball and basketball. It was asked about where we stand with Sportime. Manny said their contract is up next year and they have not started the conversation yet about whether they stay or we take it over. Carlo mentioned Dan Fraioli of ASATI has done projects and he is willing to have a dialog about doing something at Sportime with the VOM. However, it was noted that if there is an RFP he could possibly not be eligible but once the Village says ok we're going to do this then Jason could reach out. The commission feels strongly that we need to end our contract with Sportime. Randi is going to work on a letter of recommendation to the Board.

#### **Community Survey/ Master Plan Discussion:**

Manny did not send out what they had previously, he wants the commission to come up with fresh ideas. Robert has a baseline and the commission asked to see the draft to review before it goes out. Manny said there is no RFP for the Master Plan, they are working on it internally. So far they decided on a template of what it is going to look like and what they are going to include but they are not waiting for the results of the survey to continue building it out.

#### **Recreation Update:**

Jason said the beach and parking info is up on the website and will start selling them first week of April. Camp info is going out tomorrow and registration will open the last week of February for residents, they will have two weeks before it opens to non-residents. They have also been in talks with the schools for scholarships to make sure they are incorporated. The other thing they have been working on is budget prep. Jason has included a new community event budget for everything that is multi dept. such as parades, fireworks, etc., to be a separate budget that each department contributes to. The fields letter for spring permits was also sent out to organizations who rent field space. It was brought up about the suggestion by the Village manager via email to charge non-residents a higher hourly rate. The commission is opposed to this idea as all the leagues are made up of kids from multi municipalities. Tina said no other municipality that she knows of charges a non-resident fee to use their fields, so it's just not in line with what anyone else does.

#### **Parks Update:**

Jeff said they went to a tree cutting seminar and took over the trimming of Mamaroneck Ave trees. He met with the people for Rushmore Ave playground and told them they need to trim it down. They will be coming back with a new design at which point we can discuss it some more. They did their capital budget as well.

**Closing:** Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is March 9, 2023.