

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - March 16, 2023, 7:00 PM**

**Village Hall Regatta Conference Room 123 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

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

Present: Jerry Barberio, Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne

Absent: Kristen Vetter, Manny Rawlings

**Opening:**

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, seconded. Motion made and seconded to approve January and February minutes (minor grammatical amendment to February), all approved.

**Discussion with Village Manager:**

Jerry stated Jason and staff just put the budget together and he presented a tentative budget to the Board that has 1.16% increase to residents. The tax cap is 2.5% so we are well under which means the BOT has about \$370,000 that they can add to the budget during their process. Jason explained that he worked with Jerry to get all our special events (parades, fireworks, turkey trot, concerts, block parties, spooktacular, tree lighting, movie nights, etc.) into one place in an itemized way to see what they cost from an entire municipality perspective. Jerry wanted to highlight the Parks & Rec Dept.'s hard work and significant contributions to the entire Village. It was asked if it would be possible to bring back a beer fest at some point. Jerry stated that it's a high probability, it depends on where Half Time stands, but if they wanted to there is a way to do it now. Jason said he did two beer fests and there were lots of issues but management is different now.

**Parks & Recreation Commission Community Needs Survey/Master Plan:**

The PRC was given a survey by the Village manager to identify the critical issues/needs for the future. Results of the survey were discussed. Major opportunities identified are not renewing Sportime's contract, indoor space/community center, and fields. Threats are proper funding for capital improvements, flooding and parks environmental resiliency, sea level rising, and increase in population creating a strain on departments. Internal strengths identified are department management, maximized programming and facilities with limited resources, and in-house maintenance of fields. Major weaknesses are lack of funding, inadequate field space and facilities, and additional programming for seniors and adults. The most critical issues/needs for the future are playground renovations, creating an indoor space/community center, additional outdoor space, and additional office space/staff. Possible solutions are taking over Sportime complex, increase funding, and rebuild/construct complex. Jerry said there may be a way for us to negotiate for use of the outdoor tennis court this year. For additional office space and staff, recreation and others have been included in the new Village Hall design along with a community space. There should be a completed design by October of this year. Jerry said they are going to create a master plan from all of this information, write drafts, and bring them back to us for review in house with our own resources. It was asked if the survey that Manny was working on was ever sent to us. Jason said he, Jerry, Jeff, Dan and Robert had a meeting and came up with the questions, he needs to check because

he hasn't seen it yet. Jerry said Manny and Robert have been working on it separately so he will get an update.

### **Sportime:**

Per Jerry, Sportime revenue this year is an increase of \$100k, total revenue of \$400k. Over the past 10 years they have contributed to a 12% tax decrease for this community, it is not easy to lose but it can be replaced. The other issue is that they have our property and it may not be beneficial for us to allow them to continue to take away valuable space from us where we can bring in our own revenue. It was requested that we be given an estimate of what revenue we could bring in if we took over Sportime's space, turf it and rent it out, and what it would cost us. Jerry said and he could provide us a cost/benefit analysis. Sportime's contract is up August of 2024.

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

We decided that a few of us would work on suggested updates outside of our meeting and will email to the PRC for review to be discussed at our next meeting. Tina, Tim, Karrie, and Jason volunteered to work on it.

### **Camp Fee Discussion:**

An email was received about the cost of camp. While scholarships have increased the sibling discount fee and early bird registration discount have been eliminated. On top of that, there is also the \$30 registration fee per child. It was asked if there was a way to mitigate the registration fee. The fee is charged by the program that is being used. Jerry said if we want it eliminated the budget would have to be adjusted. Two years ago we had voted to increase the sibling discount fee to \$50 but then it was removed along with all the other discounts during the pandemic. We would like to bring back the sibling discount and build any other fees into the cost of camp. Jerry said they are going to take a look and see what they can do.

### **Parks Update:**

Jeff went over the **HIP playground** design with the amendment to increase the number of swings that we discussed at the last meeting. More swings would mean losing a climbing apparatus. The committee agreed they did not want to lose the climbing apparatus to have more swings. Randi made a motion to approve the playground design with the climbing apparatus, Brittany seconded, all approved. **Jefferson Ave Park** equipment delivery should come in May/June, once it does, they will shut it down and get to work. It should take about 8 weeks. **Dog Park** has 90% of the poles in, 50% of the water lines run, 3 full sides of the fence done, the contractor is coming in next week to do the ADA accessible ramps and cement foyers, waiting on automatic shut off water valves, and once the contractor is done they can finish the fence. The only issue is they have drains in the middle of the dog park that they have to cover. Jeff is shooting to have construction complete by April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted how spongy it was after all the rain we just had. For right now it is going to remain grass but they can convert it to mulch if necessary. Jerry said key fobs will be issued with dog licenses. It was asked about residents vs non-residents. Jerry said right now it is residents only but there are people he works for who may decide otherwise. A major concern is that it will become overcrowded if it is opened to non-residents. It was also asked that the committee be notified if it does become open to non-residents, that there is a cap to the number of non-resident permits

allowed, and a higher non-resident fee charged. Jerry said if we have any changes to the rules to email them to him, he has to send them to our deputy Village attorney, and they will develop a new draft of rules for our next meeting. It was asked about what happens if there is a problem at the dog park. Dog Park permit holders will have to agree to indemnify the Village and hold them harmless.

**Recreation Update:**

Jason said the spring egg hunt is coming up. It sold out in a day and they are doing the special needs version first. The Lanza field lights are going in, half of them were done today. One of the lights closest to the bubble has an osprey platform to protect the birds. They should be done in the next two weeks or so to be ready for spring and we will see electricity savings immediately. Camp registration is still going on with very few spaces left, all the older grades are full and they have a waitlist so they are going to see what they can do to add. The youngest age they accept is 4 but going into kindergarten, and they have to be potty trained. They have been working on the budget and they have position of rec supervisor in this budget so it will give Jason a deputy. Other than that, doing lots of planning.

Jerry said he will be at our next meeting because he is going to give an update on negotiations with some properties for our indoor multisport facility.

**Closing:** Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is April 20, 2023.