

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - April 20, 2023, 7:00 PM

Stephen E Johnston Beach Pavilion, Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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

Present: Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Manny Rawlings

Opening:

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, Karrie seconded. Tina made a motion to approve the March minutes (with minor correction to clarify that the community survey was a survey given only to the PRC, not one that went out to the entire community), Brittany seconded, all approved.

Temporary Basketball Court in HIP (Day Camp):

Jason and Jeff explained that they want to pour a 25x25 blacktop pad by the county pier for the camp kids to be able play basketball and knockout. The cost estimate is \$5k-6k, they would do it inhouse. They would like to get the one outdoor tennis court back but that has to be negotiated by the Village so this would just be a temporary court to get through the summer.

Fields for Kids Presentation:

Heather Mahland, President, and Marino Radovich, Board member, of Fields for Kids (FFK) came to talk to us about who they are, what they do, and how they can help us rehabilitate and improve our recreational space. FFK started back in 2006 with the mission of advocating for quality recreational space across every municipality in our area. They have worked with TOM, VOL and the Mamaroneck School District. They have a history of working with the county getting grants and funding and having the municipalities put in money so it becomes a huge collaborative effort. Their first project was Alma turf field, along with Ruth Green field, at Flint Park where they provided the funding only and was completed back in 2008. Their second project was Mamaroneck High School Memorial Field in 2011, where again they provided the funding but did not manage the project. Their third project was Lorenzen Park in 2017 which two baseball field and a soccer fields. That project they did consult on because they were asked to by the VOL. On their projects they do not manage anything unless they are asked to be consultative, otherwise there are no strings attached. What they learned from these projects was they needed to figure out a maintenance plan to help when it comes time renovate so they are not doing everything all over again. They have a new model where every youth sport application gets a field tax and that money goes to FFK for a maintenance fund so the idea is FFK will pay for part of the maintenance but there will be an agreement that it has to be a shared expense with the municipality. The life expectancy of a field is 10-12 years depending on how well it is maintained. There are other ways to make money as well such as renting out the field which could go directly to the field to make sure the maintenance is taken care of. It was asked if FFK would pay for maintenance seminars to train the municipality on how to complete the maintenance themselves. Their current project is at The Hommocks to create an outdoor play space with fitness equipment, a full-size basketball court, game tables and seating for students to socialize. They are managing the project on this one and the project should be ready for the beginning of September school

year. The second part of the project is to renovate Alma field which will be lengthened to be a full-size football/soccer field, uprights, scoreboard, covered shade structures, brand new stands, casual seating on the other side, and a new 4' fence. On this part of the project, they are only doing the fundraising, the VOL has secured 1 million in funding from the county, FFK is fundraising for the balance. Finally, for Hommocks field they did a feasibility study to see what can be done there. The plan is to do both a turf field and a grass field, as well as a shade structure with picnic tables for enhancement to their camp. So, the question now is what can they do with the VOM? Jeff stated field renovations would be a priority, softball fields and soccer fields. It was suggested that a track would be a great addition to the VOM. Next steps would be for FFK to present to the Board of Trustees. Manny is to request that FFK present to the Board at a work session, second one in May.

Parks Update:

Jeff stated they started cutting grass and planting flowers, put poetry letters in the poetry garden, and ball fields are in full swing. After that they will do the regular pressure washing in all the parks, all the courts, and replace all the nets. That maintenance should be in mid-May. **Jefferson Ave Park** playground equipment is supposed to come in next week. When the equipment comes the park will be closed. The playground company will install the playground, Astroturf will come second or third week in May to do the blacktop and curbing, then the playground company will come back to do the poured in playground surface, then they can reopen. Jeff is also putting together a plan for the Harbor for the playground, Lanza field, and a new bandstand/pavilion. Lanza field has to be stripped and repitched so it drains properly because right now when it rains it floods the playground. It will be brought to the PRC and then it has to go to the Board as a capital plan for approval, hopefully by June/July.

Review of Portable Comfort Stations for Village Parks:

Jeff stated right now the only park that has bathrooms is HIP and those bathrooms are not kept open in the winter because our infrastructure cannot maintain it. There is a waterless bathroom that acts as a big porta-john, a company would come in and pumps out the tank, basically like a septic tank with a restroom on top. They would like to put one in HIP first, then Florence Park, then Columbus Park to try them out. It was asked what they look like because if it looks like a porta-potty that would not be attractive. It is a cement structure that looks like a little shed with doors, windows, and a roof. It was questioned about putting one in Columbus Park because it is a flood zone. Jeff said it did not matter because there are no utilities going to it and the company said it cannot float away, if it does flood there is a reverse trap. There was also a concern raised about what happens after hours or people doing things in them that perhaps they should not be doing. Jeff stated the bathrooms would be locked when the park rangers leave but it was also stated that the park rangers do not work in the winter. Possible solution would be for an officer to lock the doors during their routine passes. It was asked what the cost would be but they do not know yet because they make all different variations, they are still discussing what kind they would want. They are just in the beginning planning stages but the idea is to update our parks so you do not have to leave with your child or walk a long distance to get to a bathroom.

Recreation Update:

Jason said they are planning for the summer, camp is full. They are applying the sibling discounts now from the last meeting discussion. They have 320 kids attending camp, 26 scholarships, and Manny said he requested to add 10 more scholarships which should be adopted on Monday. They are planning all of their special events such as Tiki Invasion, movie nights, two Emelin concerts etc. All the permits are done for all the leagues, they are doing some additional permits for nighttime with lights. It was asked about the Board's feedback on the budget presentation and when the Board would be voting on it. Jason said it went well and Manny stated it would be voted on by the Board on Monday. Jason said he has been working on the **dog park**, information, pricing, rules etc. You have to go to the clerk's office to purchase or you can purchase online and then they will mail you the fob. He still does not know if it resident only or not. Manny said the Board has not decided about that yet but they are leaning toward resident only when it opens to at least gauge how the dog park is being used. He cannot say whether it will remain that way or not. A flyer about the grand opening on May 20th did post to the public unintentionally early but things are not finalized yet. It was asked if the dog park rules would be approved at a public meeting and by whom. Manny said his goal is to have it on for their first meeting in May so it is well in advance of the May 20th date and their lawyer would present the rules to the Board to approve. It was also asked if suggestions to the draft of the rules that Karrie sent to Jerry and the Board were being reviewed and taken into consideration as no acknowledgement of receipt had been given. Manny said he would check to see if they had gone to their lawyer for consideration.

A resident, Heather McMillan, was present to inquire about the progress of the pickleball courts at Stanley Ave Park because people do not seem to want to play at the ones at Warren Ave Park. Jeff stated in the capital plan they have four pickleball courts to be at Stanley Ave Park, and possibly Florence Park, but it is a few years out. It was suggested that she go to a Board meeting with other residents who play pickleball and speak during communications to the Board.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update and Review of Village Code Chapter 260 (Parks):

Tina made a motion to move these items to our next meeting, Karrie seconded, all approved. Manny did state they are looking at and have identified a location that is not at HIP to do a multisport/community center. He and Jerry will update us at a later date.

Closing: Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is May 3, 2023.