

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

Village Courtroom, 169 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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

Present: Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Manny Rawlings

Absent: Kristen Vetter

Opening:

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, Tim seconded. Tim made a motion to add an item to the agenda re: tree removal in Pape's Park. Tina seconded.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update:

Holding off until our September meeting when Jerry can attend.

Review of Village Code Chapter 260 (Parks) – Subcommittee Review Update:

Decided to hold until September meeting to give the commission more time over the summer to recommend any further changes.

Fields for Kids Update:

Fields for Kids (FFK) presented to the Board at a work session. Manny said it was well received by the other Board members and the next steps would be hearing from them about what they think could be done in any of our parks. It was stated that it is supposed to be more of a collaborative effort and we should be setting the priorities. Kristen reiterated that we really set the agenda and they help us get there. Doing something with a track was one idea discussed that would benefit the schools and community, Harbor Island comprising of the playground, Lanza field, and a new pavilion, and then Florence Park are priorities. It was asked if the Board has to approve a resolution for us to work with FFK because we do not want to waste anyone's time. Manny will put it on the June 24th work session to discuss with the Board and let us know.

Dog Park Update:

Per Jason there are 233 dog licenses up from 169 last year, not sure what percent of that includes fobs. It is still resident only. The consensus is we really need to go through a whole year and we do not want to overcrowd the park, it is a service for our residents. There are two security people there that rotate randomly. The rules are up, the Bark Park sign should be in soon, fobs are working, water is working, they installed French drains on the big dog park side because it was getting muddy, and they are going to put in a dry well. The only other complaints heard so far were no shade or benches, bench donations are possible. Jeff explained the problem with trees/shade structures is that there are a million underground lines/drains over there. They need to fix the gate because people have been blowing threw it trying to push/pull the wrong way. People have been very good about picking up after their dogs inside the park but there is a problem with dog waste outside the park. It was asked if the hours of the dog park could

be open at 7:00am instead of 8:00am. Jeff said they pick up the garbage every day and mow once/week, they do it in the first hour of the day and they do not want the park open with dogs while maintenance is done. The gate is timed so if someone tries to go in outside the park hours, they are not able to get in.

Spray Ground Update:

Jason said the internals of the spray ground have seen better days. The county gave us Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money (federal money that comes through the county as regional and communities can apply for it) to do the spray ground years ago in 2001, and was built in 2003. In 2017-2018 they made some changes but now the internals need to be replaced. Since it opened this season, they have had problems with the electronics, valves, sensor, clock, and the pressure relief valve. The water is not recycled and has to be turned on/off manually. There was a new design/estimate that was done a few years ago to double the size of it but it was not done. Per Jeff, the plumber is supposed to come before Friday to give him a diagnostic on the system. Hoping to keep it up and running through the summer but there are no promises. Current hours are 10am-5pm every day. Manny suggested limiting the hours until camp starts to preserve it but the commission disagreed because it is highly used by residents who are paying for it and when the beach water is closed it is the only option. Jeff will rely on the plumber to let him know if it can be temporarily fixed or really needs to be replaced.

George Latimer had stopped by and asked if anyone has reached out to Steve Otis or Shelley Mayer because besides the county, the state can help with capital projects as well. He was asked about the Legacy Program and if it was started up again. He said as they look at capital for the future, they can look at allocating money and reinvesting in municipal needs so while it is not in the budget yet, it is possible they could start a new fund like that again. As we get this plan and numbers together someone should reach out to him and Catherine Parker to ask about money in the next budget for the Harbor because they have a sewer treatment plant and the county pier so they have an interest there, but he cannot promise anything until we get to that point.

Parks Update:

Jeff stated they are doing summer maintenance, planting/watering flowers and trees. They are working with the tree committee to come up with a better system for next year to ensure trees get planted where they are wanted. He is bringing to the Board a new piece of equipment request that he needs for the fields, dragging/lining/leveling. They currently only have one machine that does this and it is 12 years old so if it breaks down there is no softball/baseball games on any of the fields. This would be in addition to the machine they have. Having the extra piece of equipment would allow the Village to permit more fields and have more playable fields. The cost is \$45K. Jason also said the department gets reimbursed by the leagues to do the fields. **Jefferson Ave Park** had two equipment pieces on backorder that came in so they should be back working by next week. After that, they still have the curb work, blacktop, basketball court, painting, and then finally the rubber. It was asked what was going on with the portable comfort stations. Manny and Jeff said they were just an idea that was tossed around and there is nothing set that they are doing portable bathrooms anywhere. It was asked if the park rangers ever got their bull horns and flood lights. Tina informed us that they have the lights but was told that one ranger said the light is not bright

enough so he uses his own light, needs to be followed up on. The PA system cannot be put in the car, they ordered a bull horn but it is not here yet.

Recreation Update:

Jason said they are doing a bunch of events, beach is open, kayaking programs running, camp is sold out but still need around a dozen camp counselors, beach staff is good. It was asked how would it be possible for him to pay camp counselors more because with private beach clubs paying \$15/hr. kids are not going to work at the Harbor camp for \$12/hr. Jason said it is just not in his budget. Camp counselors are not protected under the minimum wage act, any municipal job is exempt. Beach attendants also get \$12/hr. but they do not have the same responsibility. Lifeguards are paid more in line with the beach clubs because of the demand. We asked to know what the number would be to be able to pay the camp counselors more because this will still be an issue next year.

Trees in Pape's Park:

Tim said there are two dead trees along the fence that need to be removed. Jeff said it will be taken care of.

Closing: Tina made a motion to approve the April and May minutes, both approved as is. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is September 6, 2023.