



# Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation



## Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Attendees: Kathleen Gallaher                      Randi Robinowitz                      Veronica Colman  
Dan Margoshes                                      Manny Enes                                      Emily Marshall

Absent                      Lou Santoro                      Tina Maresca  
Kerry Stein

Present:                      Trustee Lucas, Liaison  
Sandy Korkatzis – Superintendent of Recreation  
Barry Casterella – General Foreman of Parks

Meeting called to order by Manny Enes at 7:36 P.M.

Previous month meeting minutes were approved at this meeting.

**General Foreman of Parks Update** – There is an interest in replacing the play surface in Jefferson Avenue Park and Warren Avenue Park. Currently, the surface is wood chips, however, the desired surface would be the poured rubber play surface - similar to what was done in Florence Park. This would be a tremendous improvement for playability and would greatly add to the enjoyment of the parks.

Two projects are being considered for grant funding; first would be to install a new 60-90 Little League ballfield in the area by the sewage treatment plant (on the Post Road side). Major League Baseball called and informed Barry that they would consider funding some of the ballfield costs. The second project would be for funding a new backstop for Lanza Field. The current backstop is over 100 years old and is in great disrepair. Sandy & Barry visited the Bedford, NY fields and was given information about their backstop installation. It appears to be a very good solution and will be studied in greater depth to consider its viability for Lanza Field.

The replacement of the current incandescent lighting over Lanza Field with LED lighting technology is being considered at this time. Barry spoke with Dan Sarnoff on this subject, and it appears that the bulbs can be simply converted utilizing the same poles and the same company, cost is estimated at \$150,000. This conversion to an LED system would save money on the electric bill for the Village. According to Trustee Lucas, instead of paying for the conversion, you would simply save a little less on the electric bill as opposed to funding the conversion and saving a larger amount on the electric utility.

The fall seeding and fertilizing program by Landtek has been finalized for application. The date has yet to be determined as well as the day of the week. Dan Margoshes suggested the application be performed on a Wednesday as the fields are not being used on that day. Barry does not know if this is possible due to Landtek's scheduling and availability. According to Barry, the ideal application time would be when you have two consecutive days with no rain. This seeding and fertilizing program has yielded excellent recovery results for the fields since its inception. Additional improvement to the fields has to do with raising of the cut height of the mowers to three inches from two and one-half inches and mulching the grass with the new Toro machine (currently in use by the Parks department). The combination of proper seeding and fertilizing programs, watering installations, field resting and proper machine use, there have been great strides in the improvement of the fields over the last two years.

**Superintendent of Recreation Update** – Several events are scheduled for the fall season. Among them is the *Suicide Prevention Walk* which takes place in October. Additional seasonal events include the *VMFD Day* event on October 14, *Spooktacular* on October 21 and the *52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turkey Trot* taking place on November 18. All events are growing as the email marketing efforts have expanded over the year. There are expectations that these events will be larger in attendance due to increased email marketing efforts, timely flyers advertising the event and by word-of-mouth.

Summer events were successful throughout the season. The *Movies on the Sand* film series were well attended as good weather generally prevailed for the outdoor movie season. The *Tiki Invasion* event was a huge success as well over 3,000 people attended the event. As per Sandy, there are many moving parts to the *Tiki* event and it was an excellent event filled with live music, food trucks, mechanical animals, smores, and other activities capping off the evening with a movie on the beach. *Family Fun Night* is a relaxed lazy Sunday evening event which needs to be worked on to address the Sunday date and lower attendance than *Tiki*. Some have requested that the event be held on a Saturday evening since it appears the Sunday date deters people from attending (as it is a work night for parents). The event is filled with music, late open water and kayaks; however, it just needs some work to be as successful as the *Tiki* event. *Family Camp Out* saw a nearly doubling of tent registration (67 tents in total) from the previous year. Good weather aided to the success of the event which included barbeque grills in continuous use and a movie on the beach. The Recreation department, after completing the summer events schedule, is now in cleanup mode, preparing for the major fall events and taking on more for the future.

**Hommacks PTO Parent's Night Out Event** - The Hommacks PTO organization is looking to hold a fund-raising event at Harbor Island Park. Sandy believes that the event would be more suitable to be held on the beach as opposed to the Blue Room. Beer and wine will be donated for the event. It should be a good fit and a successful event overall.

**Walkway Bulletin Board** - Sandy wants to revitalize the CVS message board on Mamaroneck Avenue to advertise the events going on in the Recreation department. This is something which should be addressed with the Chamber of Commerce. Two additional non-lighted message boards are to be installed in Village parks Florence and Columbus. These boards will match those message boards currently installed in Harbor Island Park at the pavilion building. Marketing has been overall very successful from the Recreation department as the email blasts have grown and now exceed the Village Hall email blast database. This combined with the outsourcing of the event flyer creation has allowed Sandy to focus on department matters and allow for the timely distribution of event advertisement.

**Camp Overview** – Sandy directed the VOM summer camp this season with the assistance of three strong divisional directors. Bussing was a challenge to manage as there is a high cost to utilize the bus company. The kayaks purchased prior to camp season helped a lot for the camp programming. Even though there was a tremendous amount of rain this year, the stand-up paddle board programming (from SUP Westchester) for the camp was very successful as was utilizing the Emelin Theater (for rain date programming) and Pinot's Palette - all made for great non-bus

programming. Sandy looked into the possibility of having a temporary pool installed in Harbor Island Park to reduce the number of buses required for camp as well as to provide another option for the campers. Sandy visited Larchmont's kayak pool to study it and was impressed by the installation. At this time, the Village is waiting for Westchester County to repair the pier prior to any pool installation consideration. Also, the soil will need to be tested, and County requirements will need to be fully understood as well. Additional pier affected issues include the desire to install additional volleyball courts in the vicinity. Many things will need to be considered prior to presenting a suggested proposal to the Board for either installation.

The gunderboom in the swim area is in great disrepair and in need of replacement (as it is approximately ten years old and is not properly functioning as it should). The mushroom anchors incorporated in the gunderboom are an ongoing hazard to swimmers. Sandy suggests that the area should be properly dredged to create a more natural grade in the swim area since currently there is a six-foot drop-off that many swimmers are not aware of. Research of companies should be pursued as well as costs. Estimates are expected to be at least in the \$500,000 price range to replace the gunderboom system.

As a side note, the HVAC units in the Stephen E Johnston pavilion are scheduled to be replaced this month.

**Basketball court lights in Stanley Avenue Park, Florence Park & Columbus Park** – A suggestion by a local resident requesting there be lighting turned on in the basketball court areas for evening games has been brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission for discussion. According to Barry, there are lights installed now, however, Florence Park lights have not been turned on in approximately 10 years. Authorization to have the lights turned on again needs to originate from Village Hall. The Commission agreed that 9:30 p.m. would be a good turn off time. A trial run to see if this idea will help the residents further enjoy the basketball courts is recommended. The cost for conversion to an LED lighting system in Columbus Park would cost approximately \$9,000 if not run through the utility program as earlier discussed by Trustee Lucas.

**Tennis Court Resurfacing** – A local resident has brought to the attention of the Parks General Foreman that the frequently used tennis courts in Florence Park are cracking and weeds are coming through creating hazards for players. It was suggested by the Village Manager Rob Yamuder to bring the company DeRosa in to provide a proposal to resurface the tennis courts (for both safety reasons and playability factors). Barry will bring in DeRosa for pricing to skin the court and repaint it.

**Updates & Follow-up** – A solution is needed to identify the proper person(s) to paint the exit arrow markings out of Harbor Island Park. The right lane should be for right turns onto Boston Post Road and straight traffic onto Mamaroneck Avenue, left lane should be utilized only for left turns onto Boston Post Road. The change has been approved since last October. Sandy will speak to Hernane to move this approval into action.

The issue of a smoke-free park is brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission for further discussion. As it remains an issue which is extremely difficult to enforce, it was decided to leave the current state of providing smoking stations in various locations throughout the park. According to Barry the stations have provided a good solution to keep smoking off of the beach and to provide a better environment for the beach patrons. With the additional issue of several Recreation staff as smokers, it poses an almost impossible situation to manage effectively. Sandy would like to see signage for the playground area prohibiting smoking there. This might be a good start towards the eventuality of a possible complete ban on smoking in Harbor Island Park.

The Half Time beer distribution company withdrew from hosting the 2018 Harbor Island International Beer Festival. There were prior issues with billing, collection and negotiations which spearheaded the withdrawal from this year's event.

Meeting called to a close by Kathleen Gallaher and motioned secondly by Veronica Colman.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 18, 2018.

*Minutes recorded at the time of meeting and subsequently transcribed by Charles Vigliotti*