

Meeting Minutes
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting (May 19, 2016)

Adopted on: June 9, 2016

Submitted by: A. Reeve, Parks & Rec Commission

Meeting Agenda: May 19, 2016 (8:00pm)
Place: James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main Street, Hastings-on-Hudson

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Old Business / Updates
 - Upcoming/New Programs
- IV. New Business
 - Uniontown Field Improvements – discussion
 - Reynolds Field Playground update
 - Riverview Park renovation update
 - New Village Park on Saw Mill – 9A
 - Improvements to Vest Pocket Park – Warburton Ave
 - Hillside Woods Rain Garden – request for funding
- V. Adjournment

In attendance:

K. Garrison, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
G. Brkich, Commission
G. Calamari, Commission
J. Dailey, Commission
A. Reeve, Commission

II. Public Comment:

Val Harmon (High Street, Hastings) – regarding Riverview Park.

Commented that the ramp proposed to link the upper portion to the lower portion of the property was not ADA compliant, and feels it is not advisable to spend \$75K of Village funds on a park that is not ADA compliant. Questioned potential lawsuit. Cited use of baby carriages/strollers, and concern for people with mobility issues. Suggested top priority should be a design that was ADA compliant. Suggested role modelling the River View Park process after the Friends of Reynolds process to gain private funding to supplement the Village funding.

III. Old Business/Updates (move right to New Business discussions)

IV. New Business

Uniontown Field Improvements – discussion.

David Dosin, President of Hastings Little League, presented overview of proposed renovations to Uniontown. Presentation offered these proposals:

- New playground relocated to the back of the property (where current basketball court is located)
- Redesign the parking lot to give an additional 20 parking spaces
- Add asphalt walkway from parking lot, around the outfield, to the proposed new location of the playground
- Expand Left Field and Center Field and fencing to current Little League specifications (thereby qualifying Uniontown's playing field for League tournaments)

Mr. Dosin shared these items to support the proposals:

- Hastings Little League (HLL) had 315 boys and girls currently enrolled in 2016.
- HLL is a program that was established in the 1950's.
- Little League season runs April thru October.
- Vehicles park on High Street when Uniontown parking lot is full, thereby creating a safety issue for motorists and pedestrians.
- HLL is a financial contributor to Village Parks & Recreation.
- Cost of renovating parking lot is beyond the HLL means of funding.

Mr. Dosin presented a video recorded on 4/30/16 that showed over the course of the morning the flow of traffic at Uniontown during a typical game day with teams (cars, and pedestrians) coming and going before and after a game.

Reference handout entitled "Conceptual Study Uniontown Playground Revisions – dated May 19, 2016."

Discussion/Comments after the presentation included:

Gene Calamari (P&R Commission member) – acknowledged he was partial to this proposal as he served as HLL President in prior years. Announced \$420K is coming to the Village in Spring 2017 (Saw Mill 9A recreation fees to Village). Gene proposed moving (Chemka) Tennis Courts to Village's future 9A property to solve the parking issue at the Pool. Suggested Uniontown renovations should be a priority and action taken to address parking/traffic flow before a tragedy occurs.

Sal DiLeo (HLL, Treasurer)

As a parent of a 5 year old, he is a user of the Uniontown playground. As a HLL Board member, anticipates more families enrolling in Tball. Asked that Uniontown be addressed before a tragedy occurs.

Sean Hayes (HLL, Fundraising) also shared he is a member of the Zoning Board. Cited cost of the Uniontown proposal was significant. Stressed benefits to the HLL proposal. Shared concern that current situation could lead to a tragedy.

Marton Sexton (HLL Coach) – parent of a 5 year old. Supports relocating the playground.

Pete Rorschache, parent of a 2 year old and lives on Green Street. Safety is top priority. Concerned about the terrain where the proposed playground would go. Asked if the parking lot could be “L” shaped, thereby making the playground smaller, but allowing the playground to essentially remain in its current location.

Shannon Rooney, parent of players and Hastings resident. Questioned the environmental cost of expanding the parking lot and field. Noted that if the number of parking spaces is increased, the number of ADA compliant parking spaces would also need to be increased. Noted there would be a loss of trees to expand the playing field. Proposed that a traffic “turn around” be considered to address traffic flow in/out of the parking lot. This would allow for the current playground to remain in its location.

David Dosin (HLL, President) – shared that issues such as drainage would need to be looked at, as well as the new regulations as they pertain to fencing and playgrounds.

Gene Calamari (P&R Commission) – clarified for those in attendance that the project would have to go through a bidding process.

Peter Contantine (HLL Coach) – parent of a 6yr old and 9yr old – regarding the ingress and egress, questioned whether an “L” shaped lot (as suggested at this evening’s discussion) would allow for adequate U-turn out of property.

Molly Roberts – parent of 3 HLL participants – regarding the issue of parking – questioned if other possible means of egress could be explored.

Matthew Coraval – parent of a HLL participant – suggested not to focus on trees and “get stuck on environmental impact” and rather think of the consequences of a child getting injured.

Nicole Dimnet – parent of HLL participant and resident in the Uniontown neighborhood. Noted that those from out of town do not know Rose St is tight quarters. Especially relevant during summer and fall leagues where Hastings teams host teams from out of town.

Joe Lemischak (HLL, Baseball Operations) – noted that at any given time there are a variety of activities going on in Uniontown park, and the property doesn’t have enough parking to allow others (not affiliated with HLL) to access the property during park hours.

Tommy Mitchell (HLL, Sponsors) – cited a recent experience when he had to back out thru Rose Street and onto High Street. Noting his experience in commercial construction, he felt the Conceptual Study was a good start, and questioned whether Prince Street might be “linked” to offer another means of accessing the property. Questioned if alternate plans (other than Rose Street as sole access) had been considered.

Meghan Mooney – Rose Street resident – supports the HLL proposal.

Pat Lacey – Curry Road resident, lifelong Hastings resident who noted that Uniontown has become a great resource. Suggested if we have the means to get it done, he supports improvements to Uniontown Park.

John Dailey (P&R Commission) – questioned the legality of who owns what land. Supports making Uniontown a Little League regulation field. Need to give parents of young children the opportunity to think about the impact of moving the playground to the back of the property.

Reynolds Field Playground Update

Blacktop bike path complete. Wood chips set in place. Shade toppers installed. Natural stone lined sandbox complete. Flags are marking irrigation system (this component paid for by Friends of Reynolds).

Riverview Park Renovation Update

Board of Trustees approved the bid.

Reference handout “Estimate for Riverview Park Contact” (\$60k)

The estimate reviewed during the May 19 Commission meeting does not include an estimated \$30k for water access to allow for the water fountain.

New Village Park on Saw Mill – 9A

The Lofts are making the Village 10 parking spaces (outside of the footprint of the property)

Noted that the 20 Questions David Downs posed to the Village Board on behalf of the Commission, pertaining to The Lofts project, had received a response.

Opted to save discussion on this topic until the June meeting for David’s participation as he has been active in these discussions pertaining to The Lofts.

Vest Pocket Park

Cathleen Mooney, President of RiverArts (non profit whose mission is to “celebrate and cultivate the arts in the Rivertowns” RiverArts now leases a property adjacent to Vest Pocket Park on Warburton Avenue in Hastings. Shared with the Commission that RiverArts has found a corporation, Global Transport Construction (GTC) who will donate labor to improve the conditions of the park if the Village buys supplies from him. Cathleen shared that RiverArts envisions this space as an “arts” park. Shared that Lou (of GTC) is offering to:

- Fill in a hole (where a tree once grew) with paver blocks (a visual was provided and general consensus supported proposed material and pattern)
- Replace the deteriorating wood benches
- Leave the concrete, but power wash and clean

A question of lighting in the park was posed (questioning even use of solar lighting)

That suggestion has not yet been explored.

Angela Reeve (Commission, and current Service Unit Mgr of Hastings Girl Scouts) shared that Hastings Girl Scouts had looked to partner with Parks & Recreation about 10 years ago to provide time and talent to improvements of the park providing landscape designs to then Superintendent. At that time local neighborhood groups did not support proposed improvements to the park. Girl Scouts did not pursue. Angela (as Girl Scout Volunteer) shared she felt there would be current support of time and talent and believes current Girl Scout membership would support improvements to Vest Pocket Park as a community Service project.

Hillside Woods Rain Garden – request for funding

Reference hand out of 4/29/16 email from Jamie Nedwick (educator at Hillside Elementary School) to K. Garrison, Subject: 4th Grade Restoration Project Sugar Pond

Presentation by Jamie Newick (Hillside School) pertaining to Sugar Pond and its status of an ecosystem is an ongoing sources of study by Hillside school children. Requesting Parks & Rec Commission approve \$5,000 of P&R Department funds to be granted to cover the cost of native plants, fencing, posts, and supplies to create a “Rain Garden” (see illustration provided) at Sugar Pond. Ms. Nedwick has been working with community volunteers (Carolyn Summers, former P&R commission member and expert in native plantings) who laid out the plan/design for the project.

John Dailey questioned whether Hastings Education Foundation had been approached. Ms. Nedwick confirmed, but pointed out that the HEF cited that since the property in question was Village owned, they felt it most appropriate to contact the Village (Parks & Rec Commission).

The four Commission members in attendance unanimously supported use of \$5,000 of P&R funds to move this project forward. Ms. Nedwick will coordinate the creation of the “ecosystem” as it pertains to supporting the science curriculum at Hillside making use of local adult volunteers and the children of Hillside school to create and maintain the project.

Final Notes / Announcements:

K. Garrison – shared that the resurfacing of the Spray Pool had been approved, and has a vendor that can install the non-slip surface in accordance to County and State Health Department guidelines. The work will commence asap.

Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, June 9, 2016 @ 8:00pm – JHCC