

**Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center – 44 Main Street
Thursday, April 20, 2017 8pm**

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, David Downs, Angela Reeve
Matt Nordt (Superintendent)

I. Public Comment

- None.

II. Old Business/Updates

- Approved Minutes from March 16, 2017 Recreation Commission regular meeting.
- Fence at Chemka complex – . Rich Strobel (Village Parks Foreman) noted that 60' linear feet of new fencing would be installed along the sidewalk that leads from the parking lot down the hill to the entrance walkways. As presented last month by Valerie Harmon (Pool Manager) this would increase safety along that sidewalk. Rich noted that in addition to the new fencing, the existing post and beam fence that lines the walkway from the road to the entrance was found to be rotted and would need to be replaced. Commission voiced support to install new and replace rotted fencing at the Chemka complex.
- Community Clean Up weekend April 29 – 30th. Individuals or groups can “adopt” a site in the Village to clean and indicate this to Lisa O'Reilly (Rec), who can then provides garbage bags, gloves, and coordinate pickup. Pizza provided at the VFW Sat April 29 from 12N – 1pm for registered clean-up volunteers.
- Meet the Volunteers, Sunday April 30th from 12N – 2pm at the JHCC. In honor of National Volunteer month, Lisa O'Reilly (Rec) has coordinated this opportunity for volunteers to connect and has invited all residents to come and express appreciation while learning about the many ways residents can get involved as volunteers help to enhance life in our Village.

III. New Business

- **Day Camp** – Lisa O'Reilly (Camp Director) reported that summer camps will return to Hillside School this year. Last year's enrollment as of 4/20th was recorded as \$51k; this year as of 4/20th enrollment has hit \$70k. David asked what might explain such a large jump in revenue and Lisa reminded the Commission that at this time last year location of camps for summer 2016 was redirected to Hastings High School, and the new change in venue (with no ready access to grass, fields, playground space and a longer walk to Chemka Pool was most likely the explanation. Lisa also offered that each summer Rec looks to enhance and improve the camp programs with new popular events like “Pay it Forward” (a community service opportunity) and new trips and activities that interest our campers. The camps' return to Hillside School is expected to ease the logistics of moving camp groups to/from the Chemka Pool, gives easy access to fields, playground, courts and classrooms, and offer parents easier drop off/pick up locations.

- NEW Youth Basketball Camp, July 17 – 21st , held at the High School.
- NEW Youth Lacrosse Camp, July 24-27 and July 31 – Aug 3 , held at Zinsser.
- **Pool Update** – Rich Strobel (Parks Foreman and Certified Pool Operator) reported that the results of Basement Systems of NY's attempts to level the Spray Pool were unsuccessful. While the injected foam strategy did succeed in lifting the south east corner by ½", this was not enough to prove effective in allowing proper overflow of water on all four sides (as tested by filling and observing the water overflow of the Spray Pool). The vendor suggested to Rich that the Spray Pool seems to be sitting over part bedrock, and part "fill" where the injected foam is "oozing" into the crushed gravel layer and is meeting softer fill that doesn't allow the foam to expand and "lift" as it should. The vendor is working up a new proposal that would involve ripping up the south side of the pool and inserting hydraulic rams/jacks to "lift" the corner and insert foam into the jacked up corner. The vendor verbally indicated this would be a more involved/expensive option, but if we decided to continue with the new proposal he would be willing to waive the \$5600 fees incurred to date. Gene Calamari asked if we had any recourse with this vendor as they were unable to fix the problem, but we were reminded that short of building a new Spray pool, no vendor was willing to offer us a guarantee on proposed methods. Basement Systems of NY will expect to be paid in full for services rendered to date should we decide to cease work at this point.

Rich has advised the County Health Department of the status. Rich recommends that we continue to explore possible solutions to solve the problem, and for the 2017 season we should move to open the Spray Pool (Memorial Weekend) and supply Westchester County Health Department with weekly water samples as they will require. County Health will test for cryptosporidium and chlorine resistant bacteria on a weekly basis, and should any traces be found we can fully expect County Health to shut down the Spray Pool portion of the Chemka complex for the remainder of the 2017 season.

Commission members asked Rich if the previously proposed U/V filtration system he recommended in his February 2017 presentation would address the concern. Rich has since learned that Westchester County Health does not recognize U/V filtration as a validated option for low pressure filtration systems such as that supporting our Spray Pool. The Westchester County Engineer would consult with others on staff to see if they could provide guidance in this area. County Health indicated that they may consider accepting U/V filtration system as a fix to the Spray Pool filtration issue IF we could get the U/V filtration system certified by an engineer as effective with our low pressure system. Rich contacted the engineer who inspects our chlorine tanks who gave him a general verbal estimate of approximately \$6k to meet this request. If County Health accepts the engineered-certified U/V filtration option, total estimated costs would be \$5k for the U/V filter plus \$6k for the engineering certifications, or approximately \$11k.

David expressed the sentiment that as a Commission we want to empower Rich and Matt to proceed as they see best. Angela underscored the importance of opening the full Chemka facility on time (Memorial Weekend) for the success of our numerous aquatics programs, and suggested we take the one year "grace" period Westchester County Health has offered (during which we provide weekly samples and in turn County Health lets us open). This would allow Rich and Matt more time to explore possible solutions in depth without the pressure of opening

day around the corner.

Matt and Joanne did suggest that should we find that there is no easy fix for the Spray Pool, there are other options (spray pads/playgrounds and features that could be considered for that space). At this stage, the feeling is that we all value the Spray Pool as an important part of the overall Chemka complex, and we want to continue to explore options to fix the filtration / overflow issue with the Spray Pool.

Next Steps for Spray Pool:

Rich will obtain alternate proposal/estimate from Basement Systems of NY.

Rich will follow up with the engineer at Westchester County Health to learn if WCH will accept U/V filtration w/ low pressure flow system.

Rich will coordinate logistics to have weekly water samples from the Spray Pool delivered to Westchester County health for the 2017 season.

- **Hillside Woods** – David and Joanne reported on the first of two public forums “State of the Woods – Our Ecology and What You Can Do To Restore It” sponsored by the Hastings Conservation Commission. David attended the guided April 2nd walk through Hillside Woods with about 60 concerned participants. The specialist who guided the walk pointed out that there is no undergrowth that exists in the woods. Joanne attended the subsequent Panel Discussion and Q&A portion with approximately 100 concerned participants in attendance at the Community Center. The panel of experts included Lawrence Forecella (Entomologist, God of Insects), Hillary Seiner (Mgr, Science & Stewarships Program, Teatown Lake Reservation), Melissa Shandroff (Chair, Hastings High School Science Department), Wayt Thomas (Curator of Botany, Institute of Systematic Botany, NY Botanical Garden). The panel of experts reported that there are a number of factors negatively affecting the health of the woods (deer, dogs, people, global warming, invasive species, etc). The panel of experts suggested looking at the species of trees growing in the woods, and highlighted some benefits of planting native species.

The April 2nd “State of the Woods” (part 1 of 2 public forums) was designed to examine the factors undermining Hillside Woods ecology that are causing erosion, deforestation, acidic soils, and species loss.

The May 3rd “Healing the Woods” (part 2 of 2 public forums) will explore strategies that Hastings and neighboring communities can employ to repair and maintain a healthy regional ecosystem.

- **Hillside Park Tennis Courts** – Matt Nordt reported that DeRosa (contractors) have started construction of the tennis courts. One issue the contractor ran into was hitting bedrock underneath court 3. To avoid excessive costs of removing some of the bedrock and in an attempt to stay within the \$209k budget, DeRosa proposed to build “cut corner” fencing. Matt explained that the final court size allows regulation play. The courts will be lined for adult and youth play, the color scheme will be the same of the School District’s courts located at Reynolds. Rich explained the drainage system that was installed as drainage at that particular location has been a concern over the years. Completion of the courts could be as early as June 1st. Angela asked if the Rec Department would sell tennis permits this year. The Commission felt that since much of the season was underway, we would forego sale of permits in 2017 and revisit the discussion of permit sales for next year.

- **Uniontown Park – update** – Gisolfi has been awarded the contract for landscape architectural services. Gene asked to be included in the discussions with Gisolfi and Matt and also asked that we include reps from the Hastings Little League. Next Steps: Gisolfi will draw up site plans that address the identified areas of concern (parking, regulation playing field with regulation fencing, playground). Matt suggested that construction could start as early as this summer.
- **Quarry Park Trail – update** – Matt advised that the work has started on the Quarry Park Trail extension.
- **Farragut Park** – Matt advised that there is a small village owned parcel/park off of Farragut Ave (by Clunie Ave) that at one time had split rail fencing defining the perimeter. At some point last year that fencing was removed. A couple of neighborhood residents have called him to point out that is a public/shared space. Matt is putting together a plan to replace the split rail fencing on 3 sides and the Commission suggested we should put signage at that site indicating that it is a Village owned park.
- **Riverview Park** – David reported that there was some money remaining in the renovation budget and that will be used toward planting and seeding. The water spigot appears to be installed, however there was some question as to who has the key. Rich will follow up with the company that installed that feature.

The topic of park usage was discussed and the Commission sought clarification that all residents who asked to hold functions/events at Village owned parks/properties are asked to submit an official Application for Use of Parks form (downloadable from the Recreation department's website). Matt agreed that having a formal process to review such requests is important. Kyle Crawford (Recreation Assistant) is in the process of updating our Recreation Department's Application for Use of Parks form. Matt is looking into software or a system (School Dude, Scoutmaster, etc) that could possibly be used to help manage the many requests the department gets for use of parks and use of facilities. Some of these softwares/systems even allow for users to apply online and pay online for rentals and deposits. Matt and Kyle indicated that managing the many requests is very time consuming for the Rec Department.

- **Zinsser Park** – Two new sets of 3 tiered bleachers have arrived for Zinsser 1. Rich indicated that they need to be assembled and Matt indicated they are exploring options for poured pad foundations or other.

Angela noted that the Zinsser gardens look fantastic, all recycling and garden waste receptacles clearly labeled. Angela asked if the issue with the old storm drain (or similar) in the stream had been repaired or removed. Kyle and Matt shared that Brendan Gallagher, a teen resident, adopted the Zinsser stream as his Eagle Scout project and made significant improvements to reduce erosion by placing large rocks along the stream bed and cleared out the debris. Both wooden foot bridges are in good shape. Angela offered to get the specific details of Brendan's project and draft a letter on behalf of the Commission thanking him for his time and dedication to this beloved Village resource.

- **Sugar Pond Shed** – The roof continues to degrade. For safety purposes, the Commission suggested that the entire shed be cordoned off with a "No Trespassing" sign to warn visitors to Sugar Pond to stay clear of the shed area. Subsequent to Rich's presentation at the February

Commission meeting, Matt and Rich have inspected the shed and deemed that it cannot be used in its current state. Kyle was using the shed to store program supplies for the After School Outdoor Adventures program, but that is no longer realistic. Matt will be meeting with Haven Colgate of the Hillside Nature Guides to learn more about the importance of Sugar Pond and Hillside Park and will start a conversation with her as to what possibilities an improved shed or some type of structure at that location could mean for residents and the neighboring Hastings Schools communities. Angela reminded Commission members that years ago there were some discussions as to the possibility of creating an outdoor nature center at that location; Joanne asked about the possibility of shared funding for enhancements from organizations like the Hastings Education Foundation, or other users of the Sugar Pond and Hillside Woods locations, as this is a key educational resource in our Hastings community.

- **New Full Time Positions for Parks & Rec Department** – in the recent February budget discussions with the Board of Trustees, the Parks and Recreation department was allotted one additional full time headcount for the recreation department, and one additional full time headcount for the Parks department. These positions would be effective June 1, 2017. Rich indicated that he will still rely heavily on part-time seasonal employees to manage all the park responsibilities in the Village, especially in the busy summer months.
- **Community Center – Janitorial Service** – Matt advised that the current janitorial service contracted by the Village to serve Village facilities was not meeting expectations of maintaining the JHCC. Matt is looking into bringing for a part time person who would be available for weekend cleaning, and on call as needed, especially considering the use of the facility for party rentals, daily senior programming and youth programming.
- **Budget/Program reports for programs/events, etc** – in going through the current line items of the department budget, Matt is noticing it is often difficult to determine what revenue/expense is associated with a particular budget line item. Matt will be looking to create a basic financial summary of revenue/expense at the conclusion of every program / event / activity to provide him with a clearer understanding of where the revenue/expense posts to the budget.

V. Other?

David asked Matt if he would look into two items and report back to the Commission next month:

1. Status of the Village owned 9A parcel (adjacent the Lofts). The prior Superintendent was looking to have Buddy Minozzi survey the usable area. Also, what is the status of the developers removing the remaining construction gear and debris – that was scheduled to be completed some time this spring.
2. There is a rudimentary trail between 9A to the Ravensdale Bridge, that comes out through the woods where one feasibly could access the South County Trailway. Rich was aware and recalled at one time the Village brought wood chips and Village volunteers had mulched a path. David would like Matt to help identify if this is Village owned property.

VI. Adjournment - meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm

Next Meeting: May 11, 2017 at 8:00pm in the James Harmon Community Center

Minutes prepared by: A. Reeve

Minutes adopted on: May 11, 2017