

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street  
Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 8:00pm  
MEETING MINUTES**

**In attendance:**

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gloria Brkich, John Dailey,  
David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve

**1. Call to Order.**

**2. Public Comment.**

No public comment.

**3. Old Business / Upcoming & New Programs**

Approved meeting minutes for July & August.

Lisa O'Reilly supplied flyers detailing fall Rec programming that includes:

For Preschoolers:

- Creative Kids, Natural Wonders, Toddler Time, Little Kickers Soccer, Sports Hopper

For Youth:

- Hillside After School, Rec Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis, Zinsser Gardening, Piano Lessons

For Adults:

- Zumba

For Seniors:

- Daily exercise / fitness programs include Chair Yoga, Mat Yoga, Senior Sneakers, Ta'I Chi Ch'uan, Aerobics. Also a Current Events group.
- The Sep/Oct shopping and trip calendar is out.
- Columbus Day party for seniors, Tues Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Fall Picnic co-sponsored by Greenburgh Parks & Rec and Greenburgh Livable Communities.
- Senior trip to Elmsford Dinner Theater, Nov 1.

For Community:

- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry Ryan Memorial Run, Nov 12.
- Hastings' Rec Halloween Happenings -- Oct 19 Pumpkin Carving , Oct 20 Friday Night Dead at the Chemka Ghouls, Oct 21 Window Painting & Pet Parade, Oct 22 Halloween Parade & downtown festivities.

#### **4. New Business**

**Spray Pool** – report by Rich Strobel, Parks Foreman and Certified Pool Operator. Rich met with the Village engineer in early September to discuss the situation with the Spray Pool and received very preliminary feedback that perhaps an option to repair may be possible. The engineer was supplied the original construction plans/documents, was briefed on the concerns of Westchester County Department of Health (WCDoH), and will visit the site, review what has been done to date to help solve the problem, and meet with Rich again later this month.

Rich shared that he and Matt Nordt had met with WCDoH over the summer, and that they were willing to grant the Village one more year “grace period” to gain a pool permit for the Spray in 2018. This, provided that the Village present an official plan in place by Mar/Apr 2018 that would address the circulation problem caused by the unlevel position of the Spray Pool. If approved, the WCDoH would consider issuing a 2018 pool permit and would require the Village to again supply weekly water samples from the Spray to the WCDoH for analysis during the 2018 season. Rich clarified that the physical problem of the Spray would not need to be repaired by the 2018 season opening, but that the plan to repair the problem would need to be in place and filed to the WCDoH by Mar/April 2018.

Val Harmon, Pool Director, reminded the Commission that use of the Spray Pool (or similar, if it is determined this current feature cannot be leveled to meet WCDoH standards) is essential to the operation of the youth aquatic programming and is key in terms of families considering seasonal permits.

**Hillside Tennis Courts** – Rich asked the Commission’s counsel on whether he should pursue the purchase and install of windscreens/privacy screens for the Hillside Tennis courts. Commission indicated no need for this feature at this time.

**Sugar Pond Shed** – Rich asked if Commission would again consider addressing the decaying condition of Sugar Pond Shed. It was discussed in Feb 2017, and at that time the Commission felt the money was not in the budget to address (estimates of \$18k to repair), and suggested to address the safety issue, that the decaying roof should be totally removed, the shed tarped and cordoned off and doors locked to bar entrance. Rich noted that the roof is still on and the doors are locked. Currently, the department cannot make use of the shed (for storage, or otherwise). It was asked if there were alternate spaces in town (for example, at the DPW) for storage of parks & rec equipment/supplies. Rich noted no, in fact, storage space in the basement of the JHCC is maximized, and there are no other Village owned space is available. Joanne indicated she would call the Village Manager to see what could be considered (in terms of the budget) to address the issue as the Sugar Pond Shed is considered a Village owned capital asset, and without repair, this asset stands yet cannot be used.

**Uniontown – Update** – Rich reported that he met with Gisolfi Landscape Architects (GLA) on September 5th and reviewed what he and his parks crew could do to prepare the Uniontown site for bid. Having the Village parks crew do some of the preliminary work should save on

overall project costs, and serve to present prospective contactors with a “clean slate” when they arrive Mid October to view and inspect the site. A Village email blast is scheduled to go out this week announcing that Uniontown Park will be closed as of September 25<sup>th</sup> until further notice. Lisa O'Reilly has already communicated this information to Hastings Little League, who has cancelled all practice and play at this location for the fall. Rich reported that site prep will include removal of 23 saplings to clear the footprint for regulation fencing and playground, removal and disposal of the old playground pieces, removal and storage of the chain link fencing. Rich noted that the large oak tree behind the current playground would be saved.

**Hillside Woods – Update** – The Village Board of Trustees discussed in late August the need to get a legitimate estimate of what it would cost for proposed deer fencing around the perimeter of Hillside Woods Park. David Downs will work with Rich Strobel to get a couple of estimates.

**Report on Summer Programs** – Lisa O'Reilly shared revenue reporting (as of 9/21/17 for period of 1/1/17-12/31/17) for the Chemka Pool programs, Early Learning and Hillside Daycamp, and JHCC programming.

Val Harmon, Pool Director, shared that in 2017 the Village employed 45 lifeguards/water safety instructors (WSIs), plus 20 support staff (maintenance, cashiers, lap attendants, etc) to support the Chemka programs/operations. Permit fee revenues were \$334k (up from \$316k in 2016) and there was a slight increase in number of family memberships sold (15-20 over 2016), and a slight increase in the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> half permits sold. This would indicate that the increase in permit fees in May 2017 did not have an adverse effect on overall sales. Program revenues were also up in 2017 (Val reminded the Commission that we had increased the cost of our aquatic programs slightly to help address the increase in minimum wage). Swim programs overall brought in \$89k in revenue (up from 2016). Of this amount, \$38k in revenue is attributed from the combined June Jumpstart, Little Splashers, and Big Splashers instructional swim programs.

Overall numbers for 2017 Chemka Pool operations/programs:

Income:	\$483k
Expenses	(278k)
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Profit:	\$204k
Less Amt Paid to Bond	(\$119k)

2017 Chemka Pool profits: \$85k

Val suggested we consider at least \$50k of this year's pool profits to go toward addressing the issue of the Spray Pool.

**Upcoming Projects** – Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo asked that we as a Commission be thinking about longer term projects that we have discussed in the past, but because of lack of funding, we have been limited in pursuing. An official dog park is one such project. John Dailey pointed

out that dog parks could be considered a human amenity, as opposed to a dog amenity. The socialization that such a facility would provide would certainly be enjoyable for both the dogs and their owners, and could conceivably help to address the long standing issue that we have had in the Village of unleashed dogs in Zinsser, Draper, Hillside Woods, etc. We would have an official place in the Village where dogs could be off leash. The question was asked if Quarry Park could or would ever be considered as a possible location for such a facility. John shared that the early Quarry Park Committee objected to that notion due to noise and smell. John pointed out that the reopening of that park may result in use of the park by dog owners, noting proximity to the Old Croton Aqueduct trail, and the opening access to the large passive recreational space.

#### **Other --**

Vines.... David Downs had an offer from Haven Colgate and the Vine Squad that if the Parks department could identify areas in the Village that could benefit from a vine loping, she would be happy to help coordinate Vine Squad volunteers. David and Rich will consult and David will get back to Haven.

Zinsser Garden.... John Dailey noted that the community garden area looks great! Commission members agreed that the improvements and maintenance of this community resource, and the surrounding playground area, drive, and fields all noticeable, making Zinsser Park a lovely Village resource.

**5. Adjournment.** - Meeting adjourned @ 9:20pm.

Next Meeting – October 12, 2017 @ 8pm, JHCC

September minutes prepared by A. Reeve. Adopted on October 12, 2017.