

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street
Thursday, October 12, 2017 - 8:00pm
MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, David Downs, Angela Reeve

1. Call to Order.

2. Public Comment.

Val Harmon, resident, High Street, Hastings. Would like to publicly thank Lisa O'Reilly for serving in multiple roles in the Parks & Rec Department and doing an outstanding job.

3. Old Business / Upcoming & New Programs

Approved meeting minutes for September.

Upcoming & New Programs - Lisa O'Reilly supplied flyers detailing the following:

- Hastings Halloween Happenings weekend (Oct 19 - 22)
- Party in Pink / Zumba Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research Foundation - Oct 27
- 16th Annual Terry Ryan Memorial Run - Nov 12
- Rec Basketball (coed youth grades 3rd - 8th) - kicks off Nov 4th
- "Just Because..." considering a new community service initiative where various community groups could be encouraged to host a fund raising event to support local causes. Events could be once a month and held at the JHCC. L. O'Reilly is contact.
- Blood Drive in Honor of Rita Zaratzian - Red Cross will oversee at the JHCC on Nov 4th.

4. New Business

Hillside Woods – Update – Rich Strobel, Parks Foreman, and David Downs walked the site with a contractor and based on approximately 5,000 linear feet, the estimates for fencing around Hillside Woods are: \$128K for mesh material; \$145K for chain link. (both figures include cost of install). Next step: D. Downs will convey this info to the Trustees.

Uniontown Park - Update - site was prepped and made "bid ready." The prep work, conducted by R. Strobel and Parks crew, included removal/disposal of old playground equipment, removal of fencing, scraping of metal, and retaining/storing any salvageable items for future department use. General Timeline:

On Oct 11 - R. Strobel, L. O'Reilly, and Village Manager Fran Frobels met at Uniontown Park with 10 contractors/bidders. Gisolfi Landscape Architect (GLA) was onsite and was able to answer specific/technical aspects of the project.

Oct 13 - all bids due back to the Village Manager

Oct 13 - 23 - Village Manager and GLA will review all bids to present to Board

Oct 24 - Board of Trustees will review and award bid

Dec 15 - blacktop down

May 2018 - final landscaping / seeding

Spray Pool - Update - R. Strobel (Parks Foreman and Certified Pool Operator) met with Village Engineer, Doug Hahn, to review in detail the issue with the Spray Pool, and what attempts to date have been made to try and address the issue.

In the engineer's report back to R. Strobel, it was noted that the Spray Pool was built in 2003 by Norberto Construction and included a main drain and trench drain system. The "failure to maintain adequate skimming filtration" was the citation made by the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDoH). Current condition is a 1" settlement (cause and time unknown).

The engineer contacted the WCDoH on the Village's behalf asking that they accept the current condition knowing that at least 50% of the perimeter trench filtration system was in effect as well as the main drain and umbrella circulation system. WCDoH indicated this was not acceptable.

After review of the history and current condition, the Village Engineer outlined 4 possible solutions to address the issue of the Spray Pool:

1- Hydraulic lift and foam jack - estimated \$30K

2- "Mud" Jacking - (with concrete slurry) - estimated \$20K + \$8K to reinstall existing liner
This option would require drilling right down through the pool bottom - Rich expressed concern about piping system below the concrete floor and possible damage to the pool bottom.

3- Repair - (still awaiting cost estimate) -

This option involves raising the perimeter drain grate, tile, and removal of the liner.

Village Engineer contacted Noberto (the original builder) to see if they will come out and look at the job.

4- Remove and replace the Spray Pool (rough estimates of \$250K - \$500K)

Commission sought R. Strobel's and Engineer's best recommendation -- Option #3 - Repair the spray pool... This should render a solid 3-5 year use of the pool and may solve the problem for good. During that time, we can monitor the settling closely and start to form a longer range plan for continued maintenance of the Chemka complex.

D. Downs asked R. Strobel to convey to the engineer that we want easier access to fix the issue in 3-5 years should the spray pool bottom continue to settle.

Parks & Rec Commission vote - 4 members in attendance all in agreement to proceed with asking the Engineer to draw up plans for the repair.

Chemka Pool Bath House - notes:

Bond commitment through 2026

\$120K due annually on the existing bond

\$451K in pool fund to cover cost of repairs/improvements

Board of Trustees would have to approve use of those funds

Val Harmon, Pool Manager, will verify if the 2017 revenues (approximately \$80K) will be swept to the pool fund or if those revenues can be held aside to be used toward the repair of the Spray Pool.

V. Harmon asked the Commission how long would we have to wait before we could consult an architect about the condition of the bath house. D. Downs suggested determining the cost to draw up plans for a bath house renovation. Asking an architect what they would charge would be a starting point.

Summer Camp - L. O'Reilly, Camp Director, would like to propose to the Commission that we consider raising camp fees slightly each year rather than go for years with no price increase and then being faced with a large price increase down the road (creating "sticker shock" to participants). L. O'Reilly provided the below "Camp Fee - 2017" summary...

\$590 Full six weeks

Works out to \$98.00 a week

\$16.00 a Day

\$2.60 an Hour

\$135.00 Weekly

Works out to \$22.00 a Day

\$3.75 An Hour

Early Learning Camp

\$475 Full six weeks

Works out to \$16.35

\$4.00 An Hour

Weekly \$100

\$5.00 An Hour

Camp: \$266,910
\$233,884
\$ 33,066

Lisa noted that camp fees have not increased in many years, yet the cost of special events increases each year, and many of the counselors make below the Westchester County minimum wage. Lisa reminded the Commission that the Rec Department offers scholarships to those in need.

J. Baecher-DiSalvo, Chair, asked how does the \$33K in 2017 camp profits compare to previous years. Lisa shared camps operated at maximum enrollment this summer. It was a successful summer.

The Commission discussed that people who use the Village camps may not be able to afford other options in the area. It was noted that any profit from the summer camp programs go back into the general fund. The Commission expressed that if there are specific factors that are driving up the cost of delivering the summer camps, then certainly we would want to consider the camp fees accordingly. Where the camps are profitable, the general feeling was that we do not need to raise camp fees at this time. Joanne underscored that the Commission does not look at the net profit as the ultimate measure of the camps' success. The Commission regards the camps as a success and they continue to provide residents a valuable program offering each summer.

Program Fees – in general - Lisa asked Commission to provide guidance on program fees in general, ie, at what dollar mark should the Rec Department come to the Commission for approval in raising program fees. Joanne requested that any increase in program fees (camp or otherwise) come to the Commission for review.

Other-

“Bench Application” - L. O'Reilly presented a draft application form that residents could fill out and submit for review when requesting a bench be donated to any of the Village parks / facilities, and that form would be reviewed by the Parks Foreman (who would select location and style of bench) and would ultimately be presented to the P&R Commission for approval. Commission agreed that some type of formal application would be beneficial and thanked Lisa for taking this initiative.

Zinsser Gardens - Anthony Constantini, Rec Department, shared that he sometimes has difficulty enforcing the established rules at Zinsser Gardens. (reference handout Zinsser Gardens Rules & Regulations, last revised April 2016). Gardeners are required to clean their assigned plots by May 1st and again on November 15th. Joanne asked if gardeners get written notice from the Rec Department if there is an issue or item out of compliance and asked what is the formal process to address issues. A. Constantini indicated that yes, written notices are sent, as well as verbal communications. He shared that Zinsser has approximately 30 gardeners,

and there is a wait list. If a gardener is not maintaining their plot, the plot should be assigned to the next on the wait list. A. Reeve asked if a Zinsser Garden “committee” might be formed to help in situations such as this. A member of the audience felt that went against the culture/feel of the community gardens. D. Downs asked if it would help if members of the P&R Commission attended the annual Zinsser Gardens meeting in April. We asked A. Constantini to advise the date of that April 2018 Zinsser Garden meeting.

5. Adjournment. - Meeting adjourned @ 9:50pm.

Next Meeting – November 9, 2017 @ 8pm, JHCC

October minutes prepared by A. Reeve. Adopted on November 9, 2017.