

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center- 44 Main Street
Thursday, November 9, 2017 8 PM
MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gloria Brkich, John Dailey, David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve
Lisa O'Reilly (Recreation Assistant), Rich Strobel (Parks Foreman)

TME: 8:00pm

PLACE: James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main Street, Hastings-on-Hudson

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Old Business / Upcoming Programs

Approved minutes from October monthly meeting.

Upcoming / New Programs:

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day commemoration @ VFW park

Nov 12 - 16th Annual Terry Ryan Memorial Run

Nov 14 - seniors Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nov 29 - preschool Snowflake Surprise class

Dec - Letters to Santa - drop box @ JHCC

Dec 1 - seniors seminar - Memory Loss and Aging

Dec 1 - Tree Lighting

Dec 2 - Holiday Sing Along @ VFW Park

Dec 7 & 21 - Drop & Shop Movie Nights @ JHCC

Dec 8 - Women's Self Defense class

Dec 16 - Winter Celebration for children/families @ JHCC

Preschool Programs (Storybook Art, Creative Kids, Natural Wonders) next session Jan - Apr

Lisa O'Reilly reported that Youth Rec Basketball kicked off Nov 4th. The Rec department's new fall Track & Field program was a success serving 22 participants and making use of the School District's Reynolds track.

4. New Business

Uniontown Park - Update - report by Rich Strobel, Parks Foreman. The contractor bid was awarded to the lowest bidder, J.R. Group (coming in at \$314,160). The architect (Gisolfi Landscape Architect) was pleased with the contractor's references. Uniontown Park closed as of Nov 2nd and will remain closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic (including the pathway between Rose Street and Marianna Drive). The contractor has started with preliminary work (fencing off the construction area). Major construction has not started yet. By mid December the blacktop will go down, and the final stage (seeding) is planned for mid May. The contractor is very aware that this is a time sensitive project. There will be weekly meetings with R. Strobel, F. Frobel, GLA and the contractor throughout the project.

Spray Pool - update (added to this evening's agenda) - report by Rich Strobel, Parks Foreman and Certified Pool Operator. The Village Engineer's price to draw up the repair plan is estimated at \$7K. The plans will include all the specifics contract bidders will need. The engineer is estimating the repair to be \$20K - \$30K. The engineer will move forward with drawing up the plans, keeping in mind that plans would be due to Westchester County Department of Health (WCDoh) by March 2018.

NEW consideration Rich is proposing to the Commission - to consider enhancements to the Spray Pool with the addition of "spray features" (costs range from \$4K - \$7K per feature). Proposing 2-4 features that would be added to the existing piping in the spray pool to "spruce up" and add some new excitement to the Spray Pool area. The rationale for suggesting these features at this time would be that the engineer could include these add-on features in his Spray Pool repair plans (note, any changes to a pool requires WCDoh approval... since the repair plans would need WCDoh approval, it makes sense to consider including spray feature add-ons at this time). Val Harmon, Chemka Pool Manager, shared that she visited several Westchester pools this summer where spray features are offered for younger patrons and expressed support of such features for the Chemka Spray pool. The Commission discussed whether an additional \$20K in add-on spray features would be an appropriate draw on the pool's "emergency reserve funds." A. Reeve questioned if it made sense to invest \$20K in spray features on top of the cost of \$20-\$30K in repairs if we are unsure if the proposed repair will permanently fix the leveling issue of the Spray Pool. The Commission asked if it's possible to have the engineer draw up the plans with the spray features as an "add-on" (ie... they would not be essential to the repair portion of the plans, but we may or may not decide to proceed with actually installing the spray features). This would allow us to consider this option, get the plans approved, but ultimately decide after we get a better idea of what the cost of the repair will be. Rich will convey this info to the engineer. Rich will also bring price quotes and photos of a few different spray features to next month's Commission meeting for review/discussion.

Chemka Pool - Bath House - update (added on to this evening's agenda) - As a follow up to last month's Commission meeting where Val Harmon asked how soon would it be before the Rec Department could start thinking about upgrades to the bath house, and David Downs suggested we start by finding out how much it would cost to draw up plans.... Anthony Constantini (Assistant Pool Manager) reported that an architect was asked for rough estimate and learned it would cost \$10K to draw up plans, and \$200K in estimated architectural fees for a \$3M project.

Sugar Pond Shed - Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo asked Rich Strobel the status of the shed. Rich plans to tarp the roof by mid-December and reported that nothing of any value remains in the shed. Rich pointed out that just this past week the Rec Department has lost the use of space at Hillside Elementary School (all purpose room stage), necessitating the removal of all Rec equipment currently being stored at Hillside for the Rec After School Program. The Rec Department is now transporting After School Program supplies and gear to/from the Chemka Pool bath house or the JHCC. Rich pointed out that the Sugar Pond Shed, if repaired, could be an ideal storage space for the Rec Department with its proximity to Hillside School and the Chemka pool complex. We will continue to discuss the Sugar Pond Shed at the December monthly meeting.

Wagner Park - proposed art sculpture

Jane Cameron, Village Arts Commission, presented to the P&R Commission a proposal to install a large scale sculpture in Wagner Park and is seeking P&R approval before moving to gain further Village approvals (buildings department and DPW). Mr. Logan, artist of said sculpture, introduced himself as a

30 year Hastings resident who has been creating large scale sculptures for the past 15 years and currently has one on display on the lawn in front of the Hastings Public Library. Mr. Logan shared that the Village Arts Commission approached him and expressed interest in his large scale sculpture currently on display in his yard at 532 Broadway in Hastings. Ms. Cameron shared that the Arts Commission thought Wagner Park would be an ideal location for large scale art as it is a gateway into the Village.

Prior to this evening's meeting, Rich Strobel, Lisa O'Reilly and Mr. Logan walked the proposed site with "string perimeter" measurement to ensure the sculpture did not impede pedestrian access to the sidewalks and park benches, and to ensure placement would still allow for park maintenance. It was agreed that the middle grassy triangular section of Wagner Park could indeed work for the proposed sculpture (which measures 35' long x 15' wide x 16' high). Mr. Logan shared that the sculpture is made of fiberglass and is painted silver, the total weight less than 200 lbs. It has been on display in his yard for 3 years, he is not concerned with graffiti / vandalism, and is relocating the sculpture to Wagner Park would be an easy trip up Broadway.

Joanne and John felt that it would be helpful if all Commission members visited the sculpture then walked the Wagner Park proposed site. Joanne asked if there was a residential neighborhood consideration and it was noted that all immediate "neighbors" to that park were businesses.

Next Steps: All P&R Commission members will visit the sculpture and walk the Wagner Park site on their own before next month's meeting. A vote to approve Wagner Park as the site for this sculpture will be held at the December Commission meeting. Any P&R Commission members are welcome to contact Jane (or the artist Mr. Logan) should they have questions before December's meeting... via JaneBCameron@gmail.com

Proposal - Collaborative Job Role - Lisa O'Reilly and Rich Strobel presented the Commission with a proposal to eliminate the position of Superintendent of Parks & Recreation and allow the two to collaboratively work together to meet the responsibilities of running the department. The proposal outlined that "Lisa O'Reilly will continue in her current role of independently managing daily operations and staff, preparation of payroll and purchase orders and the planning of activities and programs for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. This includes new program development, enhancing existing programs and increasing revenue. Rich Strobel as Parks Foreman, will take on a greater leadership role. Beyond the maintenance and repair of parks and fields, he has, over many years, utilized his vast experience as a skilled laborer to continuously improve varying village locations (example: Chemka Pool, Village Hall, James Harmon Community Center) at a substantial cost savings to the village." The two outlined how they felt the collaborative job role could save the Village money.

A discussion followed. Commission members unanimously expressed appreciation for both Lisa and Rich, and underscored that the commitment and dedication that they have shown to the department over the years is without question. While some members praised the creativity of how a collaborative job role might be considered, other members expressed concerns over the elimination of the Superintendent position.

It was noted that the proposal had already been presented to the Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Manager earlier this week. Lisa and Rich thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present their proposal this evening.

Other?

Proposed bocce court in the Village (reference letter from Mr. Michael Holstein to Lisa O'Reilly dated 10/24/17). The Recreation Department was asked to consider adding a bocce court somewhere in the Village to offer recreation for those who lack the physical strength or mobility to participate in, say, football, soccer, tennis, etc. The Commission thought this was a good suggestion and asked Rich Strobel if he could research the dimensions and requirements of setting up a bocce court and report back at the December meeting. Rich offered that ideally a bocce court would require a level surface with access to water to keep the court in tact. It was noted that there seems to be a regular group of residents that play bocce (without the official court of play) at Draper Park on the sloping lawn. Rich noted that Draper has water via the Observatory Cottage, but the distance to run water from the Cottage to the lawn might be a challenge. Commission members said they would each give some thought to this suggestion and we can discuss further at the December monthly meeting.

5. **Adjournment** - meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Next meeting: December 14, 2017 at 8:00pm – JHCC

November Meeting Minutes prepared by A. Reeve and adopted on 12/14/17