

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street
Thursday, December 14, 2017 8 PM
MINUTES**

In Attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair)

Commission: Gloria Brkich, Gene Calamari, David Downs, Angela Reeve

Lisa O'Reilly (Recreation Assistant), Rich Strobel (Parks Foreman)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment -
 - Elisa Zazaroff, resident of Pinecrest Drive, Hastings, read letter from Liz Sipes-Liebeskind (Co-Founder, Creative Director, Take Me to the River Festival) in support of Lisa O'Reilly and Rich Strobel to jointly head the Village Parks & Recreation department.
 - Nina Hogan, resident and President of Hastings Farmers Market, shared letter of support for Lisa O'Reilly and commended her dedication to the Village and its residents.
 - Brian Krapf, resident and member of Hastings Little League Board, shared a letter of support from Hastings Little League Board supporting a proposal by Lisa O'Reilly and Rich Strobel to share the role of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.
 - Rob Frieriech, resident and Troop Leader for Hastings Boy Scouts, voiced support for Rich Strobel and Lisa O'Reilly noting that Troop 2 has had 3 Eagle Scout projects completed in the Village parks with a 4th coming up and thanked Rich for his assistance in putting up bronze plaques to recognize these achievements. Mr. Frieriech is in total support of the proposal by Lisa O'Reilly and Rich Strobel to run the Parks & Recreation department in a collaborative job role.
 - Gene Calamari noted that Lisa and Rich "represent the best Hastings has to offer" and supports the proposal of a collaborative job role. Gene does question whether a current collaborative job role could work if either Lisa or Rich were not the people to serve in these roles. He questioned that if the collaborative job role does not work, could we get back the position of Superintendent.
 - Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo reiterated her concern that the elimination of the position of Superintendent diminishes the stature of the department.
 - David Downs pointed out that the position of Superintendent of Recreation is a civil service position and we are governed by NY State laws on the process of filling the Superintendent position and the minimum level credentials that must be met to serve in that role.
 - Joanne thanked those in attendance for their input.
3. Old Business
 - Approved and adopted the minutes from the November 2017 monthly meeting.
 - Wagner Park - The five Commission members present voted to support the use of Wagner Park as a location to install of a large scale sculpture by Village resident Mr. Bill Logan as presented by the Village Arts Commission at the November meeting. Arts Commission members present this evening indicated they will now take the next steps in securing the various Village approvals (Building Inspector, DPW, etc) as they take the lead in the process. Angela Reeve will follow up with an email to Jane Cameron, Village Arts Commission, advising her of the Rec Commissions

vote of support support to use Wagner Park.

- Upcoming/New Programs

For young children:

- *Toddler Time playgroup - Jan & Feb
- *Preschool programs (Storybook Art, Natural Wonders, Creative Kids - Jan thru Apr)
- *Letters to Santa - ongoing thru Dec 14

For school aged children:

- *Hillside Afterschool Programs - K - 4th - Jan 16 - Mar 5
- *Youth Basketball - K-2nd - Jan 20 - Feb 10
- *Youth Track and Field - K-4 - Jan 20 - Feb 10
- *Play-Doh Robots - ages 8-13yrs - Dec 20
- *Paper-Craft Electronics - ages 8-13yrs - Jan 17

For tweens/teens:

- *Kid Inventors - ages 10-15yrs - Jan 10
- *Babysitter's Training - (11 yrs & up) - Jan 7
- *Lifeguard Training (15yrs & up) - Feb 20-22

For young adults / adults / seniors:

- *Self-Defense Class (women 14yrs and older) - Jan 12
- *NY State Defensive Driving Course - Jan 20
- *Senior Calendar of Events (see handout for December)

For Families and the Community:

- *Winter Celebration family event - Dec 17
- *Drop & Shop Movie Night @ the Rec - Dec 21
- *Coat Drive - Hastings Rec & Project SHARE - ongoing thru Jan 12
- *No Empty Bowl Chili Night - Hastings Rec & Project SHARE - Feb 17

4. New Business

- **Uniontown Park - Update**

Rich Strobel reported that the contractor was not able to lay down the first layer of the parking lot by mid-December as originally hoped and weather / cold now dictates that part of the construction will have to wait until spring. Seeding is scheduled for April, and then the fields will need a couple of months for grass to establish, making spring play unrealistic. The large oak tree is being evaluated. Rich reported that there is one large section of the tree that splits off out of the base, leaving another section of the tree off center. The concern is that a strong wind might take the tree down and damage the scheduled new fencing. Community Tree service was called in and felt that if the off-centered section could be removed, the remainder of the oak would be alright. Gisolfi Landscape Architect (GLA) called in an arborist to evaluate and is awaiting the arborist's report. The contractor encountered approximately 50 cubic yards of rock that needs to be removed to allow proper install of the fence. There were 100 cubic yards of rock removal included in the contingency budget. Weekly meetings continue between Rich, the Village Manager, GLA and the contractor throughout the process of Uniontown Park renovations.

- **Bocce -**

Michael Holstein, resident and former Village Trustee, asked the Commission to consider adding a bocce court to a Village park as a means of recreation and physical activity for those with mobility issues. He visited courts in White Plains and observed courts there seemed to be well

used. He imagines that the maintenance demands would be low, and cost of construction would probably be relatively inexpensive.

The Commission discussed what Village park/location might be considered for a bocce court, with Rich Strobel noting that the ideal spot would have access to water to maintain the play surface. Mr. Holstein suggested Riverview Park. Gene asked about the wooded area by the basketball courts in Uniontown Park. David noted that at the waterfront park, no structures can be built on the first 100' of shoreline, and noted there was no access to water. Rich estimates that it would cost \$3,500 to build a 12'x70' bocce court, and noted we could probably use excess class from the ballfields. While 13'x90' is the standard court size, we could adjust a court size depending on the site location and still offer meaningful play.

Next Steps: Commission recommends we include the \$3,500 expense of building a bocce court in our 2018 departmental budget submission.

- **Spray Pool - update**

The engineer is drawing up the plans to address the repair of the Spray Pool and those plans should be ready by next week. Rich has asked the engineer to include "Add On" Alternatives in the plans:

- 1- for replacing the entire deck around the Spray Pool;
- 2- Replacing the drainage system around the perimeter;
- 3- optional add on spray features (these were discussed at last month's Commission meeting, where we could enhance the Spray Pool experience thru use of features that could be installed on the existing 4 bubblers in the pool and the 4 spray hookups on the outside of the pool. Rich reminded us that the piping systems are already in place and were included in the original pool design for this purpose should we choose to add on spray features in the future.

Best case scenario - WCDoH will accept the plans, the repairs could be made in Spring 2018 with a target opening date of May 2018.

Rich reminded us that WCDoH does not dictate that the repair be completed for the start of 2018 season. WCDoH requires that the engineering plans must be approved and in place before WCDoH will issue a operating pool permit for the Spray in 2018. If we cannot make the actual repairs before the opening of May 2018, the Village will have to follow the process that was established by WCDoH in 2017 of submitting weekly Spray Pool water samples to the County for inspection. Rich will review the engineer plans with the Village Manager and once the plans are submitted and accepted by WCDoH we can start the Request For Proposal (RFP) process to solicit bids for the repair.

- **Sugar Pond Shed - update**

Rich Strobel received word from the Village Manager that the shed is to be tarped.

- **Sugar Pond (added to this evening's agenda) -**

Rich recently attended a pond and lake management workshop at the Westchester County Center that was offered by the Cornell Cooperative. At that workshop, Rich learned of a bathymetric survey (which looks at the depth of the pond, and the amount of sediment that accumulates over time) as an indicator of the health of the pond. Rich seems to recall that a couple years back the Superintendent at that time was taking water samples of Sugar Pond in an effort to better understand the health of the pond. A bathymetric survey could be pricey, but might provide useful information in terms of long term management of the health of Sugar Pond. Some recommendations that might result from such a survey would be to pull the weeds

on a routine basis, to dredge if deemed necessary (a pricey course of action involving the need for multiple permits). David Downs suggested that we find out the cost of the such a survey, and pointed out that there may be NY DEC grants available for such efforts. David also noted that we identified Sugar Pond as an area of concern in our Long Range Plan for Strategic Management of Parks and Recreation Assets.

- **Hillside Woods - fencing - update**

David Downs reminded us that the Village recently received a \$29,500 grant from New York State to come up with a plan to address the deteriorating condition of Hillside Woods. \$0 of that grant can be spent on fencing or tree saplings. Joanne and David have been asked by Trustee Dan Lemons to compile a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a forestry expert with the grant money so that formal recommendations can be put forth as how to address the issue of Hillside Woods. David noted that the notion of a \$125K fence surrounding Hillside Woods might be more palatable if that turns out to be the formal recommendation of the industry expert, rather than just the consensus opinion of the Parks & Recreation Department and the Conservation Commission following the public seminars.

Bob Maron, resident of Circle Drive, asked the Commission how the residents of that area will be affected if the deer are fenced out of Hillside Woods. David noted that same question was posed to the forestry experts that led the Conservation Commission's public forums on Hillside Woods last spring. Forestry experts noted that the current deer population is 15x the sustainable level, and that by fencing off the only viable food source and habitat (Hillside Woods), the herd of 160 deer would be forced to migrate because what remains simply will not sustain the herd.

Next Steps: David Downs and Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo will assist the Village Manager (due to the current lack of a Parks & Recreation superintendent) in preparing the RFP so the Village can begin the process of securing a properly credentialed forestry expert who will create a management plan for sustaining and/or improving the Hillside Woods.

5. Meeting adjourned 9:40pm.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2018 - 8:00pm at the James Harmon Community Center

Minutes prepared by: A. Reeve