

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street
Thursday, March 8, 2018 8 PM
MINUTES

In Attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, David Downs,
Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve, Lisa O'Reilly (Rec Assistant)

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comments

- A group of five local students came before the Commission to express interest in building a community skate park in Hastings. The group touched on topics such as:
 - liability - NY State recently changed its laws regarding skate parks where towns need only post visible signage to skate at your own risk and state that participants under the age of 14 years must wear helmets.
 - noise - current trends of skating on sidewalks are louder, as are activity at a local ball field or playground in terms of noise generated)
 - cost - students saying they are willing to do the work to fund raise for the expense. Estimate that a poured concrete pre-fab set up would cost approximately \$60K
 - location - Reynolds field, the back of Zinssr parking lot, Burke Estate... open to discussion.Thus far, the group has a petition of 200+ signatures of Hastings residents who would support such a facility.

Joanne encouraged the group to check with the School Board as it pertains to Reynolds Field as that property is not owned by the Village. As for other Village owned locations, the ideal spot would be safe/easy access for youth. Commission members recalled that Parks & Rec had created a skate park years ago at the Riverview Park location, and had even staffed a park attendant for a period of time. But that facility was dismantled due to low usage. David explained that budget requests for the 2019 program year have been submitted, so this would not be something the Parks & Rec department could present for funding requests next year. David also pointed out that as a Commission we often need to weigh the input of various community groups when considering the overall use of parks and facilities (for example, the suggestion of a dog park for Hastings residents).

Commission encouraged the group to continue with their efforts to assess community interest (with their signed petition), and check with the School Board to see if any area of Reynolds might be a consideration.

- Valerie Harmon - would like to recommend that we hire Rich Strobel, who advised last week that he had resigned as Parks Foreman, as an independent contractor to open the

Chemka Pool complex this May. Rich is a certified pool operator and has more knowledge / skill than any outside pool company that the Village would need to employ to handle this substantial task. Mrs. Harmon pointed out that in the time that Lisa has been serving many roles in the absence of a Superintendent the Village has been saving money. We should consider these savings when considering the need to now hire a pool company to cover the many jobs that Rich handled as Village Parks Foreman & Pool Operator. It makes sense to ask Rich (as an independent contractor) to service the opening needs of the Chemka Pool. Mrs. Harmon also expressed a concern that the 2018 season would not yield a profit considering the anticipated expenses of the Spray Pool repair, the staffing of a pool director, and now the need to hire an outside pool company to get the Chemka complex open for the 2018 season.

Lisa and Val spoke to Rich, and he would be open to the idea. Angela suggested we look at employing Rich's services as an "investment" in training the remaining parks crew so that the knowledge and expertise is being passed along to Village staff who will presumably be able to then open in 2019.

Commission supports the idea of contracting Rich as an independent to train current parks staff and oversee all logistics involved in opening the Chemka Pool complex.

3. Old Business and Upcoming/New Programs:

- Approved and adopted the minutes from the February 2018 monthly meeting.
- Old Business -
 - Riverview Park - as possible location for a bocce court. Nancy DeNatale, Friends of Riverview Park, shared that bocce would be welcomed activity at Riverview park and in fact a piece of that property was once home to a privately owned bocce club. {Commission recalled that Rich Strobel had suggested at an earlier meeting that a bocce court be considered for the blacktop area at Riverview Park with the dimensions of 15' wide x 70' long, putting the clay on the river side of the blacktop}
 - Ms. DeNatale also asked if Parks & Rec could supply mulch and grass seed for Riverview Park. She shared that the Friends of Riverview Park will raise money to purchase more plants. Ms. DeNatale commended the Parks department on the upkeep of Riverview Park.
 - Lisa O'Reilly asked that Ms. DeNatale convey to the Friends that they need to get prior approval from the Village to post signs at that location, noting the hand

made signs that were recently put up at that location are not official Village postings.

- Upcoming/New Programs:

For young children / preschoolers:

Sports Hoppers (and Sports Hoppers Parent & Me) - Apr 20 - May 25

Little Kickers - Apr 17 - May 22

Tennis - Apr 18 - 23

For school aged children:

Hillside After School program - Mar 19 - May 25

Tennis - (in conjunction with US Sports Institute) - Apr 18 - 23

For young adults / adults / seniors:

Tennis (18+ yrs) - in conjunction with US Sports Institute - Apr 18 - May 23

Zumba (18+ yrs) – Feb 7 – April 4

Walk 15 (exercise group) - Apr 14 - May 26

March For Our Lives / Share The Project - Mar 24

Senior St Patrick's Day party - Mar 15

Seniors trip to Westchester Broadway Theater - A Chorus Line - Mar 21

Senior Calendar of Events (see handout for March)

For Families and the Community:

Eggstravaganza (co-sponsored with Hastings PBA) - Mar 24

4. New Business

- **Spray Pool - Update** - Engineer report sent to WCDoH. Repair targeted for Sep 2018.

- **Chemka Pool** - review of pool rules, member hours, lap lanes

A draft of the 2018 Chemka Pool brochure was circulated to the Commission for discussion. Last month a resident requested that we consider extending the hours after Memorial Day, opening at noon during the week. Mrs. Harmon, 2017 Pool Director, pointed out that the majority of our lifeguard staff is still in school at that time, as are the primary users (children) during the month of June. As to the suggestion of keeping the pool open late during the last couple weeks of August, Mrs. Harmon also pointed out that the college aged lifeguards are gone by that time, and the majority of our high school lifeguards have started their sports training sessions in August, resulting in a shortage of lifeguard staff during the last couple weeks of the season. Commission felt that keeping the hours "as is" makes most sense in consideration of staff, and in consideration of facility usage at those times.

Pool Rules were reviewed, specifically as it pertains to the use of the lap lanes during member hours. As a follow up to last month's meeting where a resident suggested the

configuration of the lap lanes be changed to offer the single lane nearest the wall and the double in the middle. After considering input from those in attendance, the 2017 pool management staff, and the Commission, it was decided to leave the lap lane set up the same in 2018. The Commission suggested we have new signage that would label each area Fast / Medium / Slow accordingly.

Non-Resident Pool Permits - Commission discussed the number and cost of non-resident pool permits. Note that currently, Village sells:

50 non-resident family permits at \$725 each = \$38,325

5 non-resident individual permits at \$415 each = \$2,075

Total non-resident permit fees collected in 2017: \$38,325

Angela suggested that in light of the anticipated substantial expense to repair the Spray Pool in Sep 2018, plus the additional cost of hiring a pool company to provide the services that our Parks Foreman used to provide, this would be the year to consider an increase in total number and total cost of the non-resident permits. After much discussion involving a desire to avoid crowding, maintain a sense of a Hastings feel, concerns regarding parking, and considering that the Chemka pool reserve fund is in a position to address the repair costs, Commission decided to: keep the maximum number of non-resident family and individual permits the same, yet increase the cost of the non-resident family permits to \$800.

- **Uniontown Park** - no updates to report at this time.
- **9A Parcel**
David reported that after he and Rich walked the site recently, it was clear that the drainage would need to be addressed to make this space usable as field / playing space. Rich and David discussed the need for layers of gravel and sand to improve the drainage before considering seeding or sodding. Other items to consider:
 - Possible dimensions: 133' wide x 190' long OR 150' wide x 165' long
 - Est cost of sod: \$20K (for either dimensions)
 - Est. cost of fencing: \$26K (for 550 linear feet)

< see attached diagram of useable land in this Village park adjacent The Lofts >

5. Meeting adjourned 10pm.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2018 - 8:00pm at the James Harmon Community Center

Minutes prepared by: A. Reeve

Minutes adopted on: April 19, 2018