

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting**  
**James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street**  
**Thursday, October 18, 2018 8 PM**  
**MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Anjali Chen, Gene Calamari, John Dailey, David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve, Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent).

A quorum is in order.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Public Comments**

- Denim McNeal, Hastings resident, here with peers to give an update on where their group was at with the proposal of a skate board park in Hastings. He stated that the group's goals include 1) being active contributors to the project; 2) to have a safe and accessible location; and 3) to have a well designed park. The group of Hastings youths have collected 400+ signatures on their paper petition soliciting interest. School owned locations they have inquired about include Burke Estate, Lower Reynolds, and unused property at Hillside School (near basketball court). The group indicated that the Board of Ed seemed receptive to the idea when the group attended one of the recent Board of Ed meetings. The group also reported that they had attended a recent Village Board of Trustees meeting and seemed encouraged. Tonight the group shared some statistics on the sport. To move forward, the group needs to find a location (either school property or Village property). Joanne asked Mike J to contact Hastings Schools to follow up on possible school locations. Joanne indicated that the Village Parks & Rec department could not readily specify a location as of yet, but asked if Aaron could provide measurements to the area at the end of the Zinsser parking lot to see if that might be a possibility. The group is suggesting that 5000 sq feet would be ideal, and shared rough cost estimates to build at \$21-\$40 per square foot.. Based on 5000 square feet this would equate to rough cost estimate of \$150k - \$250K. The group noted that Ardsley's pre-fab park cost approximately \$90k. The group shared that the failure of some skate parks is due to poor quality / design, and cautioned that police tend to say the worse place for a skate park is tucked away locations.

Again, the first step identified in the discussions was finding an appropriate location, and depending on size/location, discussions could then begin on formulating cost estimates.

### 3. Old Business

- September Meeting Minutes approved
- Spray Pool - Update  
No new info to report. To recap from last month's discussion, two contractors had come back with bids in excess of \$200K, much higher than we had hoped. Hahn engineering had reached out to 3 individual contractors and we still have not heard back from them. Aaron will contact the Westchester County Department of Health to let them know where the Village is at in terms of the repair process. Joanne reiterated that the Commission views the Spray Pool as a priority and restated that our goal is to have a fully operational Chemka complex in 2019. Aaron will follow up with the engineer, WCDoH, and will report back at next meeting.
- Chemka Pool Staffing 2019 - Aaron has drafted a memo that will go to the Village Manager to request a full time position for the department that would encompass the responsibilities of running the Chemka Pool among other departmental support areas.
- Uniontown Park - completion.  
Playground and surfacing have been completed. The only outstanding issues: bleachers for center field; ribbon cutting ceremony; benches in playground area. The Commission suggested Opening Day for HLL in spring 2019 for ribbon cutting ceremony since fall ball has already concluded. Gene C will follow up with HLL to determine when that April date will be.
- Hillside Woods & Park forestry management study - update.  
Joanne reported that the focus of the October 4th public meeting was on the health of the forest. Land Beyond Sea has identified areas of the woods and has outlined the health of each of these areas. There was discussion on caring for the health of the forest (one example being the need to address the invasive species before we can talk about fencing/enclosures). LBS did outline an overall schedule (with associated costs) as a strategy to preserve the woods. LBS will take the input from the 10/4th public forum in addition to their findings thus far to proceed in preparing their final report (expected to be out later this month).  
Note: most current info and supporting documentation on the Hillside Woods initiative, including the info presented at the 10/4th public forum, can be found on the Village website at <https://www.hastingsgov.org/home/pages/hillside-woods-initiative>
- Waterfront Rezoning Committee - update.  
There have been 3 parcels sold to 3 different entities. The purpose of the most recent WRC meeting was not really to solicit input as to what will be down at the waterfront, but rather was primarily to educate the community about the power of zoning. David and Joanne have drafted a to the WRC to clearly communicate the long-range

parkland needs of our Village and the Parks and Rec Commission's concerns about any possible parkland acquisition by the Village on the 3 parcels (totaling 42 acres) of waterfront land (now apparently sold to three different developers). All P&R Commission members are asked to review and provide input to David by week's end.

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

##### Upcoming Programs:

For Preschoolers:

- Current Fall session underway for Creative Kids, Sports Hoppers, Little Kickers and Pee Wee tennis.

For School Aged Children:

- Youth Rec Basketball (Nov 12-Mar 2019), grades 3-8th, held at the schools

For Seniors:

- Trips / Current Events / Busy Bees, Senior Club (ref. Calendar handout)
- Senior Halloween Party - Oct 30
- Flu Shots - Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester - Nov 1 @ JHCC

For Families / Community:

- Halloween Happenings (Oct 18 - 21st, see handout for full schedule of events)
- 17th Annual Terry Ryan Memorial Run - Nov 18th

##### Quarry Park

Joanne reported that she contacted Christina Lomolino of the Quarry Park Study Committee, who indicated that the group has not met recently. During the 10/16/18 Board of Trustees meeting, the Village Manager reported that the bid manuals have been prepared for the project and those will go out within the next couple weeks,

##### Dog Park - community interest

It was noted that there was \$26K approved in the budget (fencing) for use of a dog park. The discussion of where to put a dog park is still ongoing, as the discussion of how to begin to gauge interest and grow a contact list. To recap some previous discussions as to possible locations:

- Judson Avenue - there were some reservations expressed as this location seems to add challenges to the forestry management issues of Hillside Woods (cleanup, fencing)
- Draper Park - the charter prevents what the property can be used for and building on that land
- Quarry Park - how to regulate usage as it is off the Old Croton Aqueduct, parking
- 9A Parcel - access and parking

In terms of growing a possible contact list, Angela asked Aaron if the department kept records of the residents who participated in the last several years of dog swim events of the Chemka pool... yest those records exist.

9A Parcel - currently sits idle. Access by foot unrealistic considering the condition of the Ravensdale bridge and lack of sidewalk access along Saw Mill River Road. No clear idea as of this date as to how the parcel could best be used to serve parks and recreation needs.

5. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month.

Minutes prepared by: A. Reeve

Minutes adopted on: December 6, 2018