

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street
Thursday, September 20, 2018 8 PM
MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), John Dailey, David Downs, Angela Reeve
Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent).

A quorum is in order.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comments

- Valerie Harmon, Aquatics Director, Chemka Pool - would like to formally and publicly thank members of the Parks & Recreation department for their contributions to a successful season at the Chemka Pool. Special thanks to Lisa O'Reilly, Sean Florenz, Shawn Sanders and the Chemka staff for a safe and successful summer.

3. Old Business

- July Meeting Minutes approved (noted there was no monthly meeting held in August)
- Uniontown Park - Update
Contractor has completed their portion of the work. Hastings Little League resumed their programming September 1st. The playground installation is near 95% complete after the September 15th & 16th community build. We are awaiting the surfacing and would like to add benches and bleachers. The Recreation department will plan a rededication ceremony for this fall.
- Zinsser 2 backstop is not up as of yet.
- Spray Pool - Update
The bids for the repair have come back and are in excess of \$200k, much more than we had hoped when sending out the RFPs. Aaron shared that the Village is looking to see if there might be individual contractor(s) willing to consider the job where the Village would serve as the general contractor. Joanne stressed that time is of the essence and expressed concern that the repair may not be completed in time for the 2019 season. David underscored that the Commission is in agreement that the Spray Pool is a key feature of the complex and helps to drive revenue and reiterated that the Commission lends strong support in getting the repair completed. David asked if Aaron had been in contact with Westchester County Health Department (WCHD) to keep them apprised of

where the Village is in the process. Aaron shared that other than supplying our weekly water samples to the WCHD as was required, the WCHD has not been involved since they approved the repair plans submitted by the Village engineer. Aaron reminded us that the WCHD is regarding this as a “repair” (versus a “rebuild” which would be a much more involved process). Joanne asked Aaron to inform the Commission at the October meeting what was the outcome of the Village’s efforts to invite individual contractors in to look at the work.

- Hillside Woods & Park forestry management study - update
David Downs attended the Conservation Commission’s recent meeting and reports that Land Beyond Sea (LBS) has completed their fieldwork for the project. LBS is putting together a formal presentation for the public that will outline their recommendations (early October). Joanne will be informed of the date/time and asked all P&R Commission members to attend.

4. New Business

Upcoming Programs:

Aaron made note that the tennis programs and Hillside Afterschool programs were doing well and shared a packet of flyers detailing programs summarized below:

For Preschoolers:

- Creative Kids (Sep 12 - Dec 17), 18mos - 4 yrs @ JHCC
- Sports Hoppers (Sep 21 - Nov 2), 3-5yrs @ Zinsser Field
- Little Kickers (Sep 20 - Nov 1), 3-5yrs @ Zinsser Field
- Pee Wee Tennis (Sep 12 - Oct 31) 4-5yrs @ Hillside Courts

For School Aged Children:

- Hillside Afterschool Program (Sep 17 - Nov 19) grades K-4th
- Tennis (Sep 12 - Oct 31) 6-12yrs @ Hillside Court
- Flag Football (Sep 20-Oct 25), grades 3rd - 6th, Zinsser Field
- Youth Rec Basketball (Nov 12-Mar 2019), grades 3-8th, held at the schools
- Outdoor Track and Field (Sep 23 - Oct 21), grades K-4th, Reynolds school track
- Fencing (Sep 18 - Nov 20), grades 2nd - 6th, JHCC

For Adults:

- Fencing (Sep 18 - Nov 20), at the JHCC
- NY State Defensive Driving Course (Sep 30), JHCC

For Seniors:

- Exercise Program (begins Sep 20th) offered every weekday morning
- Trips / Current Events / Busy Bees, Senior Club (ref. Calendar handout)
Lunch and Learn series - held @ JHCC. Free transportation.
Oct 2 features “Using Meditation to Combat Stress” and “What is Hospice and

Palliative Care”

Oct 16 features “Top Mistakes Retirees Make in Retirement”

- “Back to School” Party (Sep 28), JHCC. Free transportation.
- Livable Communities 10th annual fall picnic, (Oct 10) Andrus on Hudson.

For Families / Community:

- Village-Wide Tag Sale, Oct 13

Usage Guidelines For Parks

Aaron has been reviewing the Village rules and regulations for use of parks and facilities and would like to update the signage to be more universal and consistent throughout the Village. Signage should welcome visitors as well as outlines the rules for use. While the rules and regulations are posted on the Village website, there currently lacks a consistency of signage from park to park. It was noted that dogs off leash and people not picking up after their dogs is an issue at Village parks.

Aaron and David have visited different locations in the Village for possible sites that could be considered for a dog park. Aaron suggested at least one acre of land. As an aside, it was noted that there was quite a number of residents enjoying the recent Chemka Pool dog swim and the pool deck and grassy area were in full use.

David raised a concern about MacEachron park being use for large scale events such as this summer’s concert series. One concert in particular, just moments before the start, had a lightning storm descend necessitating an immediate evacuation of MacEachron Park. The senior shuttle was in no way capable of transporting the number of concert goers, and hundreds of attendees were all departing at once to reach their cars/shelter. David pointed out that as Parks and Recreation, we should have an emergency evacuation plan and/or think about limiting what Village locations can be used for particular large scale events. John Dailey suggested perhaps more transportation could be provided. David wondered if there is a night that Harvest is closed, or volume of cars is smaller. Joanne shared that overall her experience with the summer concert series was positive, but wondered if perhaps we could work with Harvest to see if they might be willing to offer valet service for customers if that would help address the issue of parking for large scale events like the concert series. The Commission wrapped up the discussion by expressing a need to take an active role in reviewing and approving use of parks for large scale events especially as it pertains to emergency evacuation procedures.

Riverview Park - the budget request to fund construction of a bocce court was approved for this program year and Aaron and his parks crew are looking to schedule that install. If not by this fall, then it will be scheduled for a spring 2019 project.

Joanne asked the status of discussions / thoughts pertaining to the possibility of a skate park (referencing our March 2018 visit from a group of young residents who expressed an interest). She offered to reach out to the group to see where they were at with their petition to assess

interest and their effort to contact the Hastings UFSD to inquire if their thought of Reynolds park might be a possibility.

As tonight's discussion pertains to usage guidelines for parks, Joanne also wants the Commission to discuss the 9A parcel when thinking about the Village parks overall. (note to add 9A parcel to October's commission meeting agenda.

Recognizing Gloria Brkich - years of volunteer service

Mayor Swiderski and Village Manager Frobels were on hand to present Gloria Brkich with a letter of appreciation from the Village for all her years of volunteer service as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commission members had the opportunity to thank Gloria, who was in attendance with her family, for her commitment over the years and wish her well as she retires from the Commission.

5. Meeting adjourned 9:45pm

Next Meeting: October 18, 2018 - 8:00pm at the James Harmon Community Center

Minutes prepared by: A. Reeve

Minutes adopted on: October 18, 2018